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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Thursday, August 31, 1995

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### Tuen Mun Highway section closed

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A Kowloon-bound section of the Tuen Mun Highway between Tuen Mun town centre and Sham Tseng interchange will remain closed for about two weeks to facilitate slope stabilisation work.

The Transport Department has strongly advised commuters to use public transport.

During this period, Castle Peak Road will be designated a prohibited zone from 6.30 am to 9 am and from 5 pm to 7.30 pm daily. It will be open to buses and public light buses but all other vehicles will not be allowed to enter Castle Peak Road from either the Tuen Mun or Tsuen Wan ends during the prohibition period.

Commuters are advised to use strengthened ferry services from Tuen Mun to Central. Special services will run on the Tsuen Wan-Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan-Tsing Yi routes. Meanwhile, the ferry service between Tsuen Wan and Central will be temporarily suspended.

Special buses will be run from Tuen Mun Town Centre and Sheung Shui KCR station (Route 60P) and from Tsuen Wan Ferry to Tsuen Wan MTR station (Route 39S).

Existing KMB routes 276 and 64K will be strengthened. Other routes between Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, and the MTR, KCR and LRT services, will be enhanced as necessary.

Commuters who have to drive are advised to use the Tolo Highway or Route Twisk via Yuen Long. Serious traffic congestion is expected in the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long areas. Police will give precedence to container vehicles using the Tolo Highway.

At a press conference tonight (Thursday), the Highways Department Assistant Director, Mr Chan Wai-sun, said the closure was necessary so that remedial works could be carried out to stabilise five slopes.

The section between Tai Lam and Sam Shing Hui had been thoroughly inspected by the Highways Department and contractors after a fatal accident on August 18. They posed no immediate danger but might become hazardous to public safety.

With the passage of Typhoon Kent and the accompanying torrential rain, the government had decided to close the road for public safety and carry out permanent remedial works on the slopes, he said.

Assistant Commissioner for Transport Mr Alan Lui said the government would continue to consult the concerned District Boards for improvements to the special traffic arrangements.

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#### Typhoon Kent roundup

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The Typhoon Signal Number 8 was lowered at 9 pm (Thursday) and replaced by the Number 3 signal as Typhoon Kent headed into Guangdong Province.

Heavy rain fell in parts of the territory after the Number 8 signal was raised at 1 pm and the Education Department said all schools would remain shut on Friday.

About 6 pm police and the Transport Department announced a Kowloon-bound section of the Tuen Mun Highway between Sham Tseng and Wong Chu Road would be closed.

Most Hong Kong transport operations were disrupted after the Number 8 signal was hoisted, followed by a flood warning at 4.30 pm and a thunderstorm warning at 4.45 pm.

The Civil Aviation Department said 33 flights out of Hong Kong had been delayed and 11 flights cancelled by 6 pm. Four flights into Hong Kong were diverted, 45 were delayed and 11 flights were cancelled.

A boulder weighing about 500 kilograms fell into the yard of a cottage in Fan Wah Street, Cha Kwo Ling, at 2 pm. No injuries were reported.

In other storm damage, flooding was reported in Tsing Ho Square, Tuen Mun; MacDonnell Road, Mid-Levels; Man Kam To, Sheung Shui; Castle Peak Road near Texaco Road and Kam Sheung Road, Yuen Long. A washout was reported on Clear Water Bay Road near Tai Wan Tau.

Fallen trees disrupted traffic in Jaffe Road, Chai Wan Road, Eastern Hospital Road and Repulse Bay Road on Hong Kong Island. Other falls were reported in Prince Edward Road, Sha Tin and Tai Po.

The Home Affairs Department has opened 52 temporary shelters and admitted 119 people. The Social Welfare Department had served 139 hot meals by 6 pm.

End/Thursday, August 31, 1995

Over 440 applications to become OAT adjudicators received

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A total of 442 applications to serve as adjudicators of the Obscene Articles Tribunal (OAT) have been received during the one-month open recruitment period which ended on Monday (August 28).

