



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, March 12, 1973

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CROWN LAND LICENCES FOR TANNERIES CANCELLED
For Breach Of Conditions To Keep Area Clean

The District Office, Tai Po today (Monday) cancelled the Crown Land licences for four tanneries in the Sheung Shui district of the New Territories.

The four tanneries concerned were Wing Cheong, Sun Cheong, Tai Cheong and Hung Hing Wing Lee, all situated near the Fanling railway crossing.

Mr. A.N. Savage, District Officer, Tai Po said that the action was necessary because of the failure of the tanneries to comply with some special conditions attached to the licences to make their area less polluted and less filthy.

These special conditions, which were designed as far as practicable to minimise the problems of pollution, were agreed with the tannery operators towards the end of last year, prior to the issue of the licences.

At a meeting with the District Officer more than one month ago on February 1, the tannery operators were asked to comply with only some very simple requirements as a first step during February.

The requirements were: (1) To clean their tanneries thoroughly and dig up and remove all the rubbish and leather trimmings deposited on the ground; and (2) To erect corner posts at least seven feet high at each point on their boundaries where there is a corner or change in direction.

One of the operators concerned has not only failed to clean up his area to an acceptable standard, but has in fact erected an additional large structure in flagrant breach of the regulations.

/A structure

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A structure on this site was demolished not long ago by the District Office Squatter Control staff, and the operator was well aware of the consequence of attempting to rebuild.

When serving the licence cancellation notices today, Mr. Savage told the operators that he would consider issuing new licences only if the conditions were met and that to this end tannery workers would be allowed access to the premises over the next few days only to clean up and demarcate their boundaries.

The District Office Squatter Control Unit staff were present today to pull down illegal drying racks on Crown Land, near the tanneries. About six lorry-loads of rubbish were cleared and removed by employees of the Urban Services Department.

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MAN OVERBOARD SOUND SIGNALS

The Director of Marine, Mr. A. Fletcher, has reminded masters and operators of local craft that the internationally recognised sound signal in the event of a man falling overboard is three prolonged blasts.

In a public notice, the Director said that in a recent collision between two local craft, a man fell overboard and was drowned but the sound signal indicating that such an accident had occurred was not made.

"As a result," he added, "no vessels other than the two involved in the accident, assisted in searching for the lost man."

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CONSERVATION PROBLEMS TO BE STUDIED

In Conjunction With Tree Planting And Tending

During the next seven weeks 610 students of the three colleges of education will study conservation problems caused by fire, erosion and litter.

This study is included in the programme arranged jointly by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and the Education Department.

The programme, designed to give students a keener appreciation of the values of the countryside, will give the students an opportunity to spend a day on the hills at the top of Route TWISK to carry out tree planting and tending operations.

For tree planting, the students will work in the morning in parties of mixed groups of 12, each under the direction of experienced foresters.

In the afternoon, the girls will do the weeding and fertilizing of last year's plantation while the boys will do the pruning and thinning at Chuen Lung.

Before going on their outings, the students will attend illustrated talks on "countryside management" given by officers of the Conservation and Forests Division of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

Tomorrow (Tuesday), 170 first year students of the Grantham College will listen to the talks which will be repeated on March 21 for 200 Sir Robert Black College students, and on April 10 for 240 Northcote College students.

/The date

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The date of the outing for the Grantham College students is Friday, March 16. Students from the Sir Robert Black College will go on March 22 while the Northcote College students will be taken to the area on April 27.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send representatives to cover both the illustrated talks at the three Colleges and the outings to the Route TWISK area near the Forest Post. Officers from the Education and the Agriculture and Fisheries Departments will be present to assist the press.

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BUILDING DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared the front verandah structure of No. 297 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong to be in a dangerous condition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said today recent inspection had revealed evidence of considerable movement of the front verandah structure and there was a danger of failure leading to collapse.

The three-storey pre-war building had been under observation for five years.

Notice of intention to apply for a Closure Order in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on April 11 was posted today.

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WEATHER INFORMATION PLAYS IMPORTANT PART

In Hong Kong's Economy

Weather information plays an important role in Hong Kong's economy.

According to Dr. P.C. Chin, Senior Scientific Officer of the Royal Observatory, the Observatory provides Government departments and private organisations with the necessary weather material upon requests.

"For example," Dr. Chin said, "before the decision was made to build the reservoir at Plover Cove, we had been consulted on rainfall in several districts, and on how tropical cyclones and waves were likely to affect the dams."

In the planning of the cross harbour tunnel, special note was taken of possible earth tremors in Victoria harbour.

When installing the tunnel ventilation system, engineers also took into account possible changes in the atmospheric conditions inside tunnel.

Weather conditions also play an important part in the selection of suitable building sites for various major projects, including the extension of the Kai Tak runway, the Kwai Chung container port, the mass transit system, incinerators and the desalination plant in Castle Peak.

