



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BANKING SYSTEM IS SOUND: ACTING GOVERNOR

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TODAY (SATURDAY) REASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT THE BANKING SYSTEM IS SOUND AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT STOOD FIRMLY IN SUPPORT OF IT.

"IT IS VERY CLEAR TO US," SIR DAVID SAID, "THAT THE CAUSE OF RECENT PROBLEMS AT CITIBANK AND THE CHARTERED BANK IS RUMOUR AND NOTHING MORE. THESE RUMOURS, WHETHER THEY HAVE STARTED IN HONG KONG OR ELSEWHERE, HAVE PROVED TO BE BASELESS.

"THE WAY THE BANKING SECTOR AS A WHOLE HAS RESPONDED IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF THE SOUNDNESS OF THE SYSTEM AND WE IN THE GOVERNMENT STAND FULLY BEHIND IT. SHOULD THE NEED ARISE THE EXCHANGE FUND IS THERE TO GIVE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT."

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD ASKED THE POLICE TO CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE SPREADING OF FALSE RUMOURS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL BANKS IN HONG KONG.

"SCAREMONGERING HURTS ORDINARY PEOPLE," HE SAID.

"WE DO NOT KNOW WHO IS DOING IT, OR WHY, BUT WE INTEND TO GET TO THE ROOT OF IT, AND BRING WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE TO BOOK. I UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETY THAT PEOPLE FEEL. AND I CAN REASSURE THEM THAT THESE RUMOURS ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

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NENDICK MEETS BCCHK DEPOSITORS' REPRESENTATIVES

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THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, TODAY (SATURDAY) HAD A MEETING WITH A SMALL GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPOSITORS OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED (BCCHK).

IN REFERRING TO HIS REMARKS YESTERDAY REGARDING WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN OF RUMOUR MONGERING AIMED AT DESTABLISING CERTAIN BANKS IN HONG KONG, MR NENDICK SAID HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT, AS YET, THERE WAS NO HARD EVIDENCE TO INDICATE WHO HAD STARTED THESE RUMOURS.

HE EXPLAINED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT IN SPECULATING WHETHER THIS MIGHT HAVE INVOLVED SOME MISGUIDED DEPOSITORS OF BCCHK, HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO CRITICISE THE GENERAL BEHAVIOUR OF SUCH DEPOSITORS.

"IF THERE WERE DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS AT WORK, THIS WOULD BE CONFINED TO A VERY SMALL MINORITY OF INDIVIDUALS," HE SAID.

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"THE VAST MAJORITY OF BCCHK DEPOSITORS HAD IN MY VIEW BEHAVED, AND WILL, I AM SURE, CONTINUE TO BEHAVE, IN A RESPONSIBLE, RESTRAINED AND DIGNIFIED MANNER."

MR NENDICK EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE PROBLEMS FACED BY BCCHK DEPOSITORS AND APPLAUDED THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS EFFORTS TO FIND A MEANS OF RESURRECTING THE BANK.

HE EXPLAINED TO THE DELEGATION THE EFFORTS WHICH WERE UNDERWAY TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD BE IN THEIR BEST INTEREST.

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JOINT STATEMENT BY HSBC AND BANK OF CHINA

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THE FOLLOWING IS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND BANK OF CHINA:

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND BANK OF CHINA WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN VIEW OF EVIDENT PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE HEALTH OF CERTAIN BANKS IN HONG KONG.

1. THE UNDERLYING STRENGTH OF HONG KONG'S BANKING INDUSTRY IS BEYOND DOUBT. IT IS WELL REGULATED AND STANDARDS OF SUPERVISION STAND FAVOURABLE COMPARISON WITH ANY OTHER OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES.
2. THE CURRENT WAVE OF RUMOURS CIRCULATING ABOUT CERTAIN BANKS IN HONG KONG IS DEMONSTRABLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.
3. HONGKONG BANK AND BANK OF CHINA HAVE NOT CUT THEIR LINES TO THESE BANKS AND AND CONTINUE TO ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR CASH REQUIREMENTS.

