



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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EXCO APPROVES CITYBUS FARE RISE

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED A FARE INCREASE BY A WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 13.4 PER CENT FOR CITYBUS WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 11.

THE APPROVED FARE INCREASE IS LOWER THAN THE 15.5 PER CENT SOUGHT BY THE COMPANY IN ITS APPLICATION.

UNDER THE NEW FARE SCALE, ABOUT 86 PER CENT OF THE PASSENGERS WILL ONLY PAY 20 TO 50 CENTS MORE PER TRIP.

A SUMMARY OF THE RATE OF INCREASE IN RESPECT OF INDIVIDUAL ROUTES IS:

	RATE OF % INCREASE -----	INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS -----
* 14 NON AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES FOR DAILY COMMUTERS	11.1% TO 14.3%	20 TO 40 CENTS
* 18 SHORT-DISTANCE AIR-CONDITIONED SERVICES FOR DAILY COMMUTERS	13.9% TO 16.0%	40 TO 60 CENTS
* THREE LONG-DISTANCE SERVICES FOR DAILY COMMUTERS	13.3% TO 14.1%	80 TO 90 CENTS
* THREE RECREATIONAL SERVICES	17.2% TO 18.2%	\$1.0

THE APPROVED FARE INCREASE IS TO ENABLE CITYBUS TO OFFSET HIGHER OPERATING COSTS, TO MEET FUTURE SERVICE EXPANSION, TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE AND TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

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LANDSLIP INVESTIGATIONS UNDER WAY

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DECIDED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT PENDING THE CONCLUSION OF ONGOING TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE KWUN LUNG LAU LANDSLIP, NO DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THIS STAGE AS TO WHETHER A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY SHOULD BE APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO THE SAME MATTER.

EXPLAINING THE DECISION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE COUNCIL'S VIEW WAS THAT THE NEED FOR A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ON RECEIPT OF AN INDEPENDENT REPORT FROM PROFESSOR NORBERT MORGENSTERN SUPPORTED BY THE FULL TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSE OR CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT.

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IN THE LIGHT OF HIS FINDINGS, PROFESSOR MORGENSTERN WILL ALSO ADVISE ON THE ADEQUACY OF GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT APPROACH TO SLOPE SAFETY IN HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL DIRECTED THAT GOVERNMENT'S GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING EXPERTS SHOULD PURSUE THEIR INVESTIGATIONS QUICKLY SO AS TO ENABLE PROFESSOR MORGENSTERN TO SUBMIT HIS REPORT WITHIN THREE MONTHS, AS HE HAS COMMITTED TO DO.

THE REPORT FROM PROFESSOR MORGENSTERN AS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR, AS WELL AS THE FULL INVESTIGATION FINDINGS BY THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE, WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC AND ALL CONCERNED BODIES.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID A REPLY HAD BEEN SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOUSE COMMITTEE, AND NOTED THAT THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED BY PROFESSOR MORGENSTERN WOULD COVER MUCH OF THE GROUND INTENDED UNDER THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY PROPOSED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

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EXPRESSWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TURN GREEN

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DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ON EXPRESSWAYS ARE BEING CHANGED FROM BLUE TO GREEN COLOUR STARTING THIS MONTH.

AT PRESENT, DIRECTIONAL SIGNS USED IN HONG KONG ARE ALL BLUE IN COLOUR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID SIGNS ON EXPRESSWAYS WERE BEING CHANGED TO GREEN COLOUR TO ALERT MOTORISTS THAT THEY WERE DRIVING ON ROADS CARRYING HEAVIER AND FASTER TRAFFIC AND WHERE MORE STRINGENT DRIVING RULES APPLIED.

"SIGNS ON ALL ROADS OTHER THAN EXPRESSWAYS WILL REMAIN BLUE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD A PROGRAMME TO GRADUALLY CHANGE THE SIGNS ON EXPRESSWAYS FROM BLUE TO GREEN.

"THE FIRST BATCH OF GREEN SIGNS ARE BEING INSTALLED IN THE SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD BETWEEN FAN KAM INTERCHANGE AND PAK SHEK AU. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE TOLO HIGHWAY LATER THIS YEAR.

"THE WHOLE PROGRAMME IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS," HE SAID.

HE URGED MOTORISTS TO DRIVE CAREFULLY AND OBEY DRIVING RULES FOR EXPRESSWAYS TO AVOID ACCIDENTS.

