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ON ~~8~~ JUN 1993

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1993

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MORE STAMP SETS TO MEET DEMAND

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THE YEAR 1993 WILL BE A FRUITFUL YEAR FOR STAMP COLLECTORS IN HONG KONG AS THE POST OFFICE WILL RELEASE FOUR NEW STAMP ISSUES IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

OF THEM, TWO SETS ORIGINATE FROM WELL-SELECTED THEMES WHILE THE OTHER TWO ARE DESIGNED FOR COMMEMORATIVE PURPOSES.

SENIOR CONTROLLER (POSTAL MARKETING), MR ALBERT M F LEUNG, SAID HE HOPED THE STAMPS WOULD HELP MEET THE INSATIABLE DEMAND OF STAMP COLLECTORS, IN THE FACE OF THE GAINING POPULARITY OF PHILATELY IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO.

HE EXPECTED LONG QUEUES AT POST OFFICE COUNTERS ON THE DAYS OF FIRST ISSUE OF EVERY ONE OF THE STAMPS AS THEY WOULD CARRY SPLENDID DESIGN WITH SPECIAL APPEAL TO STAMP COLLECTORS.

THE TREMENDOUS WORK WAS DONE BY THE STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) THAT MADE PAINFUL SELECTIONS ON THEME AND DESIGN FOR STAMPS IN A BID TO BOOST PHILATELY IN HONG KONG.

SINCE THE FIRST ISSUE OF DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLET IN 1990, MARKETING RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE POST OFFICE SHOWS THAT STAMP COLLECTORS ARE THIRSTY FOR HISTORICAL STAMPS OR STAMPS REFLECTING THE PAST OF HONG KONG.

MR LEUNG SAID CERTAIN WELL-DESIGNED STAMPS OR STAMPS WITH HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE WERE SELECTED FOR REPRODUCTION ON DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLETS.

IN THE PIPELINE IS THE "HONG KONG CLASSICS SERIES NO. 2" \$10 DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLET, TO BE ISSUED ON JULY 6.

IT IS THE SECOND SET OF ITS KIND IN RESPONSE TO THE UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE OF CLASSIC STAMPS BY STAMP COLLECTORS.

WITH A CURRENT \$10 DEFINITIVE STAMP INCORPORATED INTO THE SHEETLET, OF WHICH THE ENTIRE BACKGROUND IS A PHOTOGRAPH PRINTED IN A PALE PURPLE OVERTONE, IT DEPICTED A STREET SCENE IN HONG KONG ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE REIGN OF KING GEORGE V IN 1935.

THE MOOD OF THE PHOTOGRAPH IS NOSTALGIC, AND THIS IS FURTHER ECHOED BY THE FOUR HISTORIC STAMPS REPRODUCED ON THE SHEETLET.

THE FOUR PICTORIAL STAMPS, FEATURING WINDSOR CASTLE AND A PORTRAIT OF KING GEORGE V, WERE THE FIRST-EVER ROYAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ISSUED BY THE POST OFFICE AND WERE PART OF THE FIRST BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OMNIBUS ISSUE.

FOLLOWING THIS NOSTALGIC STAMP SHEETLET, THE POST OFFICE MOVES ONTO THE PRODUCTION OF A MORE FORWARD-LOOKING SET DEPICTING THE FEATURES WHICH EARMARK THE GROWING EMPHASIS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN HONG KONG.

THE SET OF FOUR, WHICH WILL BE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 8, SHOWS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE COMMITMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGHOUT THE AGES.

AFTER PORING OVER HUNDREDS OF IDEAS FOR FEATURES DEPICTING ON THE STAMPS, MR LEUNG SAID THE SAC FINALLY SETTLED ON SIMPLE GRAPHIC DESIGNS ILLUSTRATING THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (\$0.8 STAMP); THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF SCIENCE (\$1.8 STAMP); THE "Q MARK" OF GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY (\$2.3 STAMP) AND THE TELECOM INDUSTRY (\$5 STAMP).

THIS THEME WAS SELECTED AS TECHNOLOGY IS THE KEY WORD FOR ENSURING THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF HONG KONG BY MAINTAINING THE TERRITORY AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TRADING, MANUFACTURING AND FINANCE CENTRE.

HI-TECH GRAPHIC IS THE NOVEL APPROACH TO THE STAMP DESIGN ADOPTED IN THIS ISSUE, WHICH IN LINE WITH THE SELECTED THEME, HIGHLIGHTS THE INCREASING EMPHASIS BEING PLACED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL AREA.

