



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Saturday, May 20, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Governor's statement on Whitehead operation .....	1
Improvements in provision of elderly services .....	1
Calls for special site precautions .....	2
Education a key to HK's success .....	3
Fresh water cut in Central .....	4
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	4

Sunday, May 21, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Lands Tribunal handles building management cases .....	5
Injuries of employees should be reported .....	6
New system improves clinical lab work .....	6
Closure of Kap Shui Mun Channel .....	7
Souvenir pack for new stamps .....	8
Application for flag days 1996 invited .....	9

Governor's statement on Whitehead operation

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is a statement by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, on the Whitehead operation:

I look forward to receiving the reports of today's operation at Whitehead. But in the meantime I would like to place on record my gratitude and that of the community for the courage, commitment and professionalism displayed by our Police and Correctional Services Officers who carried out their duties in the face of extreme provocation and dangerous attacks.

End/Saturday, May 20, 1995

Improvements in provision of elderly services

\*\*\*\*\*

The Working Group on Care for the Elderly last year noted the tremendous improvements in the provision of elderly services, the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Sheng Kung Hui Chuk Yuen Canon Martin Multi-service Centre for the Elderly in Wong Tai Sin, Mr Strachan said in spite of this, much more remained to be done.

He cited the enactment of Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, the implementation of open membership in social centres for the elderly, the older volunteer programme and the purchase of private premises for establishing community support facilities as good examples to show the government's commitment to improve the quality of life of the senior citizens.

"The concept of 'ageing in place' or 'care in community' is at the heart of the Government's policy initiatives.

"Multi-service centres for the elderly, among other community support services, provide a full range of services, including home help, counselling, social and recreational activities, canteen, laundry and bathing facilities, and community education on a district basis.

"Thereby we encourage elderly people to live in their homes and in a familiar community environment for as long as possible," he said.

Mr Strachan said with the commencement of the new multi-service centre for the elderly today, Wong Tai Sin District had two such centres while the third would open by the end of this year.

End/Saturday, May 20, 1995

#### Calls for special site precautions

\* \* \* \* \*

Contractors should keep an eye on the weather during the typhoon season and take special safety precautions on construction sites to cope with weather changes.

The Chief Factory Inspector of the Labour Department, Mr Chan Tat-king, today (Saturday) said heavy rain and strong wind, which were common during the typhoon season, often caused objects to fall, collapse of scaffolds, cave-in of excavations and electrocutions on sites.

"When the weather turns bad, especially when typhoon signal no. 3 or the red rainstorm warning signal is about to be hoisted, cranes should stop operating as their stability could be affected.

"All lifting appliances and scaffolds should be further strengthened with wall-ties, ballasting, lashing or guy ropes," he said.

Good house-keeping, proper stacking of materials, protection of electrical installations and equipment are also necessary in bad weather.

Mr Chan said site conditions including plants on the site should be thoroughly checked after the typhoon or rainstorm had subsided.

"It is also the responsibility of the contractor to carry out remedial work where necessary and ensure the site is safe before resuming normal operation.

"If remedial work is required, the contractor should also adopt a safe system of work and instruct the workers on details of the system," he said.

Under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, employers are required to provide a safe plant and a safe system of work for their employees.

To combat construction site accidents during the typhoon season, the Labour Department launched a special two-phase campaign in mid-March to inspect construction sites with poor safety records. Each phase will last about three months.

End/Saturday, May 20, 1995

#### Education a key to HK's success

\* \* \* \* \*

Hong Kong needs to provide quality education to its students to ensure continued social and economic growth and to meet new challenges ahead, the Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the 10th Anniversary Open Day at the Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong, Mr Lam said education is undoubtedly a prime reason for Hong Kong's success over the last decade.

"Our total GDP (gross domestic product) has grown by 79 per cent in real terms, and in terms of GDP per person, we now rank 17th in the world instead of 28th as we were in 1984," he said.

"Our infrastructure and social developments are also the envy of most in the region."

Mr Lam said a key to quality education is teacher's professionalism.

He paid tribute to the University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Education for its key role in training and promoting excellence in the teaching profession.

End/Saturday, May 20, 1995

Fresh water cut in Central

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh water supply to some premises in Central will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (May 22) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include 84-168 Des Voeux Road Central, 97-171 Queen's Road Central, Central Market, 1-13 Jubilee Street, Hing Lung Street, Tung Mun Street, Wing On Street, 1-23 Gilman Street, Gilman's Bazaar, Wing Kut Street, 13-33 Wing Wo Street, Tit Hong Lane and Wai San Lane.

End/Saturday, May 20, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\*\*\*\*\*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,485	0930	+40
Closing balance in the account	1,275	1000	+40
Change attributable to :		1100	+40
Money market activity	+40	1130	+40
LAF today	-1,250	1500	
		1600	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.2 \*-0.1\* 20.5.95

End/Saturday, May 20, 1995

Lands Tribunal handles building management cases

\* \* \* \* \*

The Lands Tribunal has received 107 building management cases in the 11-month period since its jurisdiction prescribed under the Building Management Ordinance (BMO) was extended last June to embrace building management.

A Government spokesman said today (Sunday) that of these, 20 cases have been heard while 22 were pending.

The remaining 65 cases have either been withdrawn or have not been further pursued by the applicants, he added.

The cases heard were in general concerned with the interpretation of the BMO and deeds of mutual covenant (DMCs) as well as the enforcement of DMCs.

