



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1978

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APPOINTMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER
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MR. IAN MACPHERSON, AT PRESENT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL ASSUME DUTY AS DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT IN OCTOBER. THE NEW COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE MR. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, WHO IS NOW ACTING AS DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION AND WAS HELD BY MR. IAN LIGHTBODY UNTIL HIS RECENT RETIREMENT FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE. THE NEW TITLE OF THE POST HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO REFLECT ITS EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES MORE ACCURATELY.

MR. MACPHERSON IS AGED 48 AND SERVED IN TANGANYIKA BEFORE COMING TO HONG KONG AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN 1962. HE HAS WORKED IN THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, WHERE HE WAS DEPUTY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER. HE HAS BEEN COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT SINCE 1974.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT IS AGED 49 AND JOINED THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AS AN ENGINEER IN 1953. HE ROSE TO BE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER BEFORE BEING APPOINTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CLASS IN 1974. HE HAS SINCE BEEN A DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

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BAN ON NOISY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AT NIGHT

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THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (NIGHT WORK) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1978, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE RECENTLY, WILL EXTEND THE EXISTING 8 P.M. - 6 A.M. BAN ON PILE DRIVING TO COVER ALL NOISY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.

THE NEW LAW WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1 NEXT YEAR TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADEQUATE TIME TO COMPLETE MOST EXISTING CONTRACTS, AND THE BAN WILL BE IN FORCE EVERY DAY BETWEEN 7 P.M. AND 7 A.M. AND ALL DAY ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE BAN, WHICH EXCEPTS HAND HELD TOOLS OF UP TO ONE HORSEPOWER, WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, WHILE THE BAN ON PILE DRIVING AT NIGHT HAD REMOVED A MAJOR SOURCE OF NOISE NUISANCE FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES DURING THE SPECIFIED TIMES, OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORK NOISE CREATED BY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS AIR COMPRESSORS AND PNEUMATIC DRILLS, ALTHOUGH LESS OFFENSIVE THAN PILING, REMAINED AN IRRITANT AT NIGHT AND ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, PARTICULARLY IN CONGESTED URBAN AREAS.

HE SAID THE BAN ON USING NOISY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AT NIGHT HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (EPCOM). THE COMMITTEE HAD FELT THAT, AT THE PRESENT PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, THE NOISE PROBLEM WAS BECOMING MORE CRITICAL AND WAS OF GROWING PUBLIC CONCERN. THE EPCOM RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AS AN INTERIM MEASURE PENDING DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONTROL OF CONSTRUCTION NOISE BY THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTANTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL.

HE SAID THE DECISION THAT THE RESTRICTIONS SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT TWO YEARS AFTER THEIR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TAKEN BECAUSE IT WAS FELT THAT THEIR IMMEDIATE APPLICATION COULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH BUILDING CONTRACTS ALREADY ENTERED INTO.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FURTHER MEASURES PROPOSED BY EPCOM TO COUNTER PROBLEMS CREATED BY CONSTRUCTION NOISE INCLUDE THE INTRODUCTION OF A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHICH WOULD LAY DOWN REQUIRED STANDARDS STIPULATING THE USE OF NOISE-REDUCED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OR THE ATTACHMENT OF MUFFLING DEVICES.

+THIS PROPOSAL IS NOW BEING STUDIED IN THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH AND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY,+ HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AN EXPERT IN TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF NOISE ABATEMENT IS EXPECTED TO JOIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNIT OF THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS AND ONE OF HIS PRIORITY AIMS WOULD BE TO PRODUCE A CODE OF PRACTICE WHICH WOULD BE WORKABLE IN HONG KONG.

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HUNG HOM CAR PARK SPORTS CENTRE TO OPEN SOON

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THE SPORTS CENTRE OCCUPYING THE TOP THREE FLOORS OF THE HUNG HOM MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK IS EXPECTED TO OPEN IN AUGUST.

IT WILL BE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM 7 A.M. TO 10 P.M. DAILY.