"Of the total, 116 applicants are female (26.2 per cent) and 326 are male (73.8 per cent). They come from a wide cross section of the community - from businessmen, architects, doctors, lawyers, teachers, surveyors, civil servants, social workers, students to housewives and retired persons," a spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Thursday).

An analysis shows that over 75 per cent of the applicants are aged between 20 and 40. About 55 per cent of the applicants have attained university level education, 40 per cent are secondary school graduates and 1.6 per cent have completed primary school education.

Applications received through the open recruitment exercise will be considered together with nominations made by the Home Affairs Department, the Social Welfare Department, the Education Department, the Urban Services Department and the Regional Services Department.

"We will make nominations to the Chief Justice in due course. Besides fulfilling the basic legal requirements, we will ensure that the final nominations represent an even balance in terms of gender, age, profession, and education," the spokesman added.

The purpose of the open recruitment exercise was to enlarge the panel of adjudicators to increase its representativeness and to increase the number of female adjudicators to achieve a better sex balance.

A larger panel will also enable the OAT to better discharge its duties under the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, which was amended in July to require that at least four (instead of two) adjudicators should sit at the full hearings to review interim classifications and at sittings to re-consider classifications made more than three years ago.

Under the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance, the basic criteria for appointment as OAT adjudicators are seven years of residence in Hong Kong and proficiency in written English or written Chinese. The power to appoint adjudicators is vested in the Chief Justice.

End/Thursday, August 31, 1995

#### Monetary statistics for July 1995

\* \* \* \* \*

Total deposits experienced modest growth in July 1995 while total loans and advances fell slightly, according to statistics published today (Thursday) by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

#### Deposits

The growth of total deposits was 0.4% in July, lower than the 1.4% rise recorded in June. The slow down was due to a 0.9% fall in foreign currency deposits, and a reduction of HK dollar deposit growth from 2.5% in June to 1.6% in July. Among the foreign currency deposits, US dollar deposits fell by 0.8% and non-US dollar deposits fell by 1.0%.

The rise in HK dollar deposits was mainly supported by the growth in savings deposits, which rose 2.6%. Growth rates for demand deposits and time deposits (adjusted to include foreign currency swap deposits) were 0.4% and 1.4% respectively. Continuing its downward trend, swap deposits fell by another 3.8% in July leading to a cumulative drop of 41.7% from the peak in November 1994.

### Loans and Advances

Total outstanding loans and advances fell slightly by 0.1% in July, compared with the growth of 2.2% in May and 2.0% in June. The fall is attributable to a 0.8% decline in foreign currency loans, while the growth of HK dollar loans rose slightly to 1.2%. As HK dollar deposits rose faster than HK dollar loans, the loan-to-deposit ratio fell to 107.0% in July from 107.4% in June.

Loans for domestic use increased by 1.7% in July, up from 0.4% in June, while loans for trade financing rose by 1.1% in July, moderating from 3.0% in June.

### Money Supply

In line with the sluggish retail market, HK\$M1 rose only slightly by 0.3% in July, while HK\$M2 and HK\$M3 (adjusted to include foreign currency swap deposits) both grew at around 1.7%.

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Attention News Editors:

For further enquiries, please contact the Press and Publications Section, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, on tel 2878 8261.

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**TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - JULY 1995**

