



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, August 21, 1973

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HOLIDAY RESORT AT MA WAN

Ma Wan, a tiny island off Tsuen Wan in the New Territories, may be developed into a self-contained holiday resort.

An Outline Zoning Plan for Ma Wan, which has been approved by the government, allows for the possibility of turning the 215-acre island into green belt areas and other open spaces for pleasure and holiday recreational purposes.

The plan also provides for facilities such as hotels, holiday camp, amusement park, golf course, botanical and zoological gardens, and swimming beaches.

To up-date the planning for its development, a well-known American firm of consultants has been commissioned by the government to carry out an extensive study of the island.

Announcing this today, a government spokesman said a 10-year development programme on the recreational facilities would be introduced to cope with the increasing demand of both urban residents and tourists.

"It is expected that a full report will be in hand next year," the spokesman said.

The island is still predominantly rural in character, but in recent years has become more popular with holiday crowds which have been flocking to its scenic beaches and picnic spots.

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Although there is still a lack of adequate water supplies, electricity and telephone facilities have been brought to the island in recent years. A helicopter landing pad has also been built.

At present, a ferry service operating between Hong Kong Island and Tai O on Lantau calls at Ma Wan daily. A 'Kai To' (walla walla service) also plies regularly between Ma Wan and Sham Tseng in the New Territories.

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CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN TO BE ISSUED BY C.G.C.C.

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. D.H. Jordan, announced today that certificates of origin issued by the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, had been given legal protection under the Protection of Non-Government Certificates of Origin Ordinance.

The government, he said, would advise the United Nations that C.G.C.C. had been designated as an organisation competent to issue certificates of origin for goods exported from Hong Kong.

The announcement was made this afternoon after a brief ceremony during which Mr. Jordan, on behalf of the government, presented the official certificate of approval to Mr. K.C. Wong, Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

The Commerce and Industry Department has assisted the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce to train certification staff and to set up the administrative arrangements for the issue of certificates of origin.

These arrangements conform to the standards agreed by member-organisations of the Certification Co-Ordination Committee and are designed to ensure that certificates of origin issued by the approved organisations are accepted internationally.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX RISES SIX POINTS IN JULY

The General Consumer Price Index for July was 170 -- a rise of six points over that for the previous month.

The increase was mainly due to a rise of 11 points in the index for foodstuffs.

The index for miscellaneous goods also rose by six points, while that for fuel and light rose by two points. Increases of one point each were also recorded in the index for alcoholic drink and tobacco and the index for clothing and footwear.

Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity and service were insignificant.

Compared with the previous month, there were increases in the average retail prices of rice, fresh water fish, pork, fresh vegetables, edible oil and eggs.

A spokesman for the Census and Statistics Department said that the average retail price of rice had gone up as a result of an increase in the retail prices of some varieties.

He said the retail prices of vegetables had also increased sharply, mainly as a result of adverse weather conditions and the effects of Typhoon Dot which passed Hong Kong around the middle of the month.

On the other hand, the average retail price of poultry dropped.

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The rise in the index for miscellaneous goods was mainly brought about by increased prices for many Chinese language newspapers. The index for fuel and light also advanced, following an upward revision in the prices of kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas at the beginning of the month.

The Modified Consumer Price Index for July was 177, seven points higher than that for the previous month.

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WATER INTERRUPTION IN WAN CHAI

Water supply to a number of premises in Wan Chai will be turned off for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Thursday (August 23).

The temporary stoppage is to enable work on connecting a fresh water main to be carried out in Kennedy Road and Kennedy Street.

All premises in Kennedy Street, Lung On Street, Kat On Street, Hing Wan Street, and King Sing Street and No. 64-84 Stone Nullah Lane and No. 187-245 Queen's Road East will be affected.

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HONG KONG STAMPS TO COMMEMORATE ROYAL WEDDING

Four new sets of commemorative stamps, comprising 10 denominations, will be put on sale in the next few months.

The new issues are to commemorate the wedding of Princess Anne, the 1973 Festival of Hong Kong, the 1974 Lunar New Year, and the 1974 Hong Kong Arts Festival.

The stamps to commemorate the royal wedding will be in 50-cent and \$2 denominations and will go on sale at all post offices on November 14.

The designs have not yet been finalised, but the main features will be a portrait of Princess Anne and Lt. Mark Phillips.

To publicise the 1973 Festival of Hong Kong, three new stamps will be put on sale on November 23.

They will be issued in three denominations of 10 cents, 50 cents and \$1. Each of them features a stylised version of a single Chinese character made up of a combination of festival symbols. Together they represent the three words "Hong Kong Festival".

The tiger is the main feature of the design of two new stamps to be issued to commemorate the 1974 Lunar New Year -- the Year of the Tiger.

These stamps, which will be the eighth in the series of Lunar New Year stamps, will be issued in 10-cent and \$1.30 denominations. They will be put on sale on January 8 next year.

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For the 1974 Hong Kong Arts Festival, three stamps of 10-cent, \$1 and \$2 denominations will be put on sale on February 1 next year. A selection of Chinese opera masks, representing the theme of the festival, is featured on their designs.

Special first day covers for all these new stamps would be available for stamp collectors. Details of dates and prices will be announced later.

