



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INEQUITIES IN LAW FOR WOMEN TO BE STUDIED  
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A FEW SPECIFIC AREAS IN THE LAW CONCERNING WOMEN NEEDED TO BE LOOKED AT, EVEN THOUGH THE GLARING INEQUITIES OF THE PAST HAVE BEEN LARGELY ELIMINATED, THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR GERALD NAZARETH, SAID TODAY.

THESE AREAS INCLUDED THE PROBLEM OF BATTERED WOMEN, +AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS, + WHICH ARE THE LEGAL ACTION WHICH AN UNMARRIED WOMAN EXPECTING A CHILD CAN TAKE AGAINST THE FATHER, AND THE LAW OF DIVORCE, MR NAZARETH SAID.

SPEAKING TO THE ZONTA CLUB OF KOWLOON THIS AFTERNOON, MR NAZARETH SAID ALSO THAT THE LAW HAD TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND THERE WERE OTHER RESPECTS IN WHICH THE LAWS RELATING TO WOMEN HAD TO BE REFINED.

ON THE QUESTION OF BATTERED WOMEN, HE SAID THAT THE REMEDIES WERE TWO-FOLD -- SELF HELP, AND REMEDIES PROVIDED BY LAW.

SELF HELP, HE SAID, DID NOT SEEM TO BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE.

AS FOR THE LAW, THE FIRST OF THE REMEDIES AVAILABLE WAS TO MAKE A COMPLAINT TO THE POLICE WITH A VIEW TO THEIR TAKING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE HUSBAND.

+THE DIFFICULTY HERE IS THAT THE POLICE LIKE THE REST OF US ARE LIKELY TO BE DISINCLINED TO INTERVENE IN WHAT ALL OF US ARE APT TO SEE AS A DOMESTIC DISPUTE. AND IF THEY DO NOT INTERVENE AND PROSECUTE, THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD HAVE TO BE A PRIVATE PROSECUTION OR A CIVIL SUIT FOR ASSAULT.

+THIS IS NOT A PARTICULARLY EASY COURSE FOR A WIFE TO RESORT TO. IT IS LIKELY TO PROVE EXPENSIVE AND PROTRACTED AND THE RESULT SHORT-LIVED.

+AFTER PAYING HIS FINE OR DAMAGES OR PERHAPS EVEN SERVING A SHORT TERM OF IMPRISONMENT, THE HUSBAND WOULD BE FREE TO GO BACK AND RESUME WHERE HE HAD LEFT OFF, + MR NAZARETH SAID.

A COURT INJUNCTION, COULD ALSO BE SOUGHT, REQUIRING THE HUSBAND UNDER PAIN OF IMPRISONMENT TO STOP BATTERING HIS WIFE. BUT THE DRAWBACK WAS THAT AN INJUNCTION COULD ONLY BE APPLIED FOR IF THE WIFE HAD FIRST COMMENCED LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR DIVORCE OR SEPARATION.

+AND WHAT MOST WIVES WANT IS NOT ANYTHING THAT DRASTIC BUT ONLY AN END TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, + HE SAID.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, HE SAID THE COMBINED EFFECT OF THE MATRIMONIAL HOMES ACT 1967 AND OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS ACT 1976 HAD BEEN TO ENABLE WIFE TO APPLY TO A COURT:

- \* FIRST TO ENABLE HER TO OCCUPY THE MATRIMONIAL HOME REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SHE HAS ANY LEGAL TITLE OR SHARE TO IT.

- \* SECOND TO EXCLUDE THE OFFENDING HUSBAND FROM THE MATRIMONIAL HOME REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE OWNS IT AND,
- \* THIRD TO RESTRAIN THE OFFENDING HUSBAND FROM MOLESTING HER OR THE CHILDREN OF THE FAMILY EVEN IF THERE ARE NO MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS PENDING.

THESE EFFECTIVE REMEDIES TENDED TO PROVIDE A LONG TERM SOLUTION, BUT WERE NOT YET APPLICABLE TO HONG KONG.

+I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT IT IS TIME THAT WE GAVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO ADOPTING THEM.

+IN FACT, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO THIS AND EXAMINED THE IMPLICATIONS.

+THE MATTER NOW HAS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT CONCERNED,+ MR NAZARETH SAID.

+AFFILIATION PROCEEDINGS+, MR NAZARETH SAID WAS GIVEN TO THE LEGAL ACTION THAT AN UNMARRIED WOMAN WHO HAS OR IS EXPECTING A CHILD COULD TAKE AGAINST THE FATHER.