	(HK\$mn)			
	Jul 1995	Earlier months (% change to Jul 1995)		
		Jun 1995	Apr 1995	Jul 1994
<b>Money Supply</b>				
M1 - HK\$	169,186	168,763 ( 0.3 )	165,071 ( 2.5 )	162,423 ( 4.2 )
Foreign currency	16,923	17,264 ( -2.0 )	16,525 ( 2.4 )	19,669 ( -14.0 )
Total	186,109	186,027 ( 0.0 )	181,596 ( 2.5 )	182,092 ( 2.2 )
M2 - HK\$@	1,210,400	1,190,182 ( 1.7 )	1,156,111 ( 4.7 )	1,018,588 ( 18.8 )
Foreign currency*	971,651	980,498 ( -0.9 )	965,723 ( 0.6 )	852,048 ( 14.0 )
Total	2,182,051	2,170,679 ( 0.5 )	2,121,833 ( 2.8 )	1,870,636 ( 16.6 )
M3 - HK\$@	1,228,039	1,207,471 ( 1.7 )	1,173,899 ( 4.6 )	1,035,502 ( 18.6 )
Foreign currency*	1,035,827	1,044,103 ( -0.8 )	1,028,043 ( 0.8 )	904,237 ( 14.6 )
Total	2,263,866	2,251,574 ( 0.5 )	2,201,942 ( 2.8 )	1,939,739 ( 16.7 )
Notes and coins in circulation	78,298	78,432 ( -0.2 )	78,915 ( -0.8 )	73,468 ( 6.6 )
of which held by public	69,145	69,095 ( 0.1 )	69,914 ( -1.1 )	64,932 ( 6.5 )
<b>Total Deposits</b>				
Total Demand deposits	116,963	116,932 ( 0.0 )	111,682 ( 4.7 )	117,161 ( -0.2 )
Total Savings deposits	408,331	405,645 ( 0.7 )	393,522 ( 3.8 )	411,259 ( -0.7 )
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	1,541,603	1,535,630 ( 0.4 )	1,503,965 ( 2.5 )	1,241,460 ( 24.2 )
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	38,627	37,938 ( 1.8 )	37,428 ( 3.2 )	33,407 ( 15.6 )
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	19,128	19,610 ( -2.5 )	20,223 ( -5.4 )	16,391 ( 16.7 )
HK\$ deposits@	1,126,130	1,108,159 ( 1.6 )	1,074,449 ( 4.8 )	944,749 ( 19.2 )
Demand deposits	100,041	99,668 ( 0.4 )	95,157 ( 5.1 )	97,492 ( 2.6 )
Saving deposits	286,052	278,915 ( 2.6 )	268,129 ( 6.7 )	282,389 ( 1.3 )
Time deposits@	740,037	729,576 ( 1.4 )	711,163 ( 4.1 )	564,868 ( 31.0 )
US\$ deposits*	500,655	504,671 ( -0.8 )	508,305 ( -1.5 )	471,038 ( 6.3 )
Other foreign currency deposits*	497,867	502,925 ( -1.0 )	484,066 ( 2.9 )	403,891 ( 23.3 )
All deposits	2,124,652	2,115,755 ( 0.4 )	2,066,820 ( 2.8 )	1,819,678 ( 16.8 )
Foreign currency swap deposits	60,596	62,989 ( -3.8 )	67,075 ( -9.7 )	95,992 ( -36.9 )
<b>Total Loans and advances</b>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	156,044	154,814 ( 0.8 )	144,076 ( 8.3 )	121,813 ( 28.1 )
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	16,492	15,776 ( 4.5 )	13,773 ( 19.7 )	12,089 ( 36.4 )
Other loans for use in H.K.	1,353,627	1,330,388 ( 1.7 )	1,312,305 ( 3.1 )	1,199,062 ( 12.9 )
Other loans for use outside H.K.	2,283,505	2,313,669 ( -1.3 )	2,183,366 ( 4.6 )	1,806,809 ( 26.4 )
Other loans where the place of use is not known	40,557	41,201 ( -1.6 )	42,698 ( -5.0 )	45,720 ( -11.3 )
Loans in HK\$	1,205,359	1,190,490 ( 1.2 )	1,161,967 ( 3.7 )	1,067,694 ( 12.9 )
Loans in foreign currencies	2,644,867	2,665,358 ( -0.8 )	2,534,250 ( 4.4 )	2,117,800 ( 24.9 )
Total loans and advances	3,850,226	3,855,848 ( -0.1 )	3,696,217 ( 4.2 )	3,185,494 ( 20.9 )

\* Adjusted to exclude foreign currency swap deposits.  
 @ Adjusted to include foreign currency swap deposits.

Note: Data may not add up to total due to rounding.

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## Better fire protection for residents

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The Tsing Yi South Fire Station is responsible for protecting the special risks posed by the potentially hazardous industries (PHIs) on Tsing Yi Island.

Speaking at the official opening of the fire station today (Thursday), the Chief Ambulance Officer, Mr Mak Kwai-pui, said that to address residents' concerns on PHIs on the island, the Government had conducted risk assessment studies and undertaken a series of improvement programmes.