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Note to Editors: Copies of seven photographs showing the commemorative stamps for the 1973 Festival of Hong Kong, the Year of the Tiger and the 1974 Hong Kong Arts Festival are boxed for collection. Designs of the Royal Wedding commemorative stamps have not yet been completed.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MORRISON HILL SWIMMING POOL

The Morrison Hill Swimming Pool will be closed to public use on Thursday (August 23) from 8.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

During this period, the Urban Council will be using the pool for a swimming party.

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MORE SCHOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Much progress has been made to provide education for handicapped children in Hong Kong since the Education Department's Special Education Section was established 13 years ago, the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning said this (Tuesday) morning.

Speaking at the opening of the First Conference on Special Education at the Grantham College of Education, Mr. Canning said that at present there were 32 special schools for severely handicapped children compared with eight in 1961.

"These are all run by religious or voluntary organisations who are the pioneers of this form of education," he said.

The Director pointed out that in 1961 there were no special classes in ordinary primary schools for less severely handicapped children whereas today there were 54 such classes in government primary schools -- 44 for slow-learning children, eight for partially hearing children and two for partially sighted children.

In 1961 there were no educational assessment or remedial services.

"Today, assessment services include audiometric screening, audiological testing, speech screening and testing, psychological testing and educational assessment.

"Remedial services include auditory training, speech therapy and special classes.

"In the last academic year 22,000 children were dealt with by the services which are provided by the Special Education Section of the Education Department," he said.

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Twelve years ago there were no local training courses provided for teachers of handicapped children.

At present there were four one-year in-service courses and six annual short courses. In addition lectures on special education were given to teachers in training in the colleges of education.

More than 1,100 teachers participated in these courses in the last academic year and to date 168 teachers had been trained in the one-year in-service courses.

Speaking about plans for the future, Mr. Canning said that under the Second Development Programme for Special Education the first aim was to expand facilities.

"Provision has been made for 4,000 additional places in special schools and it is anticipated that ten new special schools will be available in 1974.

"Provision has also been made to provide 10,000 additional places in special classes for the less-severely handicapped and plans are in hand to open 30 additional special classes in government primary schools and 22 special classes in aided primary schools in September, 1973," he said.

On the programme's second aim to increase preventive measures by providing more diagnostic and remedial services, Mr. Canning said it was intended to increase these services to provide for 175,000 children a year.

To achieve this the Director said it was planned to have a second Special Education Services Centre in Kowloon.

He urged all those who have dealings with children suspected of handicap to refer them to the Special Education Section for assessment and appropriate remedial treatment.

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The third aim of the development programme, he said, was to ensure adequate teaching standards in the education of all categories of handicapped children.

"It is intended therefore to expand and strengthen the one-year in-service training courses and to provide more short courses and seminars," the Director said.

He announced that a speech therapy training course would be started in the next academic year with a United Nations consultant giving assistance in the planning.

Mr. Canning said: "The course will be available to staff in other government departments and voluntary organisations who require staff at this level."

The Director stressed that the aim of Special Education was to develop each child to his full potential and to the fullest limits of his ability.

"Special Education is now firmly established in the school system in Hong Kong. I am certain that in the coming years it will play an ever-increasing role," Mr. Canning said.

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JULY'S WEATHER

Hong Kong's weather last month was wetter than usual with rainfall being 324.9 mm above normal. This was the fifth highest recorded in any July since 1884.

The mean relative humidity was 87 per cent, which was the second highest on record for July.

During the month, six tropical cyclones formed over the western north Pacific and the South China Sea. However only two -- Typhoon Dot and Tropical Storm Wilda -- necessitated the hoisting of tropical cyclone warning signals.

A total of nine thunderstorm warnings was issued during the month, and 16 aircraft were diverted due to adverse weather conditions.

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Note to Editors: English copies of a full report, prepared by the Royal Observatory, on the weather for July 1973 are boxed for collection.

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TWO BUILDINGS CONDEMNED

Two pre-war buildings at Nos. 192 and 194 Wing Lok Street on Hong Kong Island were today declared dangerous by the Building Authority.

The buildings had been under observation for some time. Fresh movement had recently occurred in the load bearing walls causing fractures in the brickwork and giving rise to a risk of collapse. Extensive areas of decayed timber had also been detected.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders were posted on the buildings today. Hearing will be in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on September 21.

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TRAINING CAMP FOR YOUTH

A three-day training camp is being organised at Cheung Sha on Lantau Island for young people living in crowded Western district.

The camp will be held from August 25 to 27 and will include instruction on the proper method of tent pitching, first aid, life saving, rock climbing, swimming and cooking. A cross country race will also be held.

Anyone interested in joining should apply at the Western Community Work Office, at the Western Magistracy Building, 3rd floor, Hong Kong. There will be a \$15 fee.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

Temporary traffic arrangement will be introduced in Tai Po Road from 10 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday) to enable construction work to be carried out.

Under this arrangement all southbound traffic on Tai Po Road will not be permitted to turn right into Ching Cheung Road.

This arrangement will last for about three days.

Motorists travelling to Castle Peak should go by Tai Po Road and Castle Peak Road.

At the same time, the traffic signals at the junction of Waterloo Road and Cornwall Street will be switched off from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday) for maintenance.

During this period, Police officers will be in attendance to direct traffic.

To improve traffic circulation Kweilin Street will be re-routed one-way from Fuk Wa Street to Cheung Sha Wan Road and Fuk Wa Street will be re-routed one-way from Yan Chow Street to Kweilin Street as from 10 a.m. on Friday (August 24).

Appropriate traffic signs will be erected for the guidance of motorists.

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Release time: 7.30 p.m.