+THE OBJECT IS TO GET THE COURT TO DECLARE HIM TO BE THE FATHER AND TO ORDER HIM TO PAY FOR THE CHILD'S MAINTENANCE.

+OUR LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT THE MAXIMUM THAT THE FATHER CAN BE ORDERED TO PAY IS \$500 PER WEEK. THIS CAN BE ENTIRELY INADEQUATE WHERE THE PARTIES COME FROM A REASONABLY WELL-OFF BACKGROUND OR WHERE THE CARE THE CHILD NEEDS PREVENTS THE MOTHER FROM WORKING,+ HE SAID.

IN A RECENT HIGH COURT CASE, HE SAID, THE JUDGE CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A WEALTHY FATHER WAS DELIBERATELY RESTRICTING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS CHILD'S MOTHER, WITH WHOM HE HAD FALLEN OUT, TO OBTAIN CUSTODY OF THE CHILD. THE JUDGE FELT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO AWARD AN AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST AND THAT THE FATHER COULD WELL AFFORD, BECAUSE OF THE \$500 LIMIT.

+THAT LIMIT NEEDS, IN MY VIEW, TO BE REMOVED AND WE HAVE ALREADY EMBARKED UPON THE PROCESS OF REPLACING IT WITH A PROVISION THAT WOULD ENABLE THE COURTS TO AWARD SUCH AMOUNTS AS WOULD BE REASONABLE HAVING REGARD TO THE MEANS OF THE PARENT,+ MR NAZARETH SAID.

WITH REGARD TO THE LAW OF DIVORCE, DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO THE RESTRICTION CONTAINED IN THE MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ORDINANCE ON PETITIONS FOR DIVORCE BEING PRESENTED IN THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF MARRIAGE.

FOLLOWING THE UNITED KINGDOM PRECEDENT FROM WHICH IT WAS DERIVED, IT ONLY ALLOWED A PETITION TO BE PRESENTED DURING THIS PERIOD IN THE CASE OF EXCEPTIONAL HARDSHIP OR EXCEPTIONAL DEPRAVITY ON THE PART OF THE OTHER PARTNER, HE SAID.

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THE ENGLISH LAW COMMISSION, HE SAID, HAD RECENTLY QUESTIONED WHETHER THE RESTRICTION IN ITS PRESENT FORM SERVED ANY USEFUL SOCIAL PURPOSE.

+IT CONCLUDED THAT A RESTRICTION ON PETITIONS FOR DIVORCE IN THE EARLY YEARS OF MARRIAGE SHOULD BE RETAINED, AND WENT ON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESENT RESTRICTION SHOULD BE REPLACED BY AN ABSOLUTE BAR ON PETITIONS FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF MARRIAGE.

+THIS IS ANOTHER MATTER THAT PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO LOOK AT HERE, AND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN AS TO WHETHER IT IS AN APPROPRIATE MATTER FOR THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION TO EXAMINE,+ HE SAID.

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PATIENTS' PREFERENCE A FACTOR IN HOSPITAL OCCUPANCY: THONG  
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PATIENTS' PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN HOSPITALS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN FACTORS AFFECTING OCCUPANCY RATES IN SOME SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, SAID TODAY.

ANOTHER FACTOR WAS THE NATURE OF THE SERVICES BEING PROVIDED, OWING TO THE CHANGING PATTERN OF DISEASES, HE EXPLAINED.

DR THONG WAS REPLYING, IN WRITING, TO A QUESTION AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TODAY, CONCERNING THE FACTORS PREVENTING SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, SUCH AS THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST HOSPITAL, THE ALICE HO MUI LING NETHERSOLE HOSPITAL AND THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, FROM IMPROVING THEIR BED OCCUPANCY RATE, SO THAT THE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS COULD BE RELIEVED.

DR THONG SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN IN SOME CASES TO REDISTRIBUTE THOSE BEDS WHICH HAVE A LOW OCCUPANCY RATE TO SPECIALTIES WHICH HAVE A HIGHER DEMAND, SUCH AS IN THE HONG KONG BUDDHIST HOSPITAL AND THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL.

ANOTHER MEASURE, HE SAID, WAS TO CHANGE THE USE OF CERTAIN WARDS TO OTHER USES, SUCH AS IN THE DUCHESS OF KENT CHILDREN'S ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.

DR THONG ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IN GENERAL, SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, ASIDE FROM THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE AND THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, ARE DISTRICT HOSPITALS WHICH ARE NOT DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH VERY ACUTE CASES REQUIRING SOPHISTICATED FACILITIES FOUND IN GOVERNMENT REGIONAL HOSPITALS.