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JOINT POLICE/ICAC INVESTIGATION INTO BANK RUMOURS

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A JOINT POLICE AND INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION TEAM WILL LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SOURCE OF AND MOTIVE FOR RUMOURS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL BANKS IN HONG KONG.

COMMENTING ON THE MOVE, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE WIDE-RANGING AND AIMED AT DISCOVERING THE CULPABILITY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RUMOURS.

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HONG KONG HAS A SOUND BANKING SYSTEM ACTING GOVERNOR

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THE WAY IN WHICH THE BANKS HAVE COPEd WITH THE RECENT SITUATION HAS PROVED THAT WE DO HAVE A SOUND BANKING SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, AND THE GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO BACK THE BANKS WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ABILYMPICS 1991 AT SHA TIN TOWN HALL, SIR DAVID SAID: "I THINK WE'VE ALL BEEN CONCERNED BY THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS BY RUMOURS ABOUT CERTAIN BANKS, BUT I HOPE IT'S NOW CLEAR TO PEOPLE IN HONG KONG THAT THOSE RUMOURS WERE TOTALLY UNTRUE."

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED TO SEE THE SUPPORT WHICH WAS GIVEN BOTH BY THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND BY THE BANK OF CHINA, WHO WERE CLEARLY ON THE RECORD, AS STATING THAT HONG KONG DID HAVE A SOUND BANKING SYSTEM AND THAT THEY STOOD READY TO SUPPORT ANY BANK IN HONG KONG.

"SO I HOPE NOW THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG CAN SETTLE DOWN AND NOT WORRY BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT," HE SAID.

"WE MUST, HOWEVER, NOT LET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SPREADING RUMOURS GO UNPUNISHED AND I HAVE ASKED THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TODAY TOGETHER WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ICAC TO CARRY OUT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION TO TRY TO FIND OUT WHO THOSE PEOPLE ARE," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE CANNOT LET THE COMMUNITY BE UNSETTLED IN A WAY IT HAS BEEN OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS BY SUCH RUMOUR-MONGERING WHICH AFFECTS EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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REHABILITATION POLICIES AND SERVICES UNDER REVIEW : ACTING GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE THE AIM OF "EQUALITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION" AND GREAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES FOR DISABLED PERSONS, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT STILL MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE," SIR DAVID SAID, WHEN SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ABILYMPICS 1991 HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW REVIEWING THE REHABILITATION POLICIES AND SERVICES WITH AN AIM OF PRODUCING A GREEN PAPER FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WHICH SET OUT WAYS IN WHICH THE SERVICES COULD BE IMPROVED.

/"THE EXCHANGE

"THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH SO MANY PEOPLE EXPERIENCED IN THIS FIELD, MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE ABILYMPICS WILL, I AM SURE, DO MUCH TO INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND HELP US FIND THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD," THE ACTING GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS VERY HONOURED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THIS MAJOR EVENT, WHICH MARKED THE CLOSING OF THE UNITED NATIONS' "DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS" AND CELEBRATED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE DISABLED.

THE ABILYMPICS, SIR DAVID SAID, HAD CAUGHT THE IMAGINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND WON WIDESPREAD SUPPORT.

"THE PRESENCE OF OVER 80 DELEGATIONS AND SOME 2,000 PARTICIPANTS HERE IN HONG KONG IS A VIVID DEMONSTRATION OF THAT," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE AIM OF THE ABILYMPICS WAS TO ACHIEVE "EQUALITY THROUGH PARTICIPATION" BY FULLY INTEGRATING PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND AT ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF DISABLED PERSONS.

UNTIL AUGUST 16, DELEGATES WOULD BE ENGAGED IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, WORKSHOPS, EXHIBITIONS, SKILLS CONTESTS AND PERFORMANCES.

THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, PEOPLE WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD WOULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR THIS WONDERFUL EVENT.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE ABILYMPICS, ALL WILL GAIN STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THIS EXPERIENCE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO CONGRATULATED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ABILYMPICS, DR HARRY FANG, AND MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, ON SUCCESSFULLY BRINGING THIS INTERNATIONAL EVENT TO HONG KONG.

HE ALSO EXTENDED A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OVERSEAS DELEGATES AND WISHED ALL PARTICIPANTS, BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS, A MOST ENJOYABLE STAY IN HONG KONG.

TSZ WAN SHAN/DIAMOND HILL/SAN PO KONG OZP AMENDED
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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (SATURDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT TSZ WAN SHAN, DIAMOND HILL AND SAN PO KONG OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

THE MAJOR AMENDMENTS INCLUDE THE REZONING OF A "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTE/COMMUNITY" SITE AT TAI HOM PROPOSED FOR INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE TO "COMMUNITY/RECREATION" BECAUSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL TO THE RECREATION CENTRE.

ALSO, THE AREAS TO THE EAST OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL'S ENTRANCE ARE REVISED IN ZONING TO FACILITATE THE CHI LIN NUNNERY REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS.

IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE SITE AREA OF A PROPOSED HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME/PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME SITE TO THE WEST OF HAMMER HILL ROAD, AN ADJACENT OPEN SITE IS ALSO REZONED TO RESIDENTIAL (GROUP A).

THE AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SAN PO KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING FOURTH FLOOR, KING FUK STREET, SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENT PLAN MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, BY SEPTEMBER 6.

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THE WEATHER OF JULY 1991
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FOR A MONTH IN WHICH TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS WERE HOISTED ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS, JULY FAILED TO PRODUCE THE EXTRA RAIN THAT EVERYONE HOPED FOR, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SATURDAY).

TWO-THIRDS OF THE PRECIPITATION DURING THE MONTH WERE ATTRIBUTED TO TROPICAL CYCLONES, WITH THE REST BROUGHT BY TWO EPISODES OF ACTIVE SOUTHWEST MONSOON.

INSTEAD OF HEAVY RAINFALL, THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON AMY LED TO A DAY OF INTENSE OPPRESSIVE HEAT ON JULY 19 AS THE TEMPERATURE CLIMBED TO 34.5 DEGREES, THE SEVENTH HIGHEST EVER RECORDED IN THE MONTH OF JULY.

TYPHOON BRENDAN CAME EVEN CLOSER FOUR DAYS LATER AND PROMPTED THE HOISTING OF THE NO. 8 GALE OR STORM SIGNAL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE TYPHOON GORDON TWO YEARS AGO.

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HOWEVER, THE STORMY AND RAINY WEATHER ASSOCIATED WITH BRENDAN WAS NOT PARTICULARLY PROLONGED.

IN THE END, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 293.6 MILLIMETRES FELL SHORT OF THE JULY NORMAL OF 323.5 MILLIMETRES BY 9 PER CENT.

THE ACCUMULATED DEFICIT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR REMAINED LARGE. THE TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 WAS 849.3 MILLIMETRES, 35 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 1,316.0 MILLIMETRES AND THE FOURTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE SEVEN-MONTH PERIOD.

THE FINE AND HOT WEATHER AT THE END OF JUNE CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST DAY OF JULY.

BUT WHILE THERE WERE STILL LONG SUNNY PERIODS OVER THE NEXT FOUR DAYS, SHOWERS ALSO OCCURRED AS THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON GREW MORE ACTIVE.

MOST OF THE SHOWERS DEVELOPED IN THE MORNING. THOSE ON JULY 3 WERE RATHER HEAVY AND THUNDERSTORMS WERE ALSO REPORTED.

AFTER JULY 5, ONLY SOME ODD SHOWERS REMAINED AND EVEN THESE GRADUALLY DIED OUT AS THE FINE WEATHER PERSISTED TILL JULY 11.

