



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Lo Wu Terminal extension opens on Monday

The \$230m extension of the Lo Wu Terminal will be open on Monday (January 23) in time to cope with the upsurge in passenger traffic during the Lunar New Year period.

A spokesman for the Railways Division of the Highways Department administering the project said: "The extended terminal will almost double the present passenger handling capacity of 14,200 persons per hour to 26,000 for the two directions."

The extension, comprising a new south wing and a new east wing linking with the main building, will considerably increase the area of the departure hall on the ground floor and the arrival hall on the second floor.

It will enable the Immigration Department to provide 72 more counters and the Customs and Excise Department 30 more.

This will bring the total number of counters for immigration clearance to 160 (92 for arrival, 68 for departure) and for customs check to 64 (48 for arrival, 16 for departure).

The first floor of the extension will accommodate a new visitors' arrival hall for the Immigration Department to clear all non-Hong Kong residents arriving from China.

It would also enable the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation to expand its ticketing area for the convenience and comfort of train passengers.

The Highways Department spokesman said: "Construction of the main building was completed last month. But the overall completion of the extension will not be finished until March because workmen are still putting the final finishing touch to the two new wings."

End/Saturday, January 21, 1995

New employment law explained

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) urged employers to pay attention to the Employment (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 which came into effect yesterday (Friday) in calculating severance payment and long service payment payable to dismissed employees.

Chief Labour Officer Mr Yeung Chi-kin explained that employees who had been dismissed by notice or payment in lieu of notice before January 20, 1995 would be entitled to receive severance payment or long service payment, calculated under the new law if the last day of the notice period should fall on or after January 20.

"Employers and workers should call the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service hotline 2717 1771 if they need information on the calculations of severance payment or long service payment," Mr Yeung said.

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Home Affairs Director appeals to residents to vote

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The Director of Home Affairs, Mr Joseph Wong, this (Saturday) evening appeals to voters to actively participate in the municipal elections on March 5.

Speaking at the opening of the Fourth Tai Po Festival at Fu Shin Town Square, Mr Wong stressed that a successful community depended on the close co-operation between the Government and local leaders.

As to the festival, which is held every three years, Mr Wong believed that it would help promote the image of Tai Po as a mixture of a new town and a traditional village as well as strengthen residents' sense of belonging.

Highlights of the month-long festival will include a "Yan Yat" party for the elderly, Cantonese operas, Chinese calligraphy and painting exhibition, Chinese martial art and lion dance performances, orchid shows, games day and New Year galas.

Sponsored by the Regional Council and the Tai Po District Board, the festival was organised by the Tai Po Festival Co-ordinating Committee with the assistance of the Tai Po District Office and the Regional Services Department.

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Pamphlets on peer acceptance and interview techniques published

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) published a set of seven guidebooks on peer acceptance and a pamphlet on job interviewing techniques.

The guidebooks are aimed at helping employers understand the needs of their disabled employees, dispel misconceptions about them and communicate with them more effectively.

"Each guidebook focuses on a particular type of disability. Types of disabled persons covered in this series include wheelchair-users, spastics, epileptics, hearing impaired, visually impaired, mentally retarded and ex-mentally ill," Labour Officer (Selective Placement) Ms Annie Iaw said.

She urged employers and co-workers of disabled persons to read these guidebooks for mutual understanding and closer co-operation.

The pamphlet on job interviewing techniques, sponsored by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, is targeted at disabled job-seekers.

Written in simple language, the pamphlet gives advice on pre-interview preparations, how to react in case of emergency and how to answer questions.

The pamphlet and guidebooks can be obtained at the following offices of the Selective Placement Division:

- * Ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central
- * Ground floor, Ngau Tau Kok Government Offices, 21 On Wah Street, Kowloon
- * Second floor, Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan

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Firing practice scheduled on five days in February

Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen-Castle Peak Range on five days next month.

The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
February 8 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 15 (Wednesday)	8.30 am - 11.59 pm
February 20 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 27 (Monday)	8.30 am - 5 pm
February 28 (Tuesday)	8.30 am - 5 pm

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>(hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>change</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	4,778	09:30	+270
Closing balance in the account	3,303	10:00	+270
Change attributable to:		11:00	+270
Money market activity	+270	11:30	+270
LAF today	-1,745	15:00	

LAF rate 3.75% bid/5.75% offer TWI 120.9 *+0.0* 21.1.95

End/Saturday, January 21, 1995

Central banks and monetary authorities hold informal meeting

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Senior representatives of the central banks and monetary authorities of Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand held an informal meeting at the office of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on Saturday (January 21) to exchange views on recent currency speculation in the Region.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Joseph Yam, Chief Executive of the HKMA.

The central bankers exchanged useful information concerning the speculative activity, where this occurred, in their currencies.

This included the types of currency speculators, how they operate and how they fund themselves.

The central banks also exchanged views on the appropriate responses on their part, covering operational and supervisory measures.

Those present felt that the meeting had been a very useful one and agreed to keep closely in touch on this subject matter and share relevant information on it.

End/Sunday, January 22, 1995

Provision of lockers to public sector primary schools

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Installation of the first batch of 50,022 lockers in government and aided primary schools, which started early this month, is expected to be completed in about a week.

The second batch of 189,711 lockers will be installed later this year and in 1996.