+THUS,+ HE SAID + AMONG THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS THEMSELVES, THE OCCUPANCY RATES DIFFER.

+IN THE THREE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS WHICH I HAVE JUST MENTIONED, THE OCCUPANCY RATES RANGE FROM 75 PER CENT TO 90 PER CENT, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO BE QUITE SATISFACTORY.+

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SITE FORMATION FOR EASTERN HOSPITAL TO START SOON  
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ALL SITE TESTS AND INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE EASTERN HOSPITAL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND SITE FORMATION SHOULD BE ABLE TO START IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

THIS WAS SAID BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, AT TODAY'S SPECIAL PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1984-85.

PILING AND CONSTRUCTION WILL THEN BE ABLE TO GET UNDER WAY IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, HE ADDED.

ANSWERING A QUESTION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE HOSPITAL, DR THONG SAID THE PROJECT WAS FIRST INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME IN 1981 AND UPGRADED TO CATEGORY B IN APRIL THE NEXT YEAR.

IN AUGUST OF 1983 IT WAS FURTHER UPGRADED TO CATEGORY AB. THREE MONTHS LATER THE PUBLIC WORKS PRIORITY COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THAT THE SITE FORMATION PART OF THE PROJECT SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO CATEGORY A LATER THIS YEAR TO ENABLE WORK TO START.

+THE FINAL DECISION FOR THIS UPGRADING RESTS, OF COURSE, WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE OF THIS (FINANCE) COMMITTEE, DR THONG EXPLAINED.

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RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX RISES  
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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN DECEMBER 1983 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$5 402 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS.

AT 159, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX INCREASED BY 10 POINTS OR 7 PER CENT OVER NOVEMBER 1983, AND BY 19 POINTS OR 14 PER CENT OVER DECEMBER 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX, AT 113, WAS 7 POINTS OR 7 PER CENT UP ON NOVEMBER 1983, AND 1 POINT OR 1 PER CENT UP ON DECEMBER 1982.

COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 11 PER CENT AND THOSE OF FUELS BY 3 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, THOSE OF CONSUMER DURABLES BY 7 PER CENT, AND THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS BY 5 PER CENT. THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 10 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT.

/COMPARED WITH .....

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1982, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES ROSE BY 19 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, THOSE OF FUELS BY 17 PER CENT, THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO BY 14 PER CENT, THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS BY 12 PER CENT, AND THOSE OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS BY 9 PER CENT. IN VOLUME TERMS, SALES INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER DURABLES, 2 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, 2 PER CENT FOR FUELS AND 1 PER CENT FOR OTHER CONSUMER GOODS. BUT SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS IN VOLUME TERMS DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES AT DEPARTMENT STORES AND SUPERMARKETS AND OF MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1983. WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1982, RETAIL SALES AT SUPERMARKETS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS BUT TO A LESSER EXTENT IN VOLUME TERMS. DEPARTMENT STORES SHOWED AN INCREASE IN SALES VALUE BUT A MARGINAL DECLINE IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BUT DECREASED MODERATELY IN VOLUME TERMS.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1983 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1983 OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE DECEMBER 1983 RESULTS WITH THOSE OF NOVEMBER 1983 AND DECEMBER 1982 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE WITH THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 3-7216024.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER 1983 (PROVISIONAL FIGURE)	=	HK\$5 402 MILLION
FOR NOVEMBER 1983 (REVISED FIGURE)	=	HK\$5 060 MILLION

TABLE 2 : .....

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES  
FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	INDEX OF RETAIL SALES	NOV. 1983	DEC. 1983	DEC. 1983 COMPARED WITH NOV. 1983		DEC. 1983 COMPARED WITH DEC. 1982	
		(REVISED FIGURES)	(PROVISIONAL FIGURES)	POINTS	%	POINTS	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	VALUE VOLUME	149 106	159 113	10 7	7 7	19 1	14 1
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS							
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	VALUE VOLUME	149 99	163 109	14 10	9 10	20 2	14 2
FUELS	VALUE VOLUME	192 122	197 126	5 4	3 3	29 3	17 2
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	VALUE VOLUME	168 117	187 130	19 13	11 11	15 -3	9 -2
CONSUMER DURABLES	VALUE VOLUME	122 93	130 99	8 6	7 6	21 3	19 3
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	VALUE VOLUME	154 112	161 117	7 5	5 4	17 1	12 1

/ (C) BY SELECTED .....