MEANWHILE, A TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMED ZEKE WAS CROSSING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ON ITS WAY TOWARDS HAINAN ISLAND.

AFTER SOME LIGHT SHOWERS ON THE EVENING OF JULY 11, THE RAIN BECAME MORE FREQUENT THE NEXT DAY WHEN FRESHENING WINDS PROMPTED THE HOISTING OF TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE PERIPHERAL RAINBANDS OF ZEKE, THE RAIN WAS ALMOST CONTINUOUS ON JULY 13 AND 14, WITH SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRING LATER IN THE DAY. AS ZEKE DISSIPATED OVER NORTHERN VIETNAM, THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON JULY 15 AND FINE CONDITIONS PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

THE HOTTEST DAY IN THE MONTH OCCURRED ON JULY 19 AS TYPHOON AMY APPROACHED FROM THE LUZON STRAIT.

THE HIGH TEMPERATURE OF 34.5 DEGREES WAS ACTUALLY ATTAINED UNDER A SMOTHERING HAZE AND AN OMINOUSLY CLOUDY SKY.

THE OPPRESSIVE HEAT PERSISTED INTO THE NIGHT. RAIN BEGAN TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY AFTER THE LANDING OF THE FAST-MOVING AMY OVER EASTERN GUANGDONG.

SQUALLY SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JULY 20 AND 21.

RAIN BROUGHT BY AMY SUBSIDED EARLY ON JULY 22 AND THE WEATHER TURNED SUNNY DURING THE DAY.

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HOWEVER, AS ANOTHER TROPICAL CYCLONE BRENDAN VENTURED INTO THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, CLOUD AND RAIN SOON RETURNED ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 23.

WITH BRENDAN MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS THE PEARL RIVER ESTUARY, LOCAL WEATHER DETERIORATED FURTHER THAT EVENING AND THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED TO 24.5 DEGREES, THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH.

GUSTY WINDS AND DRIVING RAIN SWEEP ACROSS THE TERRITORY THAT NIGHT.

DURING THE CLOSEST APPROACH OF BRENDAN IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 24, HOURLY MEAN WINDS OF 100 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AND GUSTS OF 150 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE RECORDED OFFSHORE.

THE GALES GRADUALLY SUBSIDED LATER THAT MORNING AS BRENDAN STARTED TO MOVE AWAY. THE SQUALLY SHOWERS ALSO BECAME LESS FREQUENT BY THE END OF THE DAY.

AFTER TWO DAYS OF GENERALLY FINE CONDITIONS ON JULY 25 AND 26, THE WEATHER TURNED INTO A MIXTURE OF SUNSHINE, CLOUD, AND OCCASIONAL BRIEF SHOWERS FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

FRESHENING SOUTHWEST MONSOON SET IN ON JULY 29 AND THE WEATHER BECAME SHOWERY UNDER A CLOUDY TO OVERCAST SKY. THE SHOWERS WERE MOST RAMPANT IN THE MORNING AND THE UNSETTLED WEATHER PERSISTED TILL THE END OF THE MONTH.

SEVERE RAINBANDS AND WIDESPREAD SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS AFFECTED THE TERRITORY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JULY 31.

THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR TOOK PLACE OVER THE WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE OVER 100 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED.

EXTENSIVE FLOODING OCCURRED IN THE YUEN LONG AREA WHERE THE FLOOD WATER IN SEVERAL VILLAGES EXCEEDED ONE METRE IN DEPTH.

IN ADDITION TO PROPERTY DAMAGE AND DROWNED LIVESTOCK, LOSSES IN INUNDATED FISH PONDS AND VEGETATED FARMLAND WERE ALSO BIG.

THERE WERE FOUR AIRCRAFT DIVERSIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER IN JULY.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON 3, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 25, 29, 30, AND 31 JULY. A FLOOD WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON JULY 31.

