



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1993

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HK AND NORWAY REACHED TEXTILES AGREEMENT

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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION IN OSLO EARLIER THIS WEEK, AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AD REFERENDUM BETWEEN HONG KONG AND NORWAY YESTERDAY FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE HONG KONG/NORWAY TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

THE CURRENT AGREEMENT, WHICH EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, THIS YEAR WILL BE EXTENDED FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO YEARS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1995.

ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF CATEGORIES SUBJECT TO QUOTA RESTRAINT REMAINS THE SAME, THERE ARE IMPROVEMENTS IN GROWTH RATES, FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS AND UPLIFTS.

COMMENTING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATIONS FROM OSLO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE AND LEADER OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION MS MARIA KWAN, SAID:

"THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS TO THE NORWEGIAN MARKET FOR HONG KONG TRADERS."

THE CURRENT HONG KONG/NORWAY TEXTILES AGREEMENT COVERS THREE QUOTA CATEGORIES AND ONE SURVEILLANCE ITEM.

ABOUT 38 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING FROM HONG KONG TO NORWAY LAST YEAR WERE COVERED BY THE CURRENT AGREEMENT.

DETAILS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE TRADE IN DUE COURSE.

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CU TO TRIGGER CONTINUING SUCCESS OF HK AND SOUTHERN CHINA

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THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WHICH HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED A REGIONAL AND GLOBAL REPUTATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ONE OF THE TRIGGERS FOR THE CONTINUING SUCCESS OF THE TERRITORY.

ADDRESSING THE UNIVERSITY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET TONIGHT (SATURDAY), MRS PATTEN SAID IT WOULD ALSO TRIGGER THE CONTINUING ADVANCE OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

MRS PATTEN SAID THE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLES IN THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY.

"SO YOU'LL BE PLAYING A PART IN MAKING HONG KONG AND THE REGION MORE AND MORE PROSPEROUS, BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THAT IN THE FUTURE, THE WEALTH OF A COMMUNITY IS GOING TO DEPEND EVEN MORE ON ITS KNOWLEDGE AND ITS SKILLS.

/"BUT YOU

"BUT YOU WILL ALSO BE PLAYING A PART IN PRESERVING HONG KONG'S VALUES AND RAISING THE CIVILISED QUALITY OF ITS LIFE," SHE ADDED.

SHE NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD BEEN MAKING RECORDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

WHEN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY STARTED 30 YEARS AGO, THERE WERE ONLY AROUND 1,000 YOUNG PEOPLE STARTING AT UNIVERSITY EACH YEAR - ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE POPULATION.

NOW THERE ARE 12,500 FIRST YEAR PLACES FOR 15 PER CENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND SOON THERE WILL BE ANOTHER 2,000 PLACES.

SHE BELIEVED THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAD BEEN A CENTRAL PART OF THIS IMPRESSIVE RECORD AS THEY HAD NOTCHED UP MANY SUCCESSES AND PROVIDED A LADDER UP WHICH THOUSANDS OF YOUNG HONG KONGERS COULD CLIMB.

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LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS SALE BY AUCTION

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FIFTY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,726,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CONDUCT THEREOF.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE LECTURE HALL OF THE SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE, SAW THE REGISTRATION MARK DL888 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$420,000.

ANOTHER REGISTRATION MARK 3188 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$210,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR FK3129, FK524.

FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

\$		\$		\$		\$	
FK9968	8,000	FK218	23,000	FH833	35,000	FK663	47,000
FL127	4,000	CL211	14,000	FJ3318	8,000	AU3332	25,000
*FJ6886	14,000	*3188	210,000	*FP9	80,000	*FH1	200,000
AV8001	18,000	FK1622	6,000	AS165	12,000	FK630	6,000
FK109	10,000	AB748	14,000	FK911	42,000	AH3222	21,000
FL3332	28,000	FK338	46,000	FJ9969	2,000	FL1386	19,000
FJ1128	12,000	FJ9663	2,000	FK2202	14,000	FK365	10,000
*FK11	50,000	*EE17	64,000	*DL888	420,000	*FN777	40,000
FJ1618	6,000	FK2282	9,000	FK6863	12,000	BW962	8,000
FL203	16,000	FL135	8,000	FJ7239	2,000	FK1132	8,000
XX3375	26,000	FK3129	1,000	*CM21	42,000	FK524	1,000
AF1963	8,000	FK7770	10,000	HK5857	30,000	*FS500	24,000
FL702	10,000	FK5386	WITHDRAWN				

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 204TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY REALISED SO FAR TO 219,531,905.

THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR FK5386. THIS VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

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CIVIL SERVICE WALK FOR CHARITY

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ABOUT 10,000 CIVIL SERVANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL TAKE PART IN THE FIRST-EVER CIVIL SERVICE WALK FOR CHARITY AROUND THE SHING MUN RIVER TOMORROW (SUNDAY) TO COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

MORE THAN 80 TEAMS FROM POLICY BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS WILL ASSEMBLE AT THE STARTING POINT AT SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK ON SUNDAY, LED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, POLICY SECRETARIES AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL KICK OFF THE WALK AT 9 AM, WITH A LION DANCE TEAM FROM THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT LEADING THE WAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID SHE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE WARM RESPONSE FROM COLLEAGUES TO THIS CHARITABLE FUNCTION.

"THOUSANDS HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE PART IN THE WALK AND MANY MORE HAVE CONTRIBUTED BY SPONSORING OTHERS," SHE NOTED.

"WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM VARIOUS SPONSORS OUTSIDE THE SERVICE. WE THANK THEM ALL ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

"AS CIVIL SERVANTS, WE WORK HARD FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY. WE ALSO WISH TO SHOW OUR CONCERN FOR THE NEEDY IN THE COMMUNITY AS CITIZENS OF HONG KONG," MRS CHAN ADDED.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

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WEATHER OF SEPTEMBER

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THREE TROPICAL CYCLONES, ABE, BECKY AND DOT, AFFECTED HONG KONG WITHIN A FORTNIGHT IN SEPTEMBER.

THE CLOSE PASSAGES OF BECKY AND DOT, IN PARTICULAR, BROUGHT STORMY WEATHER, NECESSITATING THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNALS ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND 26 RESPECTIVELY.

INCLUDING THE PASSAGES OF KORYN AND TASHA EARLIER IN THE SEASON, THE NO. 8 SIGNALS HAD ALREADY BEEN HOISTED FOUR TIMES THIS YEAR, JUST ONE TIME SHORT OF THE RECORD SET IN 1964.

THE FAST-MOVING BECKY THIS YEAR WREAKED HAVOC OVER THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL WATERS WHERE A NUMBER OF SHIPS AND VESSELS WERE CAUGHT IN DIFFICULTIES WITH TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES.

DOT WAS SLOW-MOVING AND BROUGHT DAYS OF TORRENTIAL RAIN TO HONG KONG, CULMINATING IN EXTENSIVE FLOODING OVER THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ON SEPTEMBER 26 AND 27.

THE 223.9 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL RECORDED ON SEPTEMBER 26 WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST DAILY AMOUNT IN SEPTEMBER ON RECORD. WITH A MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 655.9 MILLIMETRES, MORE THAN TWICE THE NORMAL OF 299.7 MILLIMETRES, SEPTEMBER 1993 BECAME THE FIFTH WETTEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD.

TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 2,095.8 MILLIMETRES, FOUR PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 2,007.1 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

AFTER SOME SHOWERS EARLY ON SEPTEMBER 1, A LONG, FINE SPELL LASTED TILL SEPTEMBER 12, EXCEPT FOR SOME LIGHT SHOWERS ON SEPTEMBER 4. UNDER CALM CONDITIONS THAT DAY, EXTENSIVE HAZE FORMED IN THE MORNING WITH RANGES OF VISIBILITY OF LESS THAN 5,000 METRES INSIDE THE HARBOUR. HOWEVER, THE HAZE DISPERSED AS WINDS TURNED EASTERLY IN THE AFTERNOON.

WHEN ABE ENTERED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AS A SEVERE TROPICAL STORM ON 12 SEPTEMBER, LOCAL WEATHER REMAINED GENERALLY FINE. CLOUDINESS INCREASED IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE OUTERMOST RAINBANDS OF ABE BEGAN TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY THE NEXT DAY. SQUALLY HEAVY SHOWERS WERE PARTICULARLY FREQUENT IN THE AFTERNOON ON SEPTEMBER 13.

AS ABE MOVED INLAND AND DISSIPATED ON SEPTEMBER 14, SHOWERS EASED OFF AND THE WEATHER BRIGHTENED UP LATER IN THE DAY. PERIODS OF SUNSHINE OCCURRED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

MEANWHILE, BECKY DEVELOPED INTO A TROPICAL STORM AND CROSSED THE LUZON STRAIT ON SEPTEMBER 16. MOVING RAPIDLY, IT RAMPAGED ACROSS THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

/WINDS OFFSHORE

WINDS OFFSHORE INCREASED TO GALE FORCE ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 17 AND THE WEATHER DETERIORATED RAPIDLY WITH HEAVY SQUALLY SHOWERS AND STORMY WEATHER OCCURRING THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

AFTER BECKY MADE LANDFALL AND DISSIPATED OVER WESTERN GUANGDONG ON SEPTEMBER 18, SHOWERS GRADUALLY DECREASED AND THE WEATHER IMPROVED PROGRESSIVELY. IT WAS SUNNY AND FINE ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21. THE HOTTEST DAY OF THE MONTH OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 21 WHEN TEMPERATURES ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 32.1 DEGREES.