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(C) BY  
SELECTED  
TRADES

SUPER- MARKETS	VALUE	215	253	38	18	61	32
	VOLUME	136	159	23	17	12	8
MOTOR VEHICLES	VALUE	51	60	9	18	5	9
	VOLUME	32	37	5	16	-3	-8
DEPARTMENT STORES	VALUE	153	188	35	23	15	9
	VOLUME	112	137	25	22	-3	-2

- NOTES :
1. +FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO+ INCLUDES +SUPERMARKETS+.
  2. +CONSUMER DURABLES+ INCLUDES +MOTOR VEHICLES+.
  3. +OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ INCLUDES +DEPARTMENT STORES+.

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## DISTRICT BOARDS TO DISCUSS LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

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DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS OF YUEN LONG AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AT THEIR MEETINGS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

IN THE MORNING, YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE LAYOUT PLANS FOR KAM TIN, LAU FAU SHAN, SHA TIN AND THE TAI TONG RECREATIONAL PRIORITY AREA AT THEIR MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE HORMONE-INJECTED CHICKEN ISSUE AND PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO HELP SOLVE THE CONFLICT AMONG DIFFERENT WATER-SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN THE SHALLOW WATER ON THE STANLEY EAST BEACH.

BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT STRATEGY AND THE BOARD'S BUDGET FOR 1984-85.

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## NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER:

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(1) THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING; AND

(2) THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM THE SAME DAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT IN ABERDEEN CENTRE.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE WILL LEAVE KOWLLON PUBLIC PIER AT 9 AM SHARP FOR YUEN LONG.

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CONTRACT ON WATER TREATMENT WORKS SIGNED  
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WORK TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT OF THE TUEN MUN WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT FU TEI WILL START TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A \$17.6-MILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED TO BOOST THE PLANT'S CAPACITY BY 150 000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY TO 273 000 CUBIC METRES.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS WILL TAKE 21 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE EXPANSION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE ANTICIPATED POPULATION GROWTH IN TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY MR LEE GUN-CHEUNG, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, AND MR DAVID MORRIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

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DRIEST FOUR-MONTH PERIOD ON RECORD  
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THE PERIOD FROM LAST NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY WAS THE DRIEST ON RECORD FOR ANY FOUR CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, ACCORDING TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S MONTHLY REPORT.

THE RAINFALL DURING THIS PERIOD WAS 13.6 MM, WHILE FEBRUARY'S RAINFALL OF 2.7 MM WAS ONLY SIX PER CENT OF THE NORMAL AMOUNT.

/FEBRUARY WAS .....

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FEBRUARY WAS ALSO COOLER THAN USUAL. A SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED ON FEBRUARY 5, AND TEMPERATURES DROPPED STEADILY, REACHING A MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF SEVEN DEGREE CELSIUS IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 7.

DURING THE SAME MORNING, MINIMUM TEMPERATURES OF -2. DEGREE CELSIUS AND 0 DEGREE CELSIUS WERE RECORDED AT TAI MO SHAN AND TATE'S CAIRN RESPECTIVELY.

THE MONTH WAS ALSO CLOUDIER THAN USUAL, WITH SOME DRIZZLE AND LIGHT RAIN FROM TIME TO TIME. MIST PATCHES DEVELOPED IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 17 AND WERE DISPERSED IN THE EVENING BY A WEAK SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON.

WIDESPREAD FOG DEVELOPED ON FEBRUARY 22, REDUCING THE VISIBILITY AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO 300 METRES AND AT WAGLAN ISLAND TO 100 METRES THE FOLLOWING MORNING. AS A RESULT, NINE AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG AND SOME FERRY SERVICES WERE SUSPENDED.

THE FOG DISPERSED IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 24.

THE WEATHER BECAME SUNNY IN THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 23, WITH A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 24.8 DEGREE CELSIUS, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

A SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON IN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 28 BROUGHT STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS IN SOME PLACES, AND TEMPERATURES FELL BELOW 10 DEGREE CELSIUS THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

THERE WERE NO TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE MONTH.

FROST WARNINGS WERE ISSUED FROM FEBRUARY 6 TO 8.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON 12 DAYS IN FEBRUARY: 2 TO 6, 12, 13, 18, 19 AND 25 TO 27.

THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED FROM FEBRUARY 6 TO 9 AND ON FEBRUARY 29.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>WEATHER SYSTEM</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING</u>
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 5 11 PM	FEBRUARY 6 1.40 PM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 6 9.30 PM	FEBRUARY 7 9.05 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 17 9.05 PM	FEBRUARY 18 5.30 AM

/WINTER MONSOON .....