/SIGNALS HOISTED

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SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE & TIME OF HOISTING	DATE & TIME OF LOWERING
TYPHOON ZEKE	1	12 JULY 8.50 AM	12 JULY 10.40 PM
	3	12 JULY 10.40 PM	13 JULY 7.10 AM
TYPHOON AMY	1	18 JULY 10.45 PM	19 JULY 11.10 AM
	3	19 JULY 11.10 AM	20 JULY 10.10 AM
TYPHOON BRENDAN	1	22 JULY 10.10 PM	23 JULY 10.00 AM
	3	23 JULY 10.00 AM	23 JULY 9.00 PM
	8 NE	23 JULY 9.00 PM	24 JULY 3.20 AM
	8 SE	24 JULY 3.20 AM	24 JULY 10.00 AM
	3	24 JULY 10.00 AM	24 JULY 3.10 PM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	208.0 HOURS ; 23.1 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	16.58 MJ/SQ.M. ; 2.57 MJ/SQ.M. BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	293.6 MM ; 29.9 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	70% ; 5% MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	80% ; NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	31.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	28.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.1 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	26.8 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	24.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ; NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	145.6 MM ; 26.0 MM BELOW NORMAL

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STUDENTS WITH BASIC A-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY FOR S6 PLACES
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STUDENTS WITH GRADE E IN SIX SUBJECTS (INCLUDING CHINESE LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE) OR GRADE E IN FIVE SUBJECTS (INCLUDING CHINESE LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE) WITH A TOTAL OF NO LESS THAN EIGHT POINTS IN ONE SITTING OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION CAN APPLY FOR SECONDARY 6 PLACES ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY (AUGUST 12 AND 13).

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT STUDENTS WITH BASIC A-LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS BUT HAVE NOT OBTAINED SECONDARY 6 PLACES MAY APPLY AT THEIR OWN OR CONSORTIUM/FEEDER-LINK SCHOOLS FROM 9 AM TO 3.30 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 12).

RESULTS OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE RELEASED THE SAME DAY.

STUDENTS WITH THESE QUALIFICATIONS WHO WISH TO STUDY IN OTHER SCHOOLS MAY SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BEFORE 5 PM ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 13).

A LIST OF SCHOOLS WITH VACANCIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES FROM 9 AM THAT DAY FOR STUDENTS' REFERENCE.

A LIST OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE POSTED AT SCHOOLS FROM 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 14).

STUDENTS OFFERED SECONDARY 6 PLACES BY MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL WILL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION AND REGISTER WITH THE SCHOOL OR THEIR CHOICE BEFORE 3.30 PM ON THE SAME DAY.

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1,344 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS RECORDED IN JULY
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A TOTAL OF 1,786 CASUALTIES WERE RECORDED IN 1,344 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST MONTH.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT IN THESE ACCIDENTS, 27 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, 351 PEOPLE WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND 1,408 SLIGHTLY INJURED.

THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR JULY SHOWED THAT 280 OF THE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 728 IN KOWLOON AND 336 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE FIGURES REPRESENTED A FIVE PER CENT AND A 2.6 PER CENT INCREASE RESPECTIVELY IN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES RECORDED OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

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SCHOOL LEAVERS INVITED TO JOIN POLICE FORCE

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SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND LETTERS CARRYING A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO JOIN THE FORCE WILL BE GOING OUT NEXT WEEK TO ALL MALE CANDIDATES OF THIS YEAR'S CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

THIS COLOSSAL EXERCISE IS UNDERTAKEN IN AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO BOOST RECRUITMENT AT POLICE CONSTABLE LEVEL.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SATURDAY): "THESE CANDIDATES ALL MEET THE BASIC ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE CONSTABLES."

THE MAILING PACKAGE, CONSISTING OF A LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER, AN INFORMATION LEAFLET AND A REPLY SLIP, IS SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO THESE YOUNG SCHOOL-LEAVERS.

"FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING CAREER, THE POLICE FORCE MAKES AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER WITH GOOD SALARY AND FRINGE BENEFITS," HE SAID.

CARTONS OF THESE MAILING PACKAGES WERE DELIVERED TODAY TO THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY WHERE ADDRESS LABELS WILL BE PUT ON BEFORE BEING SENT OUT THROUGH THE POST.

THESE PACKAGES ARE EXPECTED TO REACH THE CANDIDATES SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.

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OUTREACHING REGISTRATION SERVICE FOR FAR-OFF RESIDENTS

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TUCKED AWAY BEHIND A LABYRINTH OF ALLEYS AND VILLAGE HOUSES IN TAI O IS A MODEST TWO-STOREY "TOWN CLUB" - THE NERVE CENTRE OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY.

HERE, THE TEMPERATURE WILL RISE IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH WHEN PAIRS OF SENIOR VILLAGERS MUSTER INSIDE THE BUILDING - TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE, NOT FOR CHIT-CHATS, BUT WAITING FOR THE "GOVERNMENT MARRIAGE MEN" TO ARRIVE TO OFFICIALLY TIE THEIR LOVE-KNOTS - ON PAPER.

THESE PAIRS HAVE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR DECADES, HOWEVER, FOR DIFFERENT REASONS THEY NEED TO REGISTER THEIR MARRIAGE AGAIN.

ACCORDING TO DEPUTY REGISTRAR PHILIP TANG PAK-SHING, HIS TEAM CAN ONLY REGISTER AT MOST FIVE COUPLES DURING THEIR MONTHLY TRIP THERE.

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THEY DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR DOING MORE, HE CONFIDED.

MR TANG SAID MOST OF THE COUPLES CAME FOR POST-REGISTRATION.

SEVENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHENG HING-FAT SAID HE AND HIS WIFE CAME TO POST-REGISTER THEIR MARRIAGE BECAUSE THEY HAD LOST THEIR RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AT WARTIME, AND THEIR CHILDREN NEEDED THEIR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE TO APPLY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

"IT IS A CONVENIENT SERVICE AS WE DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL AFAR FOR REGISTRATION. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO WALK OUR WAY HERE AND BE REGISTERED," MR CHENG SAID.

THOSE WHO WANT TO POST-REGISTER THEIR MARRIAGES NEED TO PRESENT PROOFS THAT THEY WERE MARRIED IN HONG KONG BEFORE OCTOBER 7, 1971, WHETHER OR NOT IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE CUSTOMS.

"QUITE OFTEN, WE HAVE TO RESORT TO THE CHINESE ALMANAC TO TRACE THEIR ORIGINAL WEDDING DAYS AND MATCH THE DATES WITH THE WESTERN CALENDAR," MR TANG SAID.

AGAINST AN OLD WORLD SETTING, THE CEREMONIES ARE PERFORMED WITH NO POMP AND FRILL, NO CONFETTI, AND NO SOUND OF GONGS AND DRUMS.

IT IS SIMPLE. A LONG WOODEN TABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PACKED MAKESHIFT IMMIGRATION OFFICE CUM MARRIAGE HALL.

MR TANG ALSO SAID THE OTHER COUPLES MAY ACT AS THE WITNESSES OF THE PAIR IN THE CEREMONY.

"THIS PRACTICE IS QUITE RARE IN OTHER MARRIAGE REGISTRIES," HE REMARKED.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE VILLAGE FOLKS HERE MAY BE ONE REASON.

ANOTHER UNIQUE FEATURE HERE IS THAT SOME MAY SIGN THEIR CERTIFICATE WITH FINGER, NOT WITH PEN.

"WE TOOK THEIR FINGER-PRINTS FOR THEY CAN'T WRITE," MR TANG SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE KIND OF CEREMONIAL SOLEMNITY CANNOT BE SEEN IN TAI O, THE AMICABLE AND INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE MAKES EVERYONE FEEL EASY AND RELAX, MR TANG SAID.