A spokesman for the Education Department said the department had been approved a non-recurrent fund of \$29.3 million by the Finance Committee to purchase 239,733 lockers.

The spokesman said: "Funding was granted after a survey by the department last July which indicated that the provision of lockers for students to store items that need not be carried daily to and from school was a positive measure to alleviate the problem of overweight school bags.

"The lockers cater for 623 government and aided primary schools. New primary schools completed after September 1995 will all be provided with lockers as part of their standard equipment," he said.

Each locker measures internally 255 millimetres wide and 550 millimetres deep. The height is 300 millimetres and the locker is fitted with a key lock.

The department encourages children to pack their school bags every day according to the timetable and to use satchels which are light and secure.

Children should not carry to school unnecessary items such as comics, toys and video games. Stationery which is light and easy to carry is recommended.

End/Sunday, January 22, 1995

Employers reminded of Lunar New Year holidays

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The Labour Department today (Sunday) reminds employers that the Lunar New Year's Day, the second and third days of the Year of the Pig on January 31, February 1 and 2 respectively are statutory holidays for workers.

Under the Employment Ordinance, all employees, irrespective of their wage levels, are entitled to statutory holidays 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 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 and 31 days, preceding the holiday.

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 2717 1771.

End/Sunday, January 22, 1995

Boost for education telephone enquiry service

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The Education Department has doubled to 16 the number of lines for its Automatic Telephone Enquiry System to provide better and more efficient service to the public.

The 24-hour telephone enquiry service (No. 2891 0088) came into operation in February 1993.

The service is bilingual and callers can obtain the type of information they require by following the voice instructions in the system.

A spokesman for the department said the extra telephone lines would make it easier for members of the public to have access to the enquiry system and to get information on educational services.

He said: "The system enables the public to hear pre-recorded messages on a range of essential educational services. Callers can also receive hard copies of all recorded messages through their fax machines.

"The subjects covered include Primary One admission, student and careers guidance, application for supply teaching posts, special education service, student guidance, choosing a school, teacher registration, withdrawal of provident fund, non-graduate teacher qualification assessment and teacher mortgage interest subsidy scheme," the spokesman said.

"The system will also be used to make important announcements such as the suspension of school during typhoons or rainstorms," he added.

The Automatic Telephone Enquiry System received over 300,000 telephone calls each month - an average of 700 to 800 calls a day - in the last school year.

The telephone enquiry service system handled a record number of over 3,700 calls on July 25 last year. In the same month, a total of 40,000 calls were received when a number of rainstorm warnings were issued.

Even in the month with the lowest patronage, which was last February, the service received about 16,000 enquiries.

The Automatic Telephone Enquiry System is operated by the department's Serving the Community Unit which is housed on 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai. The unit's telephone number is 2961 7436.

The unit welcomes members of the public to give suggestions to improve its service.

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Works Supervisor awarded Imperial Service Medal

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A Works Supervisor of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal by the Queen in recognition of his exemplary service.

Mr Lai Kam-fat, aged 59, joined the civil service in June 1960. He has been seconded from the department to the Drainage Services Department (DSD) since 1989.

He is one of the most trustworthy, assiduous and loyal Works Supervisors in the Sewage Treatment Sub-division of DSD.

Mr Lai's main duties are to assist his superiors to carry out operation and maintenance of sewage treatment plants and pumping stations.

The Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Hugh Phillipson, described Mr Lai as a reliable and resourceful officer with a strong sense of responsibility.

"He is self-motivated and is always ready to help and give suitable guidance to his subordinates.

"With his sound technical knowledge and experience in sewage treatment works, he has been able to carry out his duties most effectively and efficiently," Mr Phillipson said.

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Central register supplies business establishments data

The Census and Statistics Department maintains a comprehensive and up-to-date computerised Central Register of Establishments which contains around 400,000 active business establishments in Hong Kong.

The register serves mainly as the sampling frame for various economic surveys conducted by the department.

Besides, many other government departments and private organisations also make use of the records kept in the register in their publicity, business promotion, survey and research work.

A sample listing containing 20 per cent of the records randomly selected from the Central Register of Establishments is accessible by prospective users.

Application for the supply of non-confidential particulars such as the name, address, major type of business activity and employment size class of all or part of the listed records can be made to the Central Register of Establishments Section.

The information can be supplied in the form of photocopies or specially run magnetic tapes. A charge will be levied for this service, at the following rates:

- * \$5.3 per page of photocopy; or
- * a minimum charge of \$580 for a job requiring up to 20 CRUs (Computer Resources Unit) plus \$29 for each additional CRU in excess of 20 CRUs, if the information is required on magnetic tapes. The magnetic tape can be provided by the applicant, or by the department at a charge of \$105 per tape.

Further details about the provision of this service can be obtained from the Central Register of Establishments Section on telephone 2582 4760.

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Enquiries about statutory holidays may be made of the Labour Department's General Enquiry Telephone Service on 2717 1774.

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Flushing water cut in Kwai Chung

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Flushing water supply to some premises in Kwai Chung will be suspended from 9 pm on Tuesday (January 24) to 8 am the following day to facilitate maintenance work.

The suspension will affect all the premises in Lei Muk Shue Estate, Shek Yam Estate, On Yam Estate, Shek Lei Estate and those on Wo Yi Hop Road.

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