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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

UPGC VIEW ON OPEN UNIVERSITY SOUGHT 1

TRAM SERVICES REDUCED ON SATURDAY 2

SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION RE-ORGANISED 2

NEW PLANS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW 3

GREATER CARE IN FOOD PREPARATIONS URGED 3

DB MEMBERS ON FIELD STUDY 4

WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN 4

UPGC VIEW ON OPEN UNIVERSITY SOUGHT

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKING THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF AN OPEN UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE DECISION WAS MADE ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AFTER IT RECOMMENDED THAT AN APPLICATION BY THE OPEN COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ASIA, FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A STUDY CENTRE TO PROVIDE TUTORIAL CLASSES AS PART OF A DISTANCE-LEARNING PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF DEGREES, BE TURNED DOWN.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID, + IT IS RECOGNISED THAT THERE ARE, AND WILL FOR SOME TIME CONTINUE TO BE, INSUFFICIENT PLACES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR OF TERTIARY EDUCATION TO MEET REQUIREMENTS, ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING PROGRESSIVELY TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY AT THIS LEVEL.+

HOWEVER, IN PROVIDING EDUCATION AT THIS LEVEL, IT IS NECESSARY TO PLAN CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE FACILITIES AND TEACHING STAFF WILL BE SATISFACTORY AND THE COURSES WILL BE OF AN APPROPRIATE STANDARD, HE SAID.

HE SAID, +THERE ARE ALREADY PROPOSALS BEFORE THE UPGC FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FOR AN EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAMME, BUT, IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL BY ANY MEANS EXHAUST LOCAL DEMAND.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO THE UPGC WILL BE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE RELEVANCE OF OPEN UNIVERSITY TYPE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN HONG KONG, AND THE FORMAL REQUEST TO THE COMMITTEE WILL BE MADE WHEN THE OVERSEAS PANEL OF EDUCATORS, WHO ARE CONDUCTING AN OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, HAVE PRESENTED THEIR FINAL REPORT LATER THIS YEAR.

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TRAM SERVICES REDUCED ON SATURDAY

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TRAM SERVICES WILL BE REDUCED ON SATURDAY EVENING (SEPTEMBER 11) TO ALLOW FOR THE REALIGNMENT OF NEW TRAM TRACKS IN SHEUNG WAN.

THE LAST TRAMS WILL DEPART FROM SHAU KEI WAN TO WESTERN MARKET AT 10.48 PM; FROM NORTH POINT TO WHITTY STREET AT 10.42 PM; FROM NORTH POINT TO WESTERN MARKET AT 11.01 PM; FROM HAPPY VALLEY TO KENNEDY TOWN AT 10.41 PM; FROM HAPPY VALLEY TO WHITTY STREET AT 10.52 PM; FROM HAPPY VALLEY TO WESTERN MARKET AT 11.08 PM; FROM KENNEDY TOWN TO HAPPY VALLEY AT 11.16 PM; FROM WHITTY STREET TO NORTH POINT AT 11.19 PM; FROM WHITTY STREET TO HAPPY VALLEY AT 11.20 PM; AND FROM WESTERN MARKET TO SHAU KEI WAN, NORTH POINT AND HAPPY VALLEY AT 11.28 PM.

TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE TO COMMUTERS, ADDITIONAL TRAM SERVICES WILL BE OPERATED THE SAME DAY BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND HAPPY VALLEY AFTER 10.39 PM AND BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND WAN CHAI (FENWICK STREET) AFTER 10.48 PM.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION RE-ORGANISED

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THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES DIVISION HAS JUST BEEN RE-ORGANISED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SECTION IS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR FOUR MAJOR UNITS:- ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING, SPECIAL EDUCATION INSPECTORATE, SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES, AND ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL SERVICES, WITH EACH UNIT HEADED BY A PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING UNIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BUILDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS AS WELL AS SPECIAL AND RESOURCE CLASSES IN ORDINARY SCHOOLS.

ALL PROFESSIONAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ARE DEALT WITH BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION INSPECTORATE UNIT.