BUT IT IS NOT WITHOUT A PRICE.

MR TANG AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE TO SACRIFICE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TIME TO FULFIL THEIR DUTIES. THEY NEED BOTH A WILL AND A BODY TO DO GOOD THEIR JOB.

"FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO OUR HONG KONG ISLAND RE-ENTRY PERMIT OFFICE IN CENTRAL EARLY IN THE MORNING AND PACK OUR STUFF BEFORE EMBARKING ON OUR LONG TRIP TO LANTAU," HE SAID.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS THEY HAVE TO CARRY?

"THINGS LIKE A TYPEWRITER, DOCUMENTS, FILES, CHOPS, MEMOS AND CERTIFICATES. YOU CAN'T MISS ANY ONE SINGLE THING FOR THEY ARE ALL VITAL FOR US," MR TANG SAID.

"IT'S GOOD TO HAVE FOUR OR FIVE OF US TO SHARE OUT THE DONKEY WORK. IT'S REALLY A LOAD," HE ADMITTED.

THEIR FIRST DESTINATION IS MUI WO GOVERNMENT OFFICES WHERE THEY PROVIDE DOCUMENTS SERVICE.

IN THE AFTERNOON, THE WHOLE TEAM WILL TRAVEL FOR ANOTHER HOUR TO TAI O TO RENDER BOTH BIRTH AND MARRIAGE REGISTRATION SERVICES.

SPENDING MORE THAN SIX HOURS TRAVELLING A DAY IS NOT ENJOYABLE AT ALL, MR TANG CONFESSED.

"SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE OUR BREAKFAST, DO OUR PAPER WORK ON BOARD THE FERRY TO MUI WO."

THAT WILL SAVE TIME, HE ADDED.

DESPITE ALL THESE DISCOURAGING FACTORS, MR TANG SAID THE SERVICE THEY PROVIDE GIVES THEM SATISFACTION.

APART FROM OFFERING BIRTH AND MARRIAGE REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTS SERVICE TO TAI O RESIDENTS, THEY ALSO TRAVEL TO OTHER FRINGE AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES LIKE SAI KUNG, HANG HAU AND CHEUNG CHAU.

REGARDLESS THE DISTANCE AND THE TIME ON THE ROAD, THE OUTREACHING TEAM GOES TO WHERE THE SERVICE IS NEEDED.

SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SOLD BY AUCTION

* * * * *

FORTY SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL OF \$707,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER ES5 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$53,000.

THE NUMBERS AT7 AND DD23 WERE SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$52,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 FOR ER8453.

/FOLLOWING ARE

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FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF TODAY'S AUCTION:

ER9929	\$ 6,000	ES2128	\$ 9,000	AW516	\$ 7,000	DL801	\$ 17,000
AE625	7,000	ET123	29,000	DD23	52,000	ET4376	WITHDRAWN
ER8453	1,000	AL708	11,000	ES293	10,000	HK7333	30,000
DD72	25,000	ES2228	36,000	AL2008	17,000	EJ7788	22,000
ES524	7,000	AT7	52,000	EL838	48,000	EU448	20,000
XX7428	4,000	ES990	12,000	ES803	19,000	ES9688	11,000
ES1911	8,000	ET1997	8,000	ET7893	4,000	ET768	11,000
ER99	46,000	9345	21,000	ES5	53,000	ET41	18,000
CW8398	9,000	ES118	24,000	AH992	17,000	EA8798	5,000
AA3103	9,000	BB541	10,000	ES697	5,000	BB1737	6,000

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WERE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING. THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR ET4376 AND THE NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

THE NUMBERS 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 167TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$121,075,605.00.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	9.8.91	800*
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	10.8.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

* INCLUDES 200MN O/N ASSISTANCE,
TO BE REVERSED ON 12.8.91

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