"The building of this fire station was one of the positive steps that the Government has taken to improve safety," he said.

"The fire station is also provided with 28,500 litres of foam concentrate which is an effective medium for extinguishing oil fire."

Mr Mak added that the location of the fire station was selected after giving due consideration to the special risks on the island that had to be protected.

At present, the prominent industrial undertakings on the island include a power station, two major shipyards, three chemical installations and five major oil terminals.

"These numbers will be greatly increased by mid 1996 when all major industrial risks and PHIs on the island will have been relocated to the west and south-western side," he said.

As a result of such relocation, all the residential developments on the eastern side would be separated from the PHIs on the island by a natural barrier of mountain ridge, he noted. The Tsing Yi South Fire Station covers an area of six square kilometres where most of the buildings are for industrial use.

It also serves a population of 20,000 living in one housing estate, one temporary housing area and one village.

The fire station has answered 147 emergency calls since its commissioning on January 24, 1994.

On ambulance services, Mr Mak said that the Tsing Yi Ambulance Depot at Ha Ko Tan Street had been giving prompt and efficient ambulance services to residents on the island.

End/Thursday, August 31, 1995

### Grading of beach water quality

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The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced the latest gradings of Hong Kong's beaches, based on the bacteriological water quality.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

Senior Environmental Protection Officer, Dr T Y Tam, said the grading will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

The grading is based on the most recent data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme.

As with last year, the grading also includes an estimate of the risk of suffering some minor skin or gastrointestinal complaints as a result of swimming at a beach which has some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large scale epidemiological study carried out in Hong Kong in the past bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches fluctuates during the summer. In most cases, this represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

However, the grades gives a good general picture of the water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

"Bathers should avoid such beaches for two or three days after a storm, longer if the weather remains overcast or less if there is strong sunshine", Dr Tam said.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows:

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present four gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Castle Peak, Old Cafeteria, and Rocky Bay, are closed to swimmers. The decision to close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1994. The public are advised not to swim at these beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below:

Beach	Previous Grading (as at 17.8.95)	Present Grading (as at 31.8.95)
<b><u>Hong Kong South</u></b>		
Big Wave Bay	3	3
Chung Hom Kok	2	3
Deep Water Bay	3	3
Hairpin	3	4
Middle Bay	3	3
Repulse Bay	2	2
Shek O	3	3
South Bay	2	2
St. Stephen's	2	2
Turtle Cove	3	2
Stanley Main	3	3
Rocky Bay	X	X
To Tei Wan*	2	3

**Tuen Mun District**

Golden Beach	3	4
Old Cafeteria	X	X
New Cafeteria	4	4
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie	4	4
Butterfly	3	4

**Sai Kung District**

Campers	1	1
Clear Water Bay 1st Beach	3	3
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach	2	2
Hap Mun Bay	1	1
Kiu Tsui	1	1
Pak Sha Chau	1	1
Silverstrand	3	3
Trio (Hebe Haven)	1	2

**Islands District**

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	4	3
Discovery Bay*	2	2
Hung Shing Yeh	2	2
Kwun Yam Wan	2	2
Tong Fuk	2	2
Lo So Shing	2	1
Pui O	3	2
Silvermine Bay	4	4
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau	1	1
Tung O*	2	2

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	4	4
Casam	4	4
Gemini	4	4
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido	4	4
Ting Kau	4	4
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	3	3

Note: "X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

\* Ungazetted beaches.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

Lo Song Shing from "2" to "1"; Turtle Cove and Pui O from "3" to "2"; Cheung Sha Lower from "4" to "3"; Trio (Hebe Haven) from "1" to "2"; Chung Hom Kok and To Tei Wan from "2" to "3"; Hairpin, Golden Beach and Butterfly from "3" to "4".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches. The general deterioration of beach water quality is probably due to the recent heavy rainfall which would have caused the pollutants in the beach hinterland to be flushed into the sea water.

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Attention News Editors:

For further enquiries, please contact Dr Tam on 2594 6161.

End/Thursday, August 31, 1995