AS TROPICAL DEPRESSION DOT DRIFTED ACROSS THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, IT BECAME SLOW-MOVING OVER THE WATERS EAST OF HAINAN ISLAND. WEATHER IN HONG KONG BECAME UNSETTLED ON SEPTEMBER 23.

EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED OFFSHORE WITH ALMOST CONTINUOUS RAIN. STRENGTHENING NORTHEAST MONSOON PROMPTED THE HOISTING OF THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL ON SEPTEMBER 24. AS DOT INTENSIFIED EXPLOSIVELY TO A TYPHOON ON SEPTEMBER 25, WINDS ALONG THE SOUTH CHINA COAST WERE FURTHER ENHANCED.

AT THE SAME TIME, DOT TURNED NORTHEASTWARDS TOWARDS THE COAST OF WESTERN GUANGDONG, MOVING CLOSER TO HONG KONG. THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS REPLACED BY THE NO. 3 STRONG WIND SIGNAL THAT AFTERNOON, BYPASSING THE NO. 1 STANDBY SIGNAL, IN A SEQUENCE OF SIGNAL CHANGES SIMILAR TO WHAT OCCURRED IN 1973.

LOCAL WEATHER DETERIORATED WITH MORE HEAVY RAIN. ON SEPTEMBER 26 WHEN TYPHOON DOT WAS CLOSEST, TORRENTIAL RAIN WAS ALMOST CONTINUOUS. FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO 27, NEARLY 500 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

PROLONGED HEAVY RAIN ALSO NECESSITATED THE ISSUANCE OF BOTH THE FLOOD AND LANDSLIP WARNINGS.

BY THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 27, THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS COMPLETELY INUNDATED WITH FLOOD WATER AS DEEP AS 7 METRES IN SOME PLACES. THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE IN THE MONTH WAS 22.6 DEGREES, RECORDED THAT MORNING IN HEAVY RAIN.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 27 AS TYPHOON DOT LANDED AND WEAKENED OVER WESTERN GUANGDONG. WINDS SUBSIDED AND RAIN CEASED DURING THE DAY. APART FROM SOME ISOLATED SHOWERS, GENERALLY FINE WEATHER PREVAILED TILL THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

SEVEN TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN SEPTEMBER 1993.

AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, 30 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DURING THE MONTH.

DETAILS ON THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1. MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SEPTEMBER 1993 ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN SEPTEMBER 1993

WARNINGS / SIGNALS		EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME

TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS		
NAME OF T.C.	SIGNAL NO.	
ABE	1	SEP 12, 0950 - SEP 14, 0750
BECKY	1	SEP 16, 0930 - SEP 16, 2230
	3	SEP 16, 2230 - SEP 17, 0250
	8 NE	SEP 17, 0250 - SEP 17, 0730
	8 SE	SEP 17, 0730 - SEP 17, 1510
	3	SEP 17, 1510 - SEP 17, 1700
DOT	3	SEP 25, 1615 - SEP 26, 0915
	8 SE	SEP 26, 0915 - SEP 26, 1600
	3	SEP 26, 1600 - SEP 26, 1800

STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL		SEP 24, 0735 - SEP 25, 1615

LANDSLIP WARNING		SEP 25, 1450 - SEP 27, 1230

FLOOD WARNINGS		SEP 14, 2245 - SEP 14, 2350
		SEP 17, 0645 - SEP 17, 1500
		SEP 25, 1225 - SEP 25, 2005
		SEP 26, 0515 - SEP 27, 0530
		SEP 27, 0640 - SEP 27, 1005

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS		SEP 14, 1930 - SEP 15, 0745
		SEP 16, 1715 - SEP 16, 2315
		SEP 18, 0635 - SEP 18, 0835
		SEP 18, 1540 - SEP 18, 1740
		SEP 23, 1145 - SEP 23, 1600
		SEP 23, 2300 - SEP 24, 0630
		SEP 26, 1335 - SEP 27, 0600
		SEP 27, 0830 - SEP 27, 1030
		SEP 30, 1500 - SEP 30, 1630

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - SEPTEMBER 1993

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	172.8 HOURS ; 8.9 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	13.80 MJ/SQM ; 2.69 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	655.9 MM ; 356.2 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	59 % ; 4 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	79 % ; 1 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	30.0 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.3 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	27.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.1 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	25.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	106.3 MM ; 44.0 MM BELOW NORMAL

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CHUNG YEUNG HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT OCTOBER 23 (SATURDAY), THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL DAY, IS 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 AN EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS 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 DAYS 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 AT THE GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON 717 1771.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,410
REVERSAL OF LAF	+120
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,530
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,250
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,280

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.6 *+0.1* 16.10.93

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