ANOTHER COMMEMORATIVE STAMP SHEETLET TO BE ISSUED ON OCTOBER 5 THIS YEAR IS AN ATTRACTIVE \$10 DEFINITIVE STAMP SHEETLET TOGETHER WITH A SOUVENIR COVER OF ITS KIND, WHICH MARKS THE PARTICIPATION IN BANGKOK '93 STAMP EXHIBITION BY THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE.

WITH A TRANQUIL MOOD, THE BACKGROUND DESIGN OF THIS SHEETLET IS A GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF A LOTUS LEAF WHICH IS COMMONLY FOUND IN THAILAND.

THE COLOUR OF THE \$10 DEFINITIVE STAMP INCORPORATED INTO THE SHEETLET IS GREEN, WHICH IS IN PARALLEL WITH THE LOTUS-LEAF DESIGN AND IS DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL BROWN-COLOURED ONE CURRENTLY IN USE.

THE MOST EYE-CATCHING THEMATIC SET FOR THIS YEAR IS THE ISSUE ON NOVEMBER 17 OF STAMPS WITH SOUVENIR SHEET ON HONG KONG GOLDFISH.

THIS SET OF FOUR, WITH DENOMINATIONS IN \$0.8, \$1.8, \$2.3 AND \$5, DEPICTS DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF HONG KONG GOLDFISH - RED CALICO EGG-FISH, RED CAP ORANDA, RED AND WHITE FRINGETAIL AND BLACK AND GOLD DRAGON-EYE - SWIMMING IN AN AQUARIUM.

THE BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPH, FEATURING AN AQUARIUM WITH EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHIC EFFECT, CONTRIBUTES A MORE LIVELY SPIRIT TO THE ISSUE.

THE FOUR RICH-AND-BRIGHT COLOURED STAMPS, COMBINED WITH THE BACKGROUND PHOTO OF AN AQUARIUM, MAKE THE DESIGN OF THE SOUVENIR SHEET MORE ATTRACTIVE.

THE THREE OTHER STAMP SETS ISSUED EARLIER IN THE YEAR WERE "THE YEAR OF THE COCK", "CHINESE STRING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS" AND "40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II".

ROYAL HK REGIMENT'S LAST RECRUITS PASS OUT

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING OFFICIATED AT THE PASSING-OUT PARADE OF THE LAST RECRUIT CADRE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS).

PAYING TRIBUTES TO THE LAST CADRE OF 175 RECRUITS BEFORE THE REGIMENT'S DISBANDMENT IN 1995, THE GOVERNOR SAID THEIR PARADE HAD SHOWED THAT THEY HAD LIVED UP TO THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE REGIMENT.

"MANY PEOPLE TODAY WILL BE PROUD OF YOU, YOUR EMPLOYERS, YOUR FAMILIES AND YOUR INSTRUCTORS," MR PATTEN SAID.

"I WOULD LIKE, FIRST OF ALL, TO THANK YOUR EMPLOYERS FOR RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING YOU THE TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REGIMENT WHICH DOES SO MUCH FOR HONG KONG.

"SECOND, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOUR FAMILIES FOR DOING WITHOUT YOU FOR WEEKENDS AND EVENINGS, FOR SUPPORTING YOU AND FOR GIVING YOU ENCOURAGEMENT.

"AND I WOULD LIKE, AS WELL, TO THANK AND CONGRATULATE YOUR INSTRUCTORS."

AFTER INSPECTING THE PARADE, THE GOVERNOR PRESENTED AWARDS TO THE BEST RECRUITS, THE BEST SHOTS AND THE BEST TROOP.

THE 175 RECRUITS WHO PASSED OUT TODAY COMPRISED 141 MALES AND 34 FEMALES WHO HAD COMPLETED NINE MONTHS' BASIC TRAINING ON DRILL, WEAPON HANDLING AND SHOOTING, WITH MANY OF THEM ACHIEVING VERY HIGH STANDARDS.

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HUNTING OF WILD BIRDS ILLEGAL

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HUNTING OF WILD BIRDS IN HONG KONG IS PROHIBITED UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S (AFD) SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER, MR CHEUNG MAN-KWONG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MR CHEUNG MADE THE REMINDER AFTER TWO MEN WERE EACH FINED \$3,000 RECENTLY FOR ILLEGALLY HUNTING 42 BIRDS IN YUEN LONG IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

THE CASE WAS UNCOVERED BY POLICE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 19, WHEN TWO MEN, AGED 24 AND 31, WERE STOPPED BY YUEN LONG DETECTIVES AT PAK SHA TSUEN, YUEN LONG.

SUBSEQUENT ENQUIRIES REVEALED THAT THE TWO MEN HAD EARLIER HUNTED DOWN 42 BIRDS WITH AIR RIFLES IN THE AREA.

