DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, June 18, 1973

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Monday, June 18, 1973

GREENLIGHT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

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The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council has given the greenlight for a massive expansion of community centres, children and youth centres and the community youth officers scheme, in line with proposals made in the social welfare white paper and the five year development plan.

It has accepted the financial commitment of more than $35 million in both capital and recurrent costs to meet this expansion.

The main spending will be in capital cost which amounts to some $23 million. This sum will be used for building seven community centres, five estate welfare buildings and 15 community halls in different areas of Hong Kong between now and 1978.

The provision of estate welfare buildings and community halls is being extended to cover all public housing wherever possible.

Community halls will be built in public housing estates for a population of 20,000 or over while estate welfare buildings will be built in estates which house more than 50,000 people.

Community centres will be provided in areas of 100,000 people not covered by estate welfare buildings or community halls.

Of the amount approved, more than $6 million will go towards operating costs of these community centres, estate welfare buildings and community halls.

At the moment, there are some 69 children and youth work units with the majority of them operated by the voluntary agencies. Each unit provides some form of service to 2,000 children and young people in the course of a year.

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The number of these units is to be doubled between 1973 and 1978 and it is for this purpose that the sum of $4.7 million a year has been approved as subventions to the voluntary agencies for the expansion.

In line with these developments, the community youth officer scheme, which up to now has been carried out on an experimental basis only, is to be expanded into 11 areas in 1973/74.

They will cover Eastern, Wanchai, Central, and Western districts on Hong Kong Island; Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Yau Ma Tei, Mong Kok, Sham Shui Po, and Kwun Tong in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan in the New Territories.

For 1974/75, community youth officers will be established in Yuen Long, Tai Po, Sai Kung and Islands districts.

The cost of implementing and running this scheme will be $2 million a year.

The community youth officer or CYO will operate at a district level and in full co-operation with the CDO's and the community centres staff.

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WATER CUT IN HUNG HOM

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Water supply to a number of premises in the Hung Hom area will be cut off for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Wednesday (June 20).

The temporary stoppage is to allow staff of the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Bailey Street, the sea-front, Hok Yuen Street, Ma Tau Wei Road, Pak Kung Street, Chatham Road, Fat Kwong Street, Shun Yung Street, Ko Shan Road, Kau Pui Lung Road, Lok Shan Road and Kowloon City Road.

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PUBLIC URGED TO STOP PANIC BUYING OF RICE

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The Commerce and Industry Department today urged the public to cease "panic buying" of rice at inflated prices.

Action taken by the department has already resulted in lower prices at many retail stores.

"But our efforts to bring about a return to normal prices will be severely hampered if the public continues to buy rice at unreasonable prices, and in unnecessarily large quantities," a spokesman for the department said.

"As we have already stated, we are confident that supplies can be maintained at a satisfactory level, and there is no cause for public alarm."

The spokesman said that auctions taking place today would put even more Thai rice on to the market, and pressure would be maintained through the rice control scheme to keep prices at a reasonable level.

"We have already warned wholesalers that increases in their 'mark-up' to retailers will not be tolerated," he added.

The spokesman said that Hong Kong's reserve stocks were sufficient to last for well over two months, and there was no fear that these would run out as imports from China, Australia and the United States continue to come in.

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Note to Editors: Pictures of the rice auctions will be boxed this evening.

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POOR RESPONSE TO ANTI-MEASLES CAMPAIGN

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Response to this year's anti-measles campaign, which has just ended, has been described by the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, as "poor".

During the nine-week-long campaign 8,807 children were immunized against measles compared with almost 13,000 in a similar one last year.

Dr. Choa said today: "I consider the figures poor in relation to this particular campaign.

"But the public should realise these annual drives are run as 'reminders' for parents who have not had their children immunized during normal visits to our maternal and child health centres."

He stressed that although the campaign itself was over, and the special vaccine facilities and door-to-door visits to housing estates had ended, anti-measles vaccinations were still routinely available free at these centres.

In the ninth and last week of this year's campaign, a total of 896 doses of the vaccine was administered -- 161 on the Island, 552 in Kowloon, and 183 in the New Territories.

Dr. Choa recalled that the last epidemic of the disease occurred in the winter-spring of 1966-67. Free anti-measles vaccine became available from December 1967. Since then, the incidence of, and deaths from measles had remained low, "due, at least in part, to the immunization facilities, which are now on a year-round basis."

/"But, ...

"But," Dr. Choa said," parents who disregard our repeated warnings should not be complacent. Susceptible children between six months and five years should be immunized as soon as possible.

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

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TWO MORE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL

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Another two buildings in Wing Lok Street, Central District are to be closed following a declaration today that they are liable to become dangerous.

The two buildings affected are at 205 and 207 Wing Lok Street.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these three-storey pre-war buildings had been under observation for a considerable time after the demolition of adjoining buildings.

Fresh movement had recently occurred giving rise to a risk of collapse when 209 and 211 Wing Lok Street are to be demolished. These two buildings were recently declared dangerous.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on July 25 were posted today.

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DIRECTOR VISITS PLASTICS FACTORIES

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The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. E.P. Ho, will visit two plastics factories tomorrow (Tuesday) morning as part of his regular programme of observing actual day-to-day operations in manufacturing plants.