Any person wishes to initiate proceedings under the BMO in the Lands Tribunal should file a notice of application (using Forms No. 27, 28 or 29) at the Lands Tribunal Registry.

These forms are available at the Lands Tribunal Registry on the fifth floor, Wan Chai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

The Spokesman also stated that the district offices of the Home Affairs Department had handled over 2,100 building management cases last year.

These cases mainly involved disputes between owners' corporations (OCs) or individual owners and their property managers over financial and building management matters.

The BMO, enacted in May 1993, facilitates the setting up of OCs and provides for the management of buildings.

End/Sunday, May 21, 1995

### Injuries of employees should be reported

\* \* \* \* \*

Employers are reminded to notify the Commissioner for Labour of any accident which results in the total or partial incapacity of an employee for more than three consecutive days within 14 days of the accident.

The owner of Top Chic Decoration Interior Design in Tuen Mun was recently fined \$4,000 at Tuen Mun Magistracy for failing to report a case of an injured employee entitled to one month's sick leave to the Commissioner within the prescribed period.

The company was also fined \$8,000 for failing to make periodical payment to the injured employee.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Tonia Leung, said today (Sunday) that failure to report an accident of the above category or make periodical payment to an injured employee are both offences under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.

The maximum penalties for the two offences are \$10,000 and \$25,000 respectively.

End/Sunday, May 21, 1995

### New system improves clinical lab work

\* \* \* \* \*

The Department of Health's Clinical Genetic Service has installed a set of automatic chromosome analysis system at the Cheung Sha Wan Jockey Club Clinic to improve the efficiency of its Cytogenetic Laboratory.

This system was donated by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and cost nearly \$3 million.

It has the advantage of automating part of the procedures in chromosome analysis and omitting much tedious manual procedures.

It also allows permanent storage of chromosome information in a graphical manner. Reporting of results is more convenient, flexible and standardised.

The automated system saves about 20 per cent of processing time and helps the laboratory to cope with the increasing demand for this kind of investigation.

End/Sunday, May 21, 1995

#### Closure of Kap Shui Mun Channel

\* \* \* \* \*

The Marine Department will close the Kap Shui Mun Channel from 8.30 am while anchoring trials are in progress tomorrow (Monday).

It is originally scheduled to implement the special marine traffic arrangement when the lifting operation of a bridge unit for the Kap Shui Mun Bridge from a barge commences on May 22.

However, the first lifting operation has been postponed to May 30 because more barge anchoring trials have to be conducted.

A spokesman for the Marine Department said the Kap Shui Mun Channel will be closed commencing as originally scheduled on May 22 but will be reopened early than scheduled. The closure will enable the barge to carry out the trials.

The frequency of the closure of the channel is expected to be generally one day per week for about 11 months.

End/Sunday, May 21, 1995

Souvenir pack for new stamps

\* \* \* \* \*

The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Sunday) that on May 26, a Hong Kong Rural Heritage souvenir pack will be put on sale at \$170 each at the following seven philatelic offices:

- \* Beaconsfield House Post Office
- \* General Post Office
- \* Granville Road Post Office
- \* Peak Post Office
- \* Sha Tin Central Post Office
- \* Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
- \* Tsuen Wan Post Office

A restriction of two packs per customer queuing will be imposed on May 26.

This souvenir pack contains one mini-sheet (10 stamps) of each denomination of the Hong Kong Rural Heritage special stamps, all bearing the same serial number. In addition, there is a booklet showing photographs and location plans of the old buildings featured on the special stamps.

The Hong Kong Rural Heritage special stamps feature four of the old traditional buildings in the New Territories: Tsui Shing Lau (\$1 stamp); Sam Tung Uk (\$1.90 stamp); Lo Wai (\$2.40 stamp) and Man Shek Tong (\$5 stamp).

This set of special stamps has two main features. Firstly, for the first time, Hong Kong postage stamps are printed by both Lithography and Intaglio. Secondly, the stamps are printed in mini-sheets of ten instead of the conventional sheet size of 50 stamps.

The stamps and the souvenir pack are now on display at the General Post Office. The Hong Kong Rural Heritage special stamps will be released on May 24 at all post offices and first day covers are now available at \$1 each at all post offices. The souvenir packs will be put on sale at the seven philatelic offices on May 26.

End/Sunday, May 21, 1995

Application for flag days 1996 invited

\* \* \* \* \*

Organisations wishing to hold flag days next year are reminded to apply to the Social Welfare Department (SWD) before the end of this month (May).

About 50 flag days will be allocated next year.

An SWD spokesman said today (Sunday) that applicants must be bona fide non-profit making organisations under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

"All applicants will be considered by the Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee on the merits of the service or special projects for which fund-raising through a flag day is proposed, the applicant organisation's financial needs, and the organisation's ability to execute such fund-raising activities," he said.

The spokesman emphasised that expenses in connection with a flag day should not exceed 10 per cent of the gross receipts, and that successful applicants need to observe the conditions for holding flag days as laid down on a public subscription permit issued under the Summary Offences Ordinance.

Application forms can be obtained from the SWD Headquarters at Room 920, ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, in person or in writing.

The completed application form, together with a copy of the organisation's latest annual report and statement of audited accounts, must reach the department on or before May 31. Late applications will not be entertained.

Successful applicants will be informed by October.

Enquiries on flag day activities can be made on 2892 5315.

End/Sunday, May 21, 1995