THE 2,800 SQ.-METRE CENTRE IS EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST INDOOR GYMNASIUM FACILITIES, INCLUDING AN ARCHERY RANGE AND BADMINTON COURTS. IT CAN ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 400 PEOPLE.

A TECHNICAL AND PLANNING OFFICER OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, MR. DAVID MAK, SAID A \$25,000 PHYSICAL TRAINING SYSTEM ORDERED FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL FORM THE MAIN FEATURE OF THE CENTRE'S MINI-GYMNASIUM FACILITY FOR FITNESS TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

+THE LATEST SYSTEM COMPRISES 16 COMPONENTS OF WEIGHTS, PULLEYS AND SPRINGS TO ENABLE FULL BODY EXERCISES.

+EACH PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IS DESIGNED AFTER EXTENSIVE RESEARCH INTO HUMAN BODY MOVEMENTS+, MR. MAK SAID.

A 20-METRE INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE IS ALSO BEING SET UP ON THE TOP FLOOR SURROUNDED WITH NYLON NETTING TO PREVENT STRAY SHOTS.

MR. MAK SAID, THE INDOOR ARCHERY AREA IS A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE WIDE RANGE OF SPORTING FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC USE.

IT WILL PARTICULARLY BE APPRECIATED BY ARCHERS AS THEY CAN PRACTISE MORE REGULARLY INDOORS THAN IN THE OPEN, WHERE UNSTABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN AFFECT THEIR PRACTICE.

OTHER SPORTING FACILITIES PROVIDED ARE BADMINTON, TRAMPOLINING, TABLE TENNIS, GYMNASTICS, AND POTTED SPORTS.

MR. MAK SAID THAT APART FROM PROVIDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE ALSO INTENDS TO HOLD TRAINING COURSES AND SEMINARS IN THE CENTRE FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF SPORTS.

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WEATHER IN JUNE -- DRIEST IN 15 YEARS
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LAST MONTH WAS THE DRIEST JUNE IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY ISSUED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED DURING THE MONTH AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WAS 242.4 MM WHICH IS ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE NORMAL FIGURE. HOWEVER RAINFALL IN TAI PO AREA WAS PARTICULARLY HEAVY WITH MORE THAN 700 MM RECORDED.

THE MONTH WAS ALSO SUNNY AND HOT WITH THE MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 31.4 DEGREES -- THE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR JUNE, WHILE THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 28.4 DEGREES AND THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 26.3 DEGREES WERE BOTH THE FIFTH HIGHEST FOR JUNE.

DURING THE MONTH THREE TROPICAL CYCLONES WERE REPORTED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA BUT NONE OF THEM CAME NEAR HONG KONG.

A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE STAYED OVER THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DURING THE FIRST EIGHT DAYS OF THE MONTH AND THE WEATHER IN HONG KONG WAS MAINLY CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL HEAVY SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS.

FLOODINGS WERE REPORTED IN SOME PLACES DURING THE PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN.

FROM JUNE 9 TO 14 THE WEATHER BECAME BRILLIANTLY FINE AND SUNNY AS SOUTH CHINA WAS COVERED BY A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE FROM THE PACIFIC. BUT ON JUNE 15 AND 16 A WEAK TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE APPROACHED HONG KONG AND THE WEATHER WAS CLOUDY WITH SOME SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 20, THE TEMPERATURE ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 33.4 DEGREES, THE HIGHEST RECORDED SINCE SEPTEMBER 19 LAST YEAR.

CONDITIONS BECAME CLOUDY ON JUNE 21 AND SOME LIGHT SHOWERS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS WERE REPORTED DURING THE FOLLOWING THREE DAYS. SHOWERS BECAME MORE FREQUENT AND HEAVIER BETWEEN JUNE 25 AND 27 WHEN THE SUMMER MONSOON BECAME ACTIVE OVER THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

STRONG SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED ON JUNE 26 AND 27 AND THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL REMAINED HOISTED FOR 34 HOURS. A WATERSPOUT WAS SIGHTED OFF THE SOUTHERN COAST OF HONG KONG ISLAND ABOUT 4 P.M. ON JUNE 27.