However, the two factories -- both of them producing plastic toys -- are of special interest and have been chosen so the Director can acquaint himself more fully with the problems presently facing the plastics industry.

The factories to be visited are the Charmbest Industrial Co. Ltd. and the Jimson Plastic Factory Limited, both in San Po Kong.

The current series of factory-visits by Mr. Ho began just over one month ago.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter/photographer to cover the visits. Mr. Ho is due to arrive at Charmbest Industrial Co., 23 Tai Yau Street, San Po Kong at 10 a.m. He will stay there for about one hour and is due to arrive at Jimson Factory, 2 Tai Yau Street, at 11.05 a.m. again staying for an hour. Copies of the programme are boxed this evening.

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SAFETY IN SCHOOL LABORATORIES

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The importance of safety in the laboratory is emphasised on two posters which are being distributed to all secondary schools by the Education Department.

The posters are for display on notice boards in science laboratories and are designed to impress on pupils the need to be extremely careful in their work.

These posters follow the distribution, in previous years, of the pamphlet "Safety in the Laboratory" to science teachers, laboratory assistants and senior students.

In a circular to heads of secondary schools, the principals of the three Colleges of Education and the Morrison Hill Technical Institute, the Assistant Director of Education (Chief Inspector of Schools), Mr. A.G. Brown, asked them "to ensure that the posters are displayed in the laboratories and that students understand the contents."

Mr. Brown reminded science teachers and laboratory staff of "the great responsibility they have for the safety of their students."

"Students should be reminded to perform all experiments with great care and to observe strictly the basic rules set out on one of the posters." he said.

Mr. Brown called on teachers and pupils to bear in mind the slogan: "Care Ensures Safety", thus enhancing the standard of safety in school laboratories and minimising the risk of any mishap.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the pamphlet and photographs of the posters are boxed this evening.

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ADDITIONAL GAOL TERM FOR PRISONER

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A 25-year-old man currently serving a two-year prison term was today gaoled for another two years by Judge Garcia in the Victoria District Court for a number of offences which he committed more than a year ago.

The defendant, Wong Yip-pui, pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery, and three counts of stealing a car and driving it without a licence and third party insurance.

The court was told that Wong, together with three other people, stole a car in the Wah Fu Estate on April 22, last year.

They drove the vehicle to North Point the following day and robbed a couple of some cash and a watch. But they were intercepted by the police in Shau Kei Wan after the couple reported the crime. The other three escaped and only Wong was arrested.

He also admitted having robbed another couple in South Bay Road on a previous occasion.

Wong jumped bail when he was due to appear in court for trial in June last year.

However, he was later caught in connection with the theft of some hand grenades. He was subsequently convicted for this offence and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the Supreme Court early last month.

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MAGISTRATE PRAISES QUICK-THINKING WAITRESS

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A Western Court Magistrate, Mr. E. Light, today complimented a waitress of a coffee shop in Central and a police constable for their joint effort in arresting a robber.

Mr. Light commended them after he imprisoned a 23-year-old man, Yiu Tak-shing, for two years on a charge of robbery.

Yiu went to a coffee shop in Prince's Building on June 4 and threatened the cashier and a waitress at the counter with a knife.

He warned them: "Don't move or I will stab." Yiu then seized $775 in cash and escaped.

The waitress chased after him, raising a hue and cry. A Police Constable caught Yiu in Des Voeux Road Central, and Yiu was subdued after a struggle.

Yiu, who has no previous conviction, pleaded guilty to the charge and asked for leniency, saying that his whole family depended upon him for support.

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FIRE PREVENTION COURSE

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The Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department will run a special one-day course on "Fire prevention in office buildings" on Thursday (June 21) in conjunction with the Fire Services Department.

The course has been arranged at the request of Butterfield and Swire. Thirty-one executive staff members from the company and its subsidiaries will attend.

It will feature lectures, film shows, and a practical demonstration of portable fire fighting equipment.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. David Lin, will officially open the course to be held at the Industrial Safety Training Centre, Canton Road Government Offices, 3rd floor. Mr. T.D. Poland, Staff Manager of Butterfield and Swire (H.K.) Ltd., will give the closing address and present certificates to participating members at 4.30 p.m. at the Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

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The Princess Alexandra Community Centre, run by the Social Welfare Department in Tsuen Wan, celebrates its 12th anniversary this week.

To mark the occasion, a special ceremony will be held tomorrow (Tuesday). Mr. J.S. Warren, District Officer, Tsuen Wan, will officiate and present prizes to winners of competitions sponsored by the centre.

Volunteers who have made contributions to the community through participation in various activities, will also be presented with souvenirs.

A members' night celebration will be held the following night when various groups from the centre will perform on stage.

Two displays, one on the work of the agencies operating in the Princess Alexandra Community Centre and another of works by its Chinese painting and photography groups are also being held now.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the official ceremony tomorrow (Tuesday) which begins at 3:30 p.m. in the hall of Princess Alexandra Community Centre.

Members of the press will also be welcome to attend the members' night celebration on Wednesday (June 20). Events begin at 8 p.m.

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Release time: 7.45 p.m.