



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, February 25, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

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NEW EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

An express mail service will be introduced on Friday (March 1), the Post Office announced today.

It will be available to and from 19 places. They are: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Japan, Macao, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and West Germany.

A Post Office spokesman said the object of the new service is to enable a mail item to secure expeditious delivery in the country of destination.

"This may be achieved either by the use of a special messenger or by ensuring that the item secures the earliest possible delivery by other means," he said.

Further information about express services available may be obtained at any post office, he added.

The spokesman said it is advisable that items intended for the express service should be posted at post office counters.

The fee for all categories of mail is \$3 in addition to the normal postage.

An express label, which is obtainable at any post office, should be affixed to each item on the upper left hand side of the address, but in the absence of a label, the item may be marked "Express" in bold red lettering.

Express letter items may also be posted in street posting boxes provided that they bear the full postage, the Express fee, and an Express indication.

/Express mail

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Express mail received in Hong Kong from other countries will be specially dealt with to ensure expeditious delivery.

"It is hoped to extend the express mail to and from other countries in the future," the spokesman said.

The Express service is not available for items posted in Hong Kong for local delivery.

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WATER CUT

Water supply to a number of premises in Clearwater Bay Road, Ho Chung Valley and Sai Kung will be interrupted for 24 hours starting from 8 p.m. on Wednesday (February 27).

The temporary stoppage is to enable Waterworks staff to connect water mains.

Areas and villages affected include Ma Yau Tong, Ronnie's Mill, Yau Yue Wan, Hang Hau Town, the Shaw Studios, Silverstrand, Tai Po Tsai, Tai Po Tsai Au, Nam Wai, Wo Mei, Nam Pin Wai, Mok Tse Che, Ho Chung, Pak Wai, Luk Mei, Pak Sha Wan, Pak Kong, Tai Chung Hau, Tsui Keng, Ta Ho Tun, Po Lo Che and San On Village.

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WEDNESDAY IS BUDGET DAY

Live Radio Broadcasts Of Financial Secretary's Speech

Hong Kong's budget for the coming financial year will be made known this Wednesday (February 27) when the Appropriation Bill 1974 is presented to the Legislative Council.

The proceedings will start at 2.30 p.m. during which the Financial Secretary, the Hon. Philip Haddon-Cave, will move the second reading of the bill and outline the main features of estimated revenue and expenditure for 1974/75.

The estimated heads of expenditure will be set out in the schedule of the bill to be published in a Gazette Extraordinary at 2.30 p.m.

Debate on the second reading of the bill will be adjourned and resumed on March 13 and 14 when unofficial members will have an opportunity to speak on the financial and economic state of Hong Kong and the general principles of government policy and administrations as indicated by the bill and estimates.

The debate will be resumed on March 27 (and continue on March 28 if necessary) when the official members will reply to points raised by their unofficial colleagues.

The council will then consider the bill in committee which will be followed by the formal third reading.

As in previous years, the proceedings will be comprehensively covered by the radio and television stations.

/The Financial

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The Financial Secretary's speech on Wednesday will be broadcast live over Radio Hong Kong's Chinese (RHK 1 and 2) and English (RHK 3 and 4) services.

Commercial Radio's Chinese Service will broadcast the proceedings live on channel one with normal news coverage on channel two; while the station's English Service will issue Budget "flashes" in its hourly headlines with taped excerpts in the 6 p.m. news bulletin. These will be repeated in the local news roundup at 6.55 a.m. and 7.55 a.m. on Thursday.

Budget excerpts will also be broadcast the following Sunday (March 3) in Commercial Radio's "The Week In Review" at 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

Both TVB and RTV will cover the meeting in their regular news programmes.

The Budget Debate in March will also be broadcast live on RHK 2 (Chinese) and RHK 4 (English), as well as on channel one of Commercial Radio's Chinese Service. The arrangements for the station's English Service are the same as for Wednesday, except that there will be no "flash" in hourly headlines.

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FIRST-AID COURSES FOR WORKERS

The Industrial Safety Training Centre of the Labour Department is to run a series of first-aid training courses for employees in industry from March to May.

Separate courses, to be run in conjunction with the St. John Ambulance Association, will be held on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan. The courses will require attendance at one morning session each week for eight weeks.

