



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1992

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1992

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CONTINUING PRUDENCE IN RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE
LENDING NEEDED: BANKING COMMISSIONER

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, MR DAVID