



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Protests will not halt health project

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A Government spokesman today (Saturday) reaffirmed that the construction work on the Kowloon Bay Primary Health Care Centre and the Nursing Home for the Elderly project would proceed as scheduled.

"We want to stress once again that this is going ahead," the spokesman said. "We hope the residents of Richland Gardens will accept the reality and co-operate with Government to ensure much needed health facilities are provided without further delay."

The spokesman also noted the Police are tasked with the duty to maintain law and order. While residents are free to express their views in a peaceful and lawful manner, any breach of the peace will not be tolerated.

Since the work on site started in May this year, 10 arrests had been made with three convictions. The Police will continue to take appropriate enforcement action to ensure the work of the project would proceed without delay.

Anyone found to be causing obstruction to the construction of the centre would be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law. Injunction orders may also be served to prevent any obstructive act.

If protesters are causing further obstruction to the construction workers or lorries entering or leaving the site, the Government will have no alternative but to close the nearby roads once again. The spokesman hoped that this would not be necessary as this measure had proved to cause inconvenience to other residents and road users.

He called on residents to liaise with the Kwun Tong District Officer whose door is always open to them. Richland Gardens residents are also urged to participate in the Patients Liaison Group of the Kowloon Bay Primary Health Care Centre to play an active role in the management of the centre when it comes into operation.

End

Fair cargo area management system must be maintained

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The Marine Department would not forgo the fair and open principle in its management of public cargo working areas (PCWAs) which were built and managed by public funds, Assistant Director of Marine (Planning and Local Services), Mr Raymond Tang, said today (Saturday).

Commenting on the blockade staged by some cargo operators to show their objection to the department operating all the berths in the new cargo handling area in Area 16 in Tuen Mun as fast working berth, Mr Tang said the arrangement would maximum the usage of berths.

Under the old system, berths are occupied by barges not engaging in any cargo handling activities.

Some operators demand the department to replace the fast working berth arrangement with the first-come-first-served system for the new cargo working area which is open today.

"There are flaws with the old system as anyone can monopolise a berth as long as they are able to deploy sufficient barges to occupy the berth. By rotating their barges at the berth, they can circumvent the law to prevent monopolisation," Mr Tang said.

"Genuine cargo operators stand a better chance to use the new facility because hiring a fast working berth is limited to one day.

"We are aware that some genuine cargo operators may need more than a day to work their cargo and so we will continue to discuss with the operators to allow some flexibility to the one-day rule."

The fast working berth arrangement for the new PCWA is an interim measure as the Marine Department intends to bring in new management reform for the PCWAs to eliminate the undesirable practices associated with the old system, which is subject to abuse, and to improve the productivity at these facilities.

In essence, the new reform is to lease out the berths at the PCWAs by restricted tender under which only the existing operators are eligible to submit their bids.

To enable new comers to join the business, a very small percentage of berths will be leased out by open tender.

In an attempt to stop the operations of the new PCWA, some operators have deployed 13 unmanned barges to block the two entrances to the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter and the new PCWA which is within the typhoon shelter area, stopping not only cargo operators to the new PCWA but also vessels entering or leaving the typhoon shelter.

"This is a total disregard to the well-being of the floating community which needs to get into an out the Tuen Mun Typhoon Shelter for business," Mr Tang said.

"The unmanned barges also threaten the safety of other marine traffic and ignoring public safety."

Launches from the Marine Department and the Marine Police are directing traffic in the area. The department is making arrangement to remove the unmanned barges to resume free access to the typhoon shelter and the new PCWA.

End

Use of hotline to report indecent and obscene articles urged

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The Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA) has set up a 24-hour complaint hotline - 2676 7676 - to enable the public to report possible contravention of the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance.

The ordinance prohibits the sale and rental of obscene articles. It also provides that indecent articles must be enclosed in wrappers bearing the statutory warning notice and particulars of the publisher, a spokesman for TELA said.

"Indecent articles must not be sold or rented to young people under the age of 18," the spokesman added.

Articles covered by the ordinance include newspapers, magazines, comics, CD-ROMs, as well as video tapes and laser discs which have not been classified under the Film Classification Ordinance.

Members of the public are urged to make use of the hotline to complain against any unlawful publication of obscene and indecent articles.

End

Stranded waste to leave Hong Kong

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The plastic waste earlier rejected by China and stranded in Hong Kong will be returned shortly to the United States for disposal, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) announces today (Saturday).

EPD has requested the assistance of Swire BFI Waste Services Limited, which was not involved in the export of this material, in finding a solution to the problem.

As a result, Swire BFI has offered, in conjunction with their parent company, Browning-Ferris Industries, to provide an appropriate disposal solution.

Agreement has also been reached with Hong Kong trader, Chiang's Brothers Company, that they will make arrangement for the repackaging and transportation of the waste to the United States.

"The post consumer plastic waste was mixed with household waste to an extent that recycling was not considered suitable.

"Returning it to the exporting country for disposal is the best solution to this problem," Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Dr Ellen Chan, said.

"We also acknowledge the assistance by the United States Consulate in Hong Kong in liaising with relevant authorities regarding the return of the waste."

The 200-tonne plastic waste has to be rebaled and containerised before shipment, which will be carried out in two lots.

The first shipment is scheduled to leave Hong Kong this (Saturday) evening and the next shipment in about two weeks' time.

End

Flushing water cut in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (August 12) to 7 am the following day for connection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect the area bounded by Boundary Street, Cheung Sha Wan Road, Tonkin Street, Po On Road, Camp Street, Shun Ning Road, Kiu Kiang Street, Castle Peak Road and Tai Po Road; as well as the area bounded by Boundary Street, Portland Street, Lai Chi Kok Road, Nathan Road, Mong Kok Road, Tong Mei Road, Cherry Street and the sea front.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,956	09:30	NIL
Closing balance in the account	1,619	10:00	NIL
Change attributable to:		11:00	NIL
Money market activity	NIL	11:30	NIL
LAF today	- 340		

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.8 *+0.0* 10.8.96

End

New Wong Tai Sin District Officer appointed

Miss Diane Wong Shuk-han will assume duty as the new Wong Tai Sin District Officer tomorrow (Monday) to replace Mr Richard Luk Fong-chun.

Miss Wong, aged 33, joined the Government as Administrative Officer in 1985 and was promoted to Senior Administrative Officer in April 1993.

She has served in the former City and New Territories Administration, the Education and Manpower Branch and the Transport Branch.

Miss Wong's last posting was Assistant Secretary for Housing.

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