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ROLE OF FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION EXPLAINED

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THE "DIRECT SALE" SCHEME OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (FMO) WILL HELP INTRODUCE MORE COMPETITION IN THE WHOLESALING OF FISH IN ITS MARKETS AND BENEFIT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING CONSUMERS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FMO SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TWO MONTHS AGO FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS FROM FISHERMEN OF DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING MARKET PRICE AT FMO MARKETS.

"TO ENABLE THE EXISTING AUCTION SYSTEM TO WORK BETTER, THERE IS NEED TO BRING IN MORE COMPETITION. DIRECT SALE HELPS BY OPENING UP NEW MARKET OUTLETS."

IF THE SCHEME IS SUCCESSFUL, MORE FISHERMEN WILL BRING BACK THEIR CATCH FOR SALE, THUS ATTRACTING MORE WHOLESALERS TO BUY AT FMO MARKETS. THIS WOULD CREATE A BETTER AND FREER ENVIRONMENT FOR MARKET FORCES TO ACT.

IN PROVIDING NEW MARKET OUTLETS, THE FMO ALSO ATTEMPTS TO BREAK TRIAD INFLUENCE ON FISH PRICES AT WHOLESALE LEVEL.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE "DIRECT SALE" SCHEME WOULD NOT RAISE THE FISH PRICES.

"WHOLESALE OF MARINE FISH AT FMO MARKETS IS BY AUCTION WHICH IS SUBJECT TO FREE MARKET FORCES. THE SYSTEM IS APPLICABLE TO ALL, INCLUDING FMO."

HE REITERATED THAT IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES TO ENSURE A FREE AND FAIR FISH WHOLESALING SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

STAFF OF THE FMO WILL CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH THE TRADERS TO CLARIFY THE NEW SCHEME AND TO UNDERSTAND THEIR DIFFICULTIES. ANY IMPRESSION OF UNFAIR COMPETITION WILL BE INVESTIGATED.

HE ADDED THAT FMO HAD NO INTENTION TO TAKE OVER OR REDUCE THE ROLE OF WHOLESALERS WHO WERE AND WOULD REMAIN THE MAJOR PLAYERS WITHIN THE SYSTEM. THE NEWLY INTRODUCED "DIRECT SALE" SCHEME WILL BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME.

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JOSEPH WONG APPOINTED REGIONAL SECRETARY

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF MR JOSEPH WONG WING-PING AS REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON/NEW TERRITORIES WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 14.

HE WILL TAKE OVER FROM MISS CHRISTINE CHOW KWAN-TAI, WHO IS RETIRING.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THEM ARE:

MR JOSEPH WONG WING-PING, JP

AGED 46, MR WONG JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1994.

HE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING FINANCE BRANCH, THE FORMER NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE FORMER OFFICE OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (UMELCO) AND TRADE DEPARTMENT.

HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1988 TO 1989 AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY FROM 1989 TO 1991. HE WAS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE IN GENEVA FROM 1991 TO 1994.

MISS CHRISTINE CHOW KWAN-TAI, JP

AGED 49, MISS CHOW JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1970 AND ROSE TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1992, DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF HER CAREER, MISS CHOW HELD APPOINTMENTS IN THE FORMER HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE FORMER SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH AND FINANCE BRANCH.

ON RETURN FROM A TRAINING COURSE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY IN 1986, SHE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES AND THEN DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS. SHE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER FROM 1989 UNTIL 1993, WHEN SHE TOOK UP HER PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON/NEW TERRITORIES.

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GROUP DISCUSSES SETUP OF APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE

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A STEERING GROUP SPECIFICALLY SET UP TO DELIBERATE ON HOW TO ESTABLISH AN APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY).

ONE OF THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY INITIATIVES ADDRESSED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 6 LAST YEAR WAS TO ESTABLISH A FUND-DISBURSING APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE TO ENCOURAGE THE UNDERTAKING OF APPLIED RESEARCHES IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE CENTRE WOULD DRAW TOGETHER HONG KONG'S AND CHINA'S RESEARCH EXPERTISE.

CHAired BY DR RAYMOND CH'IEN, THE STEERING GROUP COMPRISES INDUSTRIALISTS, ACADEMIA AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

/MEMBERS INCLUDE

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MEMBERS INCLUDE MR HERBERT LIANG, DR YORK LIAO, MR VICTOR LO, PROFESSOR PATRICK Y C CHENG, PROFESSOR CHARLES KAO, PROFESSOR CHIA-WEI WOO, MR S K CHAN, DR JAMES LIU, PROFESSOR PING-KEUNG KO, AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE AND OFFICERS FROM THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STEERING GROUP ARE:

- * TO ADVISE THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC) ON HOW THE CENTRE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED;
- * TO FORMULATE THE BASIC CRITERIA, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW FUNDING SCHEME; AND
- * TO ADVISE ON ANY OTHER MATTERS PERTINENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CENTRE.

