



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, October 10, 1972

FACSIMILE SERVICE TO BE INTRODUCED FOR CHINESE NEWSPAPERS

A new facsimile service is to be introduced by the Government Information Services to transmit news items quickly and directly to Chinese newspaper offices.

With the service it will take less than six minutes for a press release written on foolscap-size paper to be transmitted to a receiver at the newspaper press room.

At present Chinese newspapers, along with the many other subscribers, have to rely on the G.I.S. teleprinter service which, of course, can only send out items in English. Chinese versions of the items have to be stencilled and then collected in person at the end of the day, wasting time and manpower.

The only alternative for an editor to meet the dead line is to allocate staff to translate the English teleprinter copies.

The facsimile service to be provided is not new. It was started several year ago by G.I.S. on an experimental basis with one receiver* in the radio news section at Radio Hong Kong and another to several Chinese newspapers in rotation, to demonstrate the usefulness of the machine.

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The experiment proved successful, and since then a new development has eliminated the costly sensitised paper which had to be used in the earlier machines, thus making them almost as cheap to operate as teleprinters.

To introduce the facsimile service, the Government Information Services is calling tenders for a new transmitter capable of handling a maximum of 20 receivers.

The service is expected to become operational in about six months. Initially about 10 Chinese newspapers will benefit from the service.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED

Quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from the Indonesian port of Bengkulu.

The Port Health Authority announced today that the restrictions follow reports of cholera from the port.

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POOR RESULTS FROM ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

A total of 12,895 children were protected against measles during the nine weeks of the 1972 anti-measles vaccination campaign which has just ended.

Announcing this today, the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, commented: "I consider such a result extremely poor, bearing in mind all the measures we took during the campaign to draw the attention of parents to the need for anti-measles vaccination -- not only for their children, but also to prevent an outbreak of the disease in Hong Kong."

He said that although the campaign itself was over, and the special mobile vaccine facilities and door-to-door visits to resettlement estates had ended, anti-measles vaccinations were still routinely available at all government maternal and child health centres.

In the ninth and last week of the campaign, a total of 1,010 doses of the vaccine was administered. Of these, 187 were administered to children on the Island, 503 in Kowloon, and 320 in the New Territories.

The campaign began on August 8.

The incidence of measles has tended to fall into a distinct biennial pattern, with a rash of the disease breaking out on alternate winters and springs. Free anti-measles vaccine has been made available since December 1967.

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The last epidemic of the disease occurred in the winter-spring of 1966-67. The incidence and mortality have since remained low, due "at least in part, to the immunisation campaigns which are now on a year-round basis."

"But," Dr. Choa said, "parents who disregard our repeated warnings should not be complacent. Susceptible children should be immunised as soon as possible."

"It is not true that measles is inevitable. The disease can, and should, be prevented."

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. G.M.B. Salmon, ceased to be a temporary Unofficial Member of the Executive Council, from yesterday (October 9) following the return to Hong Kong of Mr. G.R. Ross.

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NEW MARKET FOR WESTERN DISTRICT

A new five-storey market building providing modern and convenient market facilities in Western District on Hong Kong Island, is being built in Shek Tong Tsui.

The new market will replace the former small single-storey block in Hill Road which was pulled down recently.

Specially designed to suit the sloping conditions in Hill Road, the market will be equipped with an elevator to facilitate the handling of goods.

It will accommodate some 70 vegetable, meat, fish and poultry stalls on the ground and first floors. The main entrance and loading areas will be on the lower ground floor.

A section of the rooftop, covering about 5,600 square feet, will be used as a children's playground. It will offer a variety of recreational facilities including table tennis.

Another section will be occupied by a raised block housing Hawker Control Force offices and quarters for market management staff.

The entire project, costing \$1.7 million, is expected to be completed by October, next year.

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PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME CONTINUES TO EXPAND

The total number of active cases in the Public Assistance Scheme reached 16,678 at the end of September.

New applications received during the month totalled 969, including 35 referred from voluntary agencies. Cases reactivated during the month numbered 128, and at the same time, 630 were closed.

Cash payments during September totalled \$2.5 million, bringing to \$26 million the amount spent so far since the expanded scheme was implemented on April 1, 1971.

The head of the Public Assistance Scheme, Mr. Tsau Tsor-yan, says the figures indicate that more people in need now realise the scheme exists for their benefit.

Individuals without income who qualify get a minimum of \$110 a month. To this can be added a rent allowance, and necessary travelling expenses, and if justified, up to \$100 a month for extra diet.

A family of five without income can get about \$430 a month.

Fifteen field units have been set up in various districts to handle applications and the sixteenth, to serve the Castle Peak area, is being planned.

Applicants do not have to call personally at the field unit nearest their home. If they write giving their address, they will be visited by representatives from the Social Welfare Department.

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FIRST DAY COVERS FOR TUNNEL STAMP ON SALE TOMORROW

First day covers for the forthcoming issue of the postage stamp commemorating the opening of the cross-harbour tunnel will go on sale from tomorrow (Wednesday) at all post offices. They will cost 20 cents.

The first day covers feature a design by Mr. Kan Tai-keung, a Hong Kong artist.

The public is urged to obtain their covers early to avoid disappointment.

The special \$1 stamp will be on sale from October 20. Its issue is timed to coincide with the visit of Princess Alexandra.

Shortly after her arrival in Hong Kong, the Princess will drive through the tunnel and unveil a plaque marking the completion of the project.

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Note to Editors: Photographs of the first day cover with a \$1 stamp attached are distributed separately in the GIS press boxes this evening.

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TEXTILE EXPORTS TO BRITAIN

The Commerce and Industry Department has announced that normal licensing for exports of woven polyester/cotton textiles to Britain will be resumed as soon as possible.

This follows the announcement on Sunday that the export of these items had been temporarily suspended from Saturday, October 7.

No further application for textile licences for woven polyester/cotton fabrics, made-ups and garments for shipment to Britain are being accepted and the issue of licences already received by the department are being withheld until further notice.

Polyester/cotton textiles should include any fabric containing both cotton and polyester where (a) the cotton content is 50 per cent or less, and (b) polyester comprises 50 per cent or more of the fibres other than cotton. In both conditions, the percentages are measured by weight.

Copies of the notice have been issued to exporters and manufacturers, and they are also available from the department's Textile Licensing Office on the second floor, Fire Brigade Building, Hong Kong.

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Release Time: 6.30 p.m.