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WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 28 2 AM	FEBRUARY 28 10.05 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 28 8.15 PM	FEBRUARY 29 6 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	53.6 HOURS	=	55.1 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	2.7 MM	=	39.2 MM BELOW NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	87%	=	16% MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	76%	=	2% LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	16.8 DEGREE CELSIUS	=	2.0 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	14.5 DEGREE CELSIUS	=	1.4 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	12.8 DEGREE CELSIUS	=	0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	10.1 DEGREE CELSIUS	=	1.6 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	79.6 MM	=	5.2 MM BELOW NORMAL

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 24.8 DEGREE CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON FEBRUARY 23.

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 7.0 DEGREE CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON FEBRUARY 7.

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ENTERTAINMENT ORGANISED FOR OLD FOLK  
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MORE THAN 1 200 ELDERLY PEOPLE AT THE AGE OF 65 OR ABOVE WILL BE TREATED TO TWO HOURS OF ENTERTAINMENT AND A LUNAR NEW YEAR FEAST TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, THE EVENT IS AIMED AT FOSTERING THE TRADITIONAL VIRTUE OF RESPECT FOR THE ELDERLY.

THE PROGRAMME WILL ALSO INCLUDE A CANTONESE OPERA AND SINGING PERFORMANCES BY SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

THE THREE OLDEST PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AWARDED GOLD PLATES BY THE ASSOCIATION.

THE 10 AREA COMMITTEES IN EASTERN DISTRICT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS HAVE HELPED IN INVITING PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE MAINLY FROM THE DISTRICT.

THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR LUI HAU-TUEN, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR SIU MING, WILL PRESENT SOUVENIRS TO THE PARTICIPANTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL START AT 6.30 PM IN THE METROPOLITAN RESTAURANT AT 436 KING'S ROAD.

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COURSES OFFERED ON USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT  
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THE VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A SERIES OF IDENTICAL HALF-DAY COURSES IN CANTONESE ON THE USE OF COMMON AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE.

THE COURSES ARE TO ACQUAINT SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH THE BASIC TECHNIQUES OF HANDLING AND MAINTAINING VARIOUS COMMON AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN SCHOOLS, SUCH AS FILM, SLIDE, OVERHEAD AND FILMLOOP PROJECTORS.

THE COURSES WILL BE HELD AT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 3RD FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG, FROM APRIL 5 TO JUNE 8.

OWING TO LIMITED FACILITIES, EACH SCHOOL MAY NOMINATE ONLY ONE TEACHER TO ATTEND ONE OF THE COURSES. APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

SECONDARY SCHOOL HEADS WISHING TO NOMINATE THEIR TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE COURSES SHOULD SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR (VISUAL EDUCATION), VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, 3RD FLOOR, LEE GARDENS, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG ON OR BEFORE MARCH 16, 1984.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE COURSES MAY BE MADE AT THE VISUAL EDUCATION SECTION ON 5-8392359.

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STUDENTS' POTTED PLANTS ON SHOW  
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SOME 400 POTTED PLANTS PREPARED BY STUDENTS FROM 51 SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE EXHIBITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MEI FA WORKING GROUP OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG COMMITTEE, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW TERRITORIES STUDENTS POTTED PLANT COMPETITION 1984. IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

THE COMPETITION WAS SPONSORED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEI FA WORKING GROUP, MR WILLIAM WAN, EXPLAINED DURING A PREVIEW VISIT TO THE DISPLAY TODAY.

THE AIM IS TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND HONG KONG AS A WHOLE.

THE POTTED PLANTS INCLUDE AFRICAN VIOLETS, ANNUALS, CACTI, CHRYSANTHEMUMS, FERNS, FOLIAGE PLANTS AND SUCCULENT PLANTS.

BOOK TOKENS TOTALLING \$10 000 WILL BE AWARDED TO WINNERS AT A CEREMONY STARTING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE NEW TERRITORIES STUDENTS POTTED PLANT COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION AT TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL AT HOI PA STREET, TSUEN WAN, AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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SLIP ROAD CLOSURE EXTENDED  
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THE CLOSURE OF THE SLIP ROAD OFF COTTON TREE DRIVE LEADING TO THE CAR PARK NEAR ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH WILL CONTINUE FOR A FURTHER 40 DAYS, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF ROAD WIDENING WORK AT GARDEN ROAD.

VEHICLES PROCEEDING TO THE CAR PARK WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KENNEDY ROAD WESTBOUND, WHERE THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT INTO THE SLIP ROAD LEADING TO THE CAR PARK.

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