THE STEERING GROUP HAS EXAMINED SOME PAPERS AT ITS FIRST MEETING.

THE MEETING ALSO CONSIDERED WHETHER THE PROPOSED APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE COULD TAP THE EXISTING RESOURCES UNDER THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME.

THE SECRETARY OF THE STEERING GROUP, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, SAID AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THAT THERE HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL AND ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

"HOWEVER, SOME TECHNICAL MATTERS STILL REQUIRE FURTHER DELIBERATION. THE ITDC SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE DETAILED PAPERS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MID-SEPTEMBER," HE SAID.

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WELFARE SECTOR BIDS FAREWELL TO SHW

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MORE THAN 300 MEMBERS OF THE WELFARE SECTOR FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ATTENDED A DINNER RECEPTION AT HOTEL FURAMA TONIGHT (TUESDAY) TO BID FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG.

THE DINNER PARTY WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TO HONOUR MRS WONG'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE TERRITORY OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, DURING WHICH SHE HELD TENURE AS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND LATER, AS SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE.

MRS WONG ASSUMED HER PRESENT POST OF SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN 1990. SHE WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 1).

ALSO PRESENT AT THE RECEPTION WERE THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, MRS PAMELA CHAN.

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PARKING METERS SET UP IN TO KWA WAN

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PARKING METERS WILL BE INSTALLED AT 12 PARKING SPACES AT SHEK TONG STREET, TO KWA WAN FROM 10 AM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 1), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

SIX OF THEM ARE FOR TWO-HOUR PARKING FOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, BUSES, MOTORCYCLES AND PEDAL CYCLES. THE OTHER SIX ARE ONE-HOUR METERS FOR GOODS VEHICLES.

THESE PARKING SPACES ARE OPERATING FROM 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE CHARGE IS \$2 PER VEHICLE FOR EVERY 30 MINUTES.

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136 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 136 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 51 MEN, 35 WOMEN, 31 BOYS AND 19 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 214TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,169 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 42,782 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 96.95 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 566.388 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVIORS CONTAINED 464.194 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 79.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN SAI KUNG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS CONNECTION.

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE PAK TAM CHUNG, TSAK YUE WU, WONG KENG TEI, TSAM CHUK WAN, TAM WAT, SHE TAU, TAI PO TSAI, TIT CHI SHAN, SAN TIN HANG, TSO WO HANG, LONG KENG, TAI WAN, SHA HA, MUK MIN SHAN, SHAN LIU, NGAU LIU, SHA KOK MEI, WONG CHUK WAN, O TAU, SHUI LONG WO, KEI LING HA LO WAI, KEI LING HA SAN WAI, YUNG SHUE O, SAI KENG, WO LIU, TAI TUNG, NGA YU TAU, MA KWU LAM, CHE HA, SAM PUI CHAU, NAI CHUNG, SAI O, KWUN HANG AND CHEUNG MUK TAU.

THE SUSPENSION ALSO AFFECTS ALL THE PREMISES AT YAN YEE ROAD, CHI FAI PATH AND SAI SHA ROAD.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
TENDER RESULTS
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TENDER DATE	30 AUG 94	30 AUG 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q435	H472
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD5,600 MN	HKD4,000 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,500 MN	HKD800 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.39 PCT	4.69 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.40 PCT	4.70 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 24 PCT	ABOUT 14 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.42 PCT	4.72 PCT

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 5 SEPT 1994 -

TENDER DATE	6 SEPT 94	6 SEPT 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q436	Y493
ISSUE DATE	7 SEPT 94	7 SEPT 94
MATURITY DATE	7 DEC 94	6 SEPT 95
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,500 + 300 MN	HKD500 + 150 MN

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,466	0930	-862
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,131	1000	-862
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-807
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+620	1200	-807
LAF TODAY	+45	1500	-807
		1600	+620
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER		TWI 122.5 *+0.3*	30.8.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.28	18 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.14	5.83
1 MONTH	4.27	24 MONTHS	2608	6.15	100.06	6.21
3 MONTHS	4.40	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.91	6.56
6 MONTHS	4.65	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.93	6.70
12 MONTHS	5.26	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.57	6.84

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 22,192 MN

CLOSED 30 AUGUST 1994

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