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES UNIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REFERRAL OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FOR ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT, WHILE THE ACTUAL ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL SERVICES FOR THESE CHILDREN ARE PROVIDED BY THE ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIAL SERVICES UNIT.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE RE-ORGANISATION MAY BE MADE AT 5-778311, EXTENSION 145 OR 147.

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NEW PLANS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS AIMED AT IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW ON CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD IN KOWLOON, AS WELL AS ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 10).

IN KOWLOON, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD BETWEEN YEN CHOW STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET WILL BE OPEN TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC, WHILE APLIU STREET BETWEEN PEI HO STREET AND NAM CHEONG STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY SOUTHBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, NORTHBOUND VEHICLES ON CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO NAM CHEONG STREET EASTBOUND, AND SOUTHBOUND VEHICLES WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING LEFT INTO YEN CHOW STREET EASTBOUND.

IN CENTRAL, EASTBOUND VEHICLES ON CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO JUBILEE STREET.

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GREATER CARE IN FOOD PREPARATIONS URGED

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OPERATORS OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE URGED TODAY TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO HELP PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA.

IN MAKING THE APPEAL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT REMINDED LICENCEES OF FOOD PREMISES THAT COOKS AND OTHER PEOPLE WHO HANDLE FOOD ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO OBSERVE CERTAIN RULES OF HYGIENE.

+ALL COOKED FOOD MUST BE KEPT FREE FROM CONTAMINATION,+ THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, GIVING THE FOLLOWING OTHER ADVICE:

* STORE ALL MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS, POULTRY, FISH, MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS NOT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION IN REFRIGERATORS.

* COOK ALL FOOD THOROUGHLY AND CONSUME IT WHEN HOT, AND BOIL DRINKING WATER FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN FROM THE GOVERNMENT MAINS WATER SUPPLY.

* CLEAN ALL COOKING UTENSILS AND CUTLERY THOROUGHLY WITH DETERGENT AND HOT WATER BEFORE USE.

MEANWHILE, NTSD HEALTH INSPECTORS WILL BE STEPPING UP INSPECTIONS OF RESTAURANTS AND OTHER LICENSED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED AGAINST CONSUMPTION OF CUT FRUIT, NON-BOTTLED DRINKS, AND COOKED FOOD SOLD BY UNLICENSED STREET TRADERS.

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DB MEMBERS ON FIELD STUDY

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SIX UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD VISITED THE LARGEST OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION STATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AS PART OF THEIR FIELD STUDY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES IN SHA TIN.

THE $530 000 REFUSE COLLECTION STATION, LOCATED IN THE FO TAN INDUSTRIAL AREA OF SHA TIN, HANDLES ABOUT 800 KG. OF REFUSE DAILY.

ITS WORKLOAD WILL BE INCREASED WHEN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA IS FULLY DEVELOPED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

ACCORDING TO THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER (SHA TIN), MR IP SHING-WAI, HIS OFFICE AT PRESENT DISPOSES OF MORE THAN 100 000 KG. OF REFUSE AND OTHER DISCARDED MATERIAL IN THE DISTRICT EVERY DAY.

HE BRIEFED THE BOARD MEMBERS ON URBAN SERVICES PLANNING AND PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DONALD TSANG, THE MEMBERS WERE SHOWN ROUND THE JOCKEY CLUB PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL AND SQUASH COURTS BEFORE THEY PROCEEDED TO THE FO TAN COOKED-FOOD MARKET.

THE 39 STALLS IN THE MARKET MAINLY CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE 5 000 FACTORY AND CONSTRUCTION SITE WORKERS IN FO TAN.

THE MEMBERS ALSO VISITED THE SHA TIN MARKET WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

MOST OF THE STALL OPERATORS WERE RESITED FROM THE SHA TIN OLD TOWN MARKET AND PAK HOK TING HAWKER BAZAAR.

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WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 29 HOURS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 10) TO 3 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL AFFECT PREMISES ON KIN FAT STREET BETWEEN HO TIN STREET AND PUI TO ROAD, AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL AREA 12.

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