



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, July 24, 1973

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## FIRST AWARDS TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME

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Three people -- a taxi driver, an electrical technician and the son of a woman killed in a burglary -- are the first to receive awards under the government's scheme for compensating victims of violent crimes.

Grants totalling \$6,400 have been approved by the board of the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Scheme.

The taxi driver who was seriously injured when a passenger robbed him, is to get the maximum injury grant of \$3,000 and an additional grant of \$1,400 to enable him and his dependants to tide themselves over during a period of adjustment.

The victim's hue and cry following the robbery resulted in his assailant being arrested and charged.

The electrical technician is to receive \$1,000 for injuries he received in foiling an attempted robbery.

A similar sum is being paid as a burial grant to the son of a widow who was killed in a house burglary.

"These payments are the first made under the scheme and more claims for compensation are being processed," said Mr. Stephen Chau, Principal Social Welfare Officer (Accident Compensation), and the Secretary to the Board.

However, he felt that there were more people who were eligible for compensation under the scheme, but were not aware of it.

He said leaflets explaining who are eligible and the procedures for applying for compensation are available at all City District Offices, police stations, hospitals and offices of the New Territories Administration and Social Welfare Department.

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### NEED FOR BETTER STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

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The acting Director of Education, Mr. Charles Lowe, said today that the question of bi-sessionalism in schools would certainly be considered by the Board of Education.

He was referring to a recent speech on the fight orine campaign given by the Secretary for Home Affairs, in which Mr. Cater showed his distaste for bi-sessionalism, particularly at the secondary level.

Mr. Lowe was speaking at the joint prize-giving ceremony of Salvation Army Primary Schools at the Concert Hall of the City Hall.

The Director pointed out that 81.4 per cent of primary 6 pupils moved into day secondary classes. This was a major improvement in providing secondary places for adolescents.

Agreeing with Mr. Cater's conclusion, Mr. Lowe said: "We do need more secondary education. We do need to struggle for and to achieve better standards in education."

He fully agreed with Mr. Cater on the need to extend recreational opportunity for the bored, disillusioned, and the semi-employed adolescent in a dead end job.

Mr. Lowe added: "I have long advocated a system of district sports and recreation officers (with a professional physical education background) to ensure that the games and recreational activities which we do possess can be used on a more organised basis. The scope for inter-district competitions in a very long range of sports and recreations is indeed endless."

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The Education Department, he said, "has three main functions ~~and~~ to operate and improve if possible the existing system, that is the first priority, the second is immediate short-term planning for projects that cannot wait often because the situation has changed and lastly long-range planning, micro and macro planning in fact."

He emphasised that the department was vitally interested and committed to planning for the future.

Mr. Lowe said that to ensure plans and objectives were clearly understood, joint departmental and central government planning teams must be set up if progress was to be made. But staff was in very short supply for both running the present system and planning.

Serious staff shortages were being or were about to be felt in the vital areas of teacher training, the examinations section and educational television, but the Director made it clear that the fault did not lie with the central government for not approving posts or the department for not pressing hard enough.

"The shortage of staff is government-wide and the Education Department is doing its best to improve the present system and plan sensibly for the future like all branches of government. We would like to do better," he said.

The Development Section of the department will be providing 16 aided secondary schools after the summer holidays, the provision of one secondary school at a considerably better rate than one a month.

"The result is that 49 per cent of the 12-year-old age group will be offered government aid assisted Form I places for September 1973," he said.

The Director praised the Salvation Army's invaluable contribution to education in Hong Kong.

"The first Salvation Army secondary school indeed is expected to open in September while the seven primary schools have reached a very creditable standard," Mr. Lowe said.

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#### EMPLOYMENT FOUND FOR 1,500

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Nearly 1,500 people were placed in employment by the Local Employment Service of the Labour Department during the second quarter of 1973 - an increase of 30 per cent over that of the corresponding quarter last year.

During the same period, the service registered 9,195 job-seekers and introduced 4,674 of them to prospective employers for selective interview.

The head of the Employment Division, Mr. James Yeung, said that of the 1,491 people found employment, 606 were placed in industry, 510 in commerce, 245 in government service, 28 in the public utilities and 102 in other establishments.

"Among those who were placed in industry, 312 were apprentices who joined modern apprenticeship schemes with the help of the Apprenticeship Training Unit of the Labour Department," he said.

Starting salaries for people helped into jobs by the service ranged from \$300 to more than \$2,000 a month, with 1,372 receiving up to \$599, and 119 receiving \$600 and over.

Mr. Yeung said: "At present we have 404 vacancies on our books, varying from executives to office boys in commerce; from engineers to general workers in industry; and from artisans to messengers in the civil service."

The Local Employment Service provides free facilities to assist employers and job-seekers alike. For the convenience of those who might have difficulty in approaching it during regular office hours, its Hong Kong Office at the New Rodney Block, Queensway (Tel. 5-270276, 5-282523 ext. 70 & 77) and Kowloon Office at the Canton Road Government Offices (Tel. 3-688131 and 3-625514) now remain open during the lunch hour from 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MONG KOK

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New traffic arrangements will come into effect in part of Mong Kok this week as a result of road works.

From 8 a.m. on Thursday (July 26) the section of Nelson Street between Tong Mi Road and Canton Road will be temporarily re-routed from two way to one way eastbound for a period of about six months.

Westbound traffic on this section of Nelson Street will be diverted through Canton Road, Mongkok Road and Tong Mi Road.

The temporary re-routing is necessary for drainage and road works to be carried out at the junction of Nelson Street and Tong Mi Road.

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NEW JURY LIST TO BE POSTED

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A list of new jurors will be posted at the Supreme Court for a period of 14 days from next Monday (July 30).

The Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mr. J.R. Oliver, said today that during this time any person can apply in writing seeking the removal or posting of his name or the name of some other person.

It will then be up to the Registrar to decide whether the list is to be altered.

The jury list will be posted on the notice board near the lift inside the south-west entrance to the Supreme Court building.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN SHAU KEI WAN

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Three pre-war buildings in Shau Kei Wan -- 79, 81 and 83 Shaukiwan Main Street East -- were today declared dangerous by the Building Authority.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these two and three-storey buildings were inspected following the partial roof collapse of 77 Shaukiwan Main Street East, which was subsequently closed under an emergency closure order on the 11th of this month.

He said there is a risk of collapse as the timber work is in an advanced state of decay and there are many areas of defective brickwork which have rendered the buildings dangerous.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on August 14 were posted today.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.