A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE COVERED SOUTH CHINA DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH AND THE WEATHER IN HONG KONG WAS FINE AND SUNNY.

DURING THE MONTH NO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND NO FIRE DANGER WARNINGS WERE ISSUED.

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SCHOOL FOR CEREBRAL PALSIED CHILDREN PRAISED

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THE PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER (SPECIAL EDUCATION), MISS J.E. ROWE, TODAY PRAISED THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE TING HSIUNG CHAO SCHOOL AT KWAI FONG ESTATE, TSUEN WAN, TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SCHOOLING FACILITIES FOR CEREBRAL PALSIED CHILDREN.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL SPEECH DAY OF THE SCHOOL, MISS ROWE SAID THE SCHOOL HAD EXPANDED GREATLY SINCE IT OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 1974, AND WAS NOW OPERATING 10 CLASSES FOR 100 PUPILS.

MISS ROWE ALSO PRAISED THE CLOSE LINK BUILT UP BETWEEN STAFF AND PARENTS. +FREQUENT HOME VISITS ARE PAID BY THE TEACHERS, THERAPISTS AND THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS SO THAT A PUPIL'S PROGRESS AT HOME CAN BE WATCHED AND PARENTS CAN BE HELPED WITH INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN,+ SHE SAID.

+THROUGH THE MONTHLY PARENT AND TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEETINGS PARENTS ARE ABLE TO DISCUSS THEIR CHILDREN'S PROBLEMS WITH THE STAFF OF THE SCHOOL,+ SHE SAID.

MISS ROWE SAID THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT TING HSIUNG CHAO SCHOOL WAS ORGANISED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE PUPILS' INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT WAS MAINTAINED.

+TEACHERS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND SHARE DIFFERENT PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS,+ SHE SAID.

+THIS MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH IS ESSENTIAL IN THE EDUCATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN BECAUSE A CHILD'S LEARNING IS OFTEN AFFECTED BY HIS PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND HIS SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT.

+TO BE EFFECTIVE, EDUCATION MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE CHILD AS WELL AS INTELLECTUAL NEEDS,+ SHE SAID.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THE LEARNING PROCESS, MISS ROWE SAID, WAS THE PROVISION OF EXTRA-CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES.

+HANDICAPPED CHILDREN NEED AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND HAVE AS MANY WIDE AND VARIED EXPERIENCES AS POSSIBLE AND I NOTE THAT TING HSIUNG CHAO HAS NOT NEGLECTED THIS IMPORTANT ASPECT,+ SHE SAID.

+A VARIETY OF INTEREST GROUPS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED, INCLUDING HORSE RIDING, PICNICS, VISITS TO EXHIBITIONS AND SHOPPING AS WELL AS MEMBERSHIP OF JUNIOR POLICE CALL.+

AT THE CEREMONY A SCOUT GROUP OF THE SCHOOL WAS INAUGURATED TO PROVIDE A NEW AREA IN WHICH PUPILS CAN LEARN FROM A VARIETY OF NEW EXPERIENCE AND LEARN TO SERVE OTHERS AS WELL AS HELPING THEMSELVES.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF NEW STREET
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A SECTION OF NEW STREET BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 8 AND QUEEN'S ROAD WEST WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM JULY 13 TO 19 BETWEEN 10 P.M. AND 6 A.M.

THE CLOSURE IS TO ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAI YING PUN EASTERN TUNNELS.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THE AREA TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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CORRECTION

IN A PRESS RELEASE HEADLINED 'IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM' ISSUED YESTERDAY (MONDAY) IT WAS INCORRECTLY STATED THAT OWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AFFECTED BY THE LAYING OF NEW PIPELINES AND TUNNELS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FAN LING AREAS WOULD BE OFFERED CASH COMPENSATION OR LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT OWNERS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND WOULD IN FACT BE OFFERED CASH COMPENSATION ONLY BECAUSE THEIR LAND DOES NOT FALL WITHIN AN APPROVED OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE ERROR IS REGRETTED.

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