MR CHEUNG SAID: "UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE, SELLING OR POSSESSION OF LOCALLY CAUGHT WILD BIRDS IS ALSO PROHIBITED AND OFFENDERS MAY FACE A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$5,000 FINE UPON CONVICTION."

APART FROM WILD BIRDS, THE LIST OF PROTECTED WILD ANIMALS INCLUDES MOST MAMMALS, ALL TURTLES, PYTHON, HONG KONG NEWT, TWO SPECIES OF RARE FROGS AND BIRDWING BUTTERFLY.

MEANWHILE, MR CHEUNG COMMENDED A WOMAN FOR HANDING OVER A WATERCOCK AFTER IT ACCIDENTALLY FLOWN INTO AN OFFICE BUILDING AT THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL.

THE WILD BIRD WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE WILD AT THE MAI PO NATURE RESERVE EARLIER LAST WEEK.

WATERCOCKS (GALLICREX CINEREA) ARE NATIVE TO COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, INCLUDING CHINA, THAILAND AND HONG KONG.

THEY ARE SUMMER VISITORS TO HONG KONG, MAKING THEIR STOPOVER AT PLACES SUCH AS THE MAI PO NATURE RESERVE, WHERE THERE IS ABUNDANT FEED FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS.

AN AFD'S SENIOR FIELD ASSISTANT, MR TSOI WAI-KAI, WHO FREED THE WATERCOCK, SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO BE ASSIGNED THIS MEANINGFUL CONSERVATION JOB.

"I SINCERELY HOPE IT CAN HAVE A HAPPY RE-UNION WITH ITS FAMILY MEMBERS AT MAI PO BEFORE SETTING OFF FOR A NEW JOURNEY TOWARDS THE END OF THIS SUMMER," MR TSOI ADDED.

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APPEALS FOR DONATIONS TO EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FUND
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FUND COMMITTEE, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, TODAY (SUNDAY) APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC AND PERSONS INTERESTED IN EDUCATION FOR DONATIONS TO THE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FUND.

THE FUND WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1955 UNDER THE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FUND ORDINANCE AND IS VESTED IN THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AS TRUSTEE.

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE FUND WAS SOUND BUT DONATIONS AND GENEROUS PUBLIC SUPPORT WERE NEEDED BECAUSE THE VALUE OF AWARDS HAD FALLEN IN REAL TERMS DUE TO THE RELATIVELY HIGH RATE OF INFLATION.

HE EMPHASISED THAT DONATIONS WOULD BE USED TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE SO THAT EACH AWARD MAY BE SET AT A MORE MEANINGFUL VALUE.

"THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WHO HAD SHOWN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE LEADERSHIP AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND THE SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD ACT AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS," HE SAID.

THERE ARE 174 SCHOLARSHIPS ON THE FUND'S REGISTER OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

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FOR THE 1991/92 SCHOOL YEAR, THE FUND HAD PAID OUT ABOUT \$300,000 FOR 562 AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS IN 80 SCHOOLS, COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS SUCH AS THE SUPREMETECH ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS, HAD ALSO BEEN APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO 27 CANDIDATES IN THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN ART AND MUSIC IN 1991 AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS IN 1992.

DONORS WHO WISH TO INSTITUTE A NEW SCHOLARSHIP WITH THEIR OWN NAME AND A SEPARATE ACCOUNT UNDER THE FUND MAY DO SO BY APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION OF THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP UNDER PART III OF THE FUND'S REGISTER.

THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF DONATION HAS BEEN REVISED TO \$297,000 FOR THE 1992/93 SCHOOL YEAR FOR AN AWARD, CURRENTLY \$1,700 PER ANNUM BUT WHICH WILL BE REVISED PERIODICALLY IN LINE WITH INFLATION.

MORE INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

"DONATIONS OF LESS THAN \$297,000 ARE ALSO WELCOME AND, IF ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE, WILL BE PLACED IN PART II OF THE REGISTER WHERE THEY WOULD BE USED TO INCREASE THE VALUE OR NUMBER OF THE EXISTING AWARDS," MR CHAU SAID.

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FUND COMMITTEE, C/O STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY, NATIONAL MUTUAL CENTRE, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, NINTH FLOOR, WAN CHAI (TEL NO. 802 1693).

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STATUTORY HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDS EMPLOYERS THAT JUNE 14, THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, IS A FLOATING HOLIDAY UNLESS ANOTHER HOLIDAY HAS BEEN FIXED FOR HIS EMPLOYEES.

THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL, WHICH FALLS ON JUNE 24 (THURSDAY), IS ALSO ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL EMPLOYEES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS OR LONGER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNING ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

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IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE ON 717 1771.

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