The two electric companies are provided with special daily forecasts to enable them to make an estimate of the consumption rate.

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SOCIAL WELFARE YOUTH PROJECT COMPETITION

Many Entries Expected

Keen interest is being shown in a youth project competition which aims at fostering a greater awareness of social welfare services in Hong Kong.

The competition is sponsored by the Social Welfare Department in co-operation with the Education Department and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Mr. Stephen Law Chi-kin, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and chairman of the organising committee, said today that about 1,500 application forms had been circulated to secondary schools, social welfare centres and voluntary agencies.

"We are receiving numerous inquiries," he said, "and the organising committee is expecting a substantial number of entries."

Application forms must be returned before March 16 to the Youth Work Unit, Kowloon Government Offices Building, Top Floor, 405 Nathan Road.

Entries are required to illustrate in exhibit form any aspect of social services in Hong Kong covered by the recently-published white paper.

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REST GARDEN FOR TSUEN WAN

The Government is to build a rest garden in Tsuen Wan at a cost of \$63,000.

It will be situated between the seafront and Chai Wan Kok Street. A feature of the garden will be the conservation of existing trees and shrubs.

Most of the area will be turfed and planted, and served by a network of concrete footpaths.

A number of park benches will be placed under trees and amid flowers.

When completed, the garden will provide a scenic sitting-out area for residents of the township.

Construction is expected to begin towards the end of next month for completion in July.

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EXPORTS OF TEXTILES TO U.S.A.

Second Phase Of 1972/73 Swing Scheme Begins Today

Phase two of the 1972/73 swing scheme for exports of cotton, man-made fibre and wool textiles to the United States starts today.

This was announced by the Director of Commerce and Industry in a Notice to Exporters: Series 2 (U.S.A.), No. 7/73 dated March 10, 1973.

Phase two of the swing scheme will be operated on a similar basis as Phase one except that the percentage limitations will be replaced by absolute quantities available for swing set out in the Notice to Exporters.

Copies of this notice will be sent to trade associations and companies on the Commerce and Industry Department's mailing list for Notice to Exporters: Series 2 (U.S.A.).

They can also be obtained from the Department's reception counter on the ground floor, Fire Brigade Building, Hong Kong.

Anyone wishing to know the details of the notice is invited to contact one of the following officers of the Commerce and Industry Department:

Mr. Y.K. Tong - Industry Assistant
Tel. No. 5-239625

Mr. L. Chung - Industry Assistant
Tel. No. 5-448686

Mrs. L.M. Yam - Licensing Officer
Tel. No. 5-223219

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NEW IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICE IN KWUN TONG

Seventh Opened In Past Six Years

The Immigration Department began another year of expansion today with the opening of a new branch office in Kwun Tong to provide services for people living in the northeastern part of Kowloon.

The new branch office is situated on the ground floor of Morning Star Mansion at Nos. 38-40 Wan Hon Street and will provide immigration services which are already available at similar branch offices elsewhere in Kowloon.

At the formal opening ceremony this morning, the Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, said this new branch office was the seventh the department had opened during the past six years in conformance with its policy of providing the public with adequate and convenient immigration facilities in various parts of Hong Kong.

Speaking on future developments, he revealed that arrangements were already in hand to open similar offices at Kennedy Town on the Island and at Yuen Long in the New Territories.

"We are also looking for suitable premises to reopen our office at Sham Shui Po, which had to be closed in July 1972 when the lease expired and could not be renewed.

"In addition, approval has been given to establish a new branch office at Shau Kei Wan and a suitable site is being sought. We are also currently examining the need to open offices in other parts of the Colony," Mr. Collard said.

./Mr. Jack Teng,

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Mr. Jack Teng, President of the Kwun Tong Kaifong Welfare Association, who officiated said that with the opening of this new office he was confident residents of Kwun Tong, Ngau Tau Kok, Lam Tin, Yau Tong, Lyemun and the surrounding areas would find it much more convenient for them to transact their immigration business than before.

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Note to Editors: Copies of speeches by Mr. Collard and Mr. Teng are distributed separately in the Press Boxes, G.I.S., this evening.

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TOWEL WEAVERS COME TO AGREEMENT WITH MANAGEMENT

The dispute at the Hang Tai Cotton Weaving Factory over the question of sickness allowance and statutory holiday pay has been settled.

Representatives of some 80 towel weavers at the factory held a second meeting with the management at the Tsuen Wan office of the Labour Relations Service on March 10.

An agreement was reached allowing workers a sickness allowance, an agreed rate of statutory holiday pay and maternity leave.

The workers had earlier stopped work for five days in support of their requests but they accepted the advice of the Labour Department to resume work pending conciliation meetings.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.