



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, April 8, 1976

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NEW COMMANDING OFFICER FOR ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) is to have a new Commanding Officer.

He is Lt.-Colonel F.F. Gregson, M.B.E., of the Royal Tank Regiment who will take over command on Monday, April 12. He will be here for two and a half years.

Lt.-Col. Gregson, who is married and has two children, has come to Hong Kong from the Junior Division of the Staff College at Warminster in Wiltshire, England, where he was an instructor.

Prior to that posting he was Second-in-Command of the Royal Yeomanry Regiment to which the Royal Hong Kong Regiment is affiliated.

Lt.-Col. Heywood, the first Volunteer for 20 years to hold the post of Commanding Officer, will on handing over the command transfer to the Reserve of Officers where, through his Reserve Officer tasks, he will maintain a continuing link with the Regiment. Lt.-Col. Heywood, who has commanded the Regiment for two and a half years, was appointed an O.B.E. (Military) in the last New Year Honours list.

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WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Sham Shui Po will be interrupted between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Saturday (April 10) to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Po On Road, Pratas Street, Un Chau Street, Tonkin Street, Castle Peak Road and Cheung Fat Street.

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EXHIBITION ON 'OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH' SCHEME

A three-day exhibition on the Social Welfare Department's "Opportunities for Youth Scheme" will be held at the Main Concourse of the Ocean Terminal from Saturday (April 10).

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, will open the exhibition at 11 a.m.

The exhibition, organised by the Group and Community Work Division of the Social Welfare Department, is to show the various community service projects initiated by young people.

Thirty-eight projects will be displayed including programmes for the handicapped, projects for the elderly, recreational activities for the children, and services for rural people.

Representatives from the participating units will be on hand to answer questions from the public.

The "Opportunities for Youth Scheme" is an innovative youth project launched by the Social Welfare Department through its Community and Youth Officers. It is aimed at encouraging young people to take an active part in community affairs.

Note to Editors:

You are cordially invited to cover the opening ceremony to be held at the Main Concourse of the Ocean Terminal at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

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A \$2,500 DONATION TO CHIK KENG VILLAGE

Mr. Edward Nichols, Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, has donated a cheque for \$2,554.32 to the Sai Kung (North) Chik Keng Village for the maintenance and repairs of its water supply scheme.

The donation was received by Mr. Chiu Man-ching and Mr. Cheng Tin-fook, representatives of the village.

The money came from the surplus remaining upon the liquidation of the former Sai Kung (North) Chik Keng Village Pig Rasing Co-operative Society, Ltd.

The co-operative society was registered in 1955 and went into voluntary dissolution in 1972 as pig-raising had declined in this area.

Due to the good management of the Society, a surplus remained after all its liabilities had been met.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is empowered by the Co-operative Societies Ordinance to use the remaining surplus for any co-operative purpose at his discretion.

On the recommendation of the former members of the Society, the Registrar decided to donate the money to the Chik Keng Village for the maintenance of water pipes.

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DEMOLITION NOTICES SERVED ON SHA TIN MARKET BUSINESSES

Demolition notices have been served on the operators of 28 shops and restaurants and 14 wall stalls in Sha Tin market.

The notices were issued yesterday (Wednesday) by staff of the Housing Department.

The businesses are to be cleared in June to make way for the widening of Tai Po Road to improve communications between Sha Tin and Tai Po.

The notices said that, as the businesses were occupying an area scheduled for clearance by June 16, the operators were to demolish the structures they were at present occupying and vacate the site before this date.

The shop owners were offered the opportunity to take part in a restricted tender on March 30 for shops in the commercial complex of the Lek Yuen Housing Estate, Sha Tin, but none turned up to participate.

In a letter dated yesterday (Wednesday) to the shopkeepers from the District Office, regret was expressed at their failure to tender for the estate shops. The letter added: "It is assumed that you will be making your own arrangements to continue your business elsewhere." It also pointed out that there was no question of postponing the clearance, stating: "The Tai Po Road improvement contract commenced on March 1, 1976 and the Government is obliged under the terms of the contract to hand over vacant possession of the piece of land which you are now occupying in June 1976."

It said that the clearance date had now been set and appropriate action would be taken to obtain vacant possession of the site. Operators were requested to co-operate by vacating the area before this date. Part of the land occupied by the shops was resumed by the Government some years ago; the remaining portion reverts to the Crown later this month.

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A spokesman for the New Territories Administration said that, although these shops had been in existence for some time they were nonetheless in temporary buildings, which had been erected some years ago on agricultural land. "They were set up to provide temporary shopping facilities for the residents of Sha Tin," the spokesman said, "but a New Town provided much needed housing is now being developed and all temporary huts in the area will eventually have to be cleared."

However, he added, because the operators of shops and restaurants in Sha Tin market had been running successful businesses for such a long time, special arrangements had been made by the Government to enable them to tender for shops in the modern commercial complex in Lek Yuen Estate.

"Recently, the Housing Authority invited tender applications for Lek Yuen Estate shops, other than those put aside for the shopkeepers to be cleared from Sha Tin market, and considerable interest was shown," the spokesman said. "We think therefore that the Housing Authority, by agreeing to reserve units for these shopkeepers, has provided them with an excellent opportunity to continue in business profitably and to benefit from the growth of the town. In addition, because of the size of some of the shops to be cleared, the Government has agreed to waive altogether the normal ceiling of \$20,000 for ex-gratia payments."

A great deal of clearance on both sides of the market area has already taken place in connection with the widening of Tai Po Road.

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P.W.D. FOREMAN RETIRES

Mr. Ng Yip-keung, Foreman I of the Public Works Department's Electrical and Mechanical Office, is retiring this week after twenty-six years' service.

To mark the occasion, the acting Principal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, Mr. G.J. Osborne, will present him with a retirement gift tomorrow (Friday) on behalf of his colleagues.

Mr. Ng first joined the P.W.D. in November 1949 as a daily-rated welder, and was subsequently promoted to Artisan I and later to Foreman III.

In 1964, he agained further promotion to Foreman II and four years later to his present post of Foreman I.

Note to Editors:

You are cordially invited to cover the presentation. It will be held at 4 p.m. tomorrow (Friday) in the Canteen of E. & M. Office, 2nd floor, Caroline Hill.

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BANKING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

The Commissioner of Banking, Mr. Tony Ockenden, today announced the appointment of Mr. Colin Martin as Assistant Commissioner of Banking and Mr. Gordon C.S. Leung as Chief Bank Examiner with effect from April 1, 1976.

These new posts replace the old posts of Chief Banking Inspector and Senior Banking Officer, which are now abolished.

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METERS TO MOVE FOR MTR

The metered parking spaces off Lambeth Walk to the north of the Murray Road multi-storey car park will all be cancelled from 8 a.m. tomorrow (Friday, April 9, 1976).

At the same time the metered parking area to the east of the Murray Road multi-storey car park will also be closed, apart from an area to be reserved for about 140 motorcycles.

These two areas will be handed over to the MTR contractors on April 12 to be used as work sites.

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PRESS CONFERENCE ON CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE

Note to Editors:

The Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas Lee, will explain details of the new Child Care Centres Ordinance and Regulations at a press conference to be held at the GIS Theatre at 11 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).

Miss Nancy Chow, Principal Social Welfare Officer, and Mr. Carlos Leung, Social Welfare Officer, will also be present.

You are cordially invited to send your representatives to cover the event.

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