Mr. David Lin, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, said today those who passed the examination at the end of the courses would be given full recognition under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (First Aid in Registrable Workplaces) Regulations, the Quarries (Safety) Regulations and the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations.

Under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (First Aid in Registrable Workplaces) Regulations, a proprietor must provide a qualified first aider for every 100 workers he employs.

The first course in the series will begin on March 25 and finish on May 13 at the St. John Ambulance Association Headquarters, 2 MacDonnell Road, Hong Kong.

The second course will begin on April 10 at the Kowloon headquarters of the Association, 104 Waterloo Road, Kowloon, ending on May 29.

The third course will be organised at the Princess Alexandra Community Centre, Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan, beginning on March 29 and ending on May 17.

/Each participant

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Each participant in the courses will be required to pay the St. John Ambulance Association \$17 for a copy of a first-aid manual, and \$3 for the certificate awarded him if he passes the course.

Mr. Lin said there was a serious shortage of trained first-aid personnel in factories, quarries and on construction sites.

"This joint venture with the St. John Ambulance Association is one of the steps being taken by the Labour Department to help ease the shortage."

Mr. Lin urged employers to apply early on behalf of employees whom they wished to attend the courses, as the enrolment would be limited to 30 for each course.

He particularly reminded building contractors that when the new Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations came into force on May 1, they would have to have a suitable number of properly qualified first-aid personnel on their sites.

Mr. Lin said applications for the courses could be made by writing to the Industrial Safety Training Centre, Labour Department, Canton Road Government Offices, Kowloon, or simply by telephoning Mr. Wong Lan-kwong at 3-688458 during office hours.

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LADY MACLEHOSE OPENS NEW PO LEUNG KUK BUILDING

Lady MacLehose today commended the Po Leung Kuk for its response "to the changing needs of a fast-growing society as in Hong Kong."

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Kuk's new welfare building at Link Road, she cited the new welfare centre and the increased provision of day nurseries as examples of the Kuk's "quick response" to meet these needs.

The new welfare building, she said, would "provide much improved facilities for the training of girls with behaviour problems and for the care of unmarried mothers and babies as well as for the vocational training of the children residing at the Kuk".

The following is the full text of Lady MacLehose's speech:

"I am delighted to be here today to officiate at the opening ceremony of the Po Leung Kuk's new welfare building.

"Po Leung Kuk is a welfare organisation with a long history of commendable service and achievements in the community, particularly in its provisions for children and girls in need of care and protection. The Kuk provides residential and day care services for children and girls who, for one reason or another, are deprived of a normal home or whose families are unable to care for them. Thus, care and protective services are extended from the age 0 to 21 including the orphaned, the abandoned, the mentally retarded, and unwed mothers.

/"The Kuk

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"The Kuk has always been sensitive to the changing needs of a fast-growing society as in Hong Kong. Its quick response to these needs is reflected in the increased provision of day nurseries and, particularly, in the establishment of this new building which will now provide much improved facilities for the training of girls with behaviour problems and for the care of unmarried mothers and babies as well as for the vocational training of the children residing at the Kuk.

"Problems relating to young persons like deviant behaviour and unmarried motherhood are serious ones for a modern society. To meet these problems, adequate trained staff and good physical facilities are essential. I am glad to hear that the Kuk is working along these lines and I am sure that with these additional facilities of the new welfare building, we can expect a very high quality of service for those in care. The Kuk, I understand, will be engaging staff with the right qualities and experience to embark upon this important work.

"I admire the foresight and efforts of the chairman and directors of the current board and those of the last two years who initiated and carried through this project. I would also like to express my appreciation of the very generous contributions towards this project from the many individuals and funding organisations; which include the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Government Lotteries Fund.

"May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Li, the Chairman, and his directors and staff for the excellent work which they have done to bring about the successful completion of this fine building and wish the Kuk every success in the many areas of community service in which they are so deeply involved."

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OVER 1,000 FIRMS APPLY FOR PLASTICS SHARE-OUT

Arrangements for a share-out of two essential plastic raw materials among local plastics firms are now being finalised by the Commerce and Industry Department.

Applications to participate in the share-out have been received from over 1,000 firms, and these are being checked out by staff in the department's Industrial Development Branch to ensure that they meet the qualifying conditions.

Importers and larger manufacturing firms are providing more than 5,000,000 pounds of polyethylene and polystyrene for distribution next month.

The share-out is intended to help smaller firms who are facing difficulties in obtaining supplies.

To qualify, a registered factory must have a total injection-moulding machine capacity of not more than 30 ounces, and its consumption of polyethylene and polystyrene in 1972 and 1973 must not have exceeded an average of 20,000 lbs per month in total.

The closing date for applications was Friday, February 22.

Qualifying factories will receive written authorisations from the Commerce and Industry Department for presentation to designated suppliers to secure sale and delivery of a specified quantity of materials.

The share-out scheme was proposed by the three main plastic manufacturers' associations and supported by the major importers of plastic raw materials.

Consultations were held with officials in the Commerce and Industry Department which agreed to give administrative assistance to the scheme.

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HONG KONG CAN OVERCOME TODAY'S PROBLEMS

The District Commissioner, New Territories, Mr. David Akers-Jones, told New Territories Rotarians this evening that Hong Kong, with its practice at survival and enterprise, would overcome the problems confronting us today.

Speaking at the New Territories Rotary Club's weekly gathering at the Peninsula Hotel, the Commissioner said that Hong Kong, like the rest of the world, was facing "enormous problems."

However, he added, Hong Kong was better off than others who had had no real practice in adversity.

Turning to Government's future targets, such as housing for the people of Hong Kong, development plans for the New Territories townships and the need to examine more closely the problems of the rural area, Mr. Akers-Jones said that: "All these plans are a great challenge to us, and to meet it we will need to exert ourselves, perhaps more than ever before."

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RESTRICTIONS ON CARS USING ROADS ON TSING YI

The multi-million dollar Tsing Yi Island bridge will be officially opened by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, on Thursday (February 28).

The 2,000 foot long bridge, which spans the fast flowing tidal waters of the Rambler Channel, links Tsing Yi Island and Kwai Chung. It has been built by a consortium of six companies operating on the island at a cost of about \$21 million.

The access road at the Kwai Chung end of the bridge has been completed, but due to a temporary shortage of bitumen, the surfacing of the roads on the island has been delayed.

The roads themselves have been constructed and only await the final surfacing.

However, because of the limited capacity of the roads on Tsing Yi, all motor vehicles, except those displaying permits issued by the Commissioner for Transport, will be prohibited from using the approach road to the bridge and the bridge itself.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today that those wishing to obtain permits should apply either to the District Officer, Tsuen Wan, who will forward the applications to the Commissioner for Transport, or direct to the Transport Department headquarters, 2 Murray Road, Hong Kong.

The District Officer, Tsuen Wan will also be authorised to issue permits valid for one day only and applications for these would be made to him.

Appropriate traffic signs will be in position to guide motorists.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Monday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew -- old crop	Good	-
-- new crop		-
S.C.Jien -- old crop	Good	1.78
Po Hgai	Good	-
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	-
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.52
A1 Super	Good	1.42
Whole Glutinous	Good	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.74
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.72
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	1.42
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.52

/Supplies and

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.7	3.2	3.8
Big-Eyes	Good	2.8	0.7	2.0
Squid	Limited	6.2	3.0	5.2
Hair-Tails	Good	2.8	1.0	2.0
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.8	1.2	1.8
Croakers	Normal	1.8	0.8	1.5
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.2	2.0	2.5
Melon Coat	Good	2.6	1.8	2.0
Breams	Normal	4.5	3.0	4.2
Yellow Belly	Good	2.6	1.0	1.8
Mackerels	Normal	4.0	3.5	3.7
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.0	0.8	1.6
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.7	1.5	1.0
Horse-Head	Normal	6.2	3.2	5.2
Melon Seed	Normal	4.0	2.5	3.0
Pomfrets	Scarce	10.0	8.5	9.0
Garoupas	Normal	6.0	5.0	5.8
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

/Supplies and

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Scarce	2.0	0.8	1.5
White cabbage	Limited	1.0	0.4	0.7
Chinese Lettuce	Limited	1.0	0.4	0.7
Chinese Kale	Limited	1.5	0.5	1.0
Spring onion	Normal	0.8	0.3	0.6
Spinach	Limited	1.0	0.4	0.7
Water cress	Limited	1.2	0.3	0.8
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.8	0.3	0.5
Tomato	Limited	1.4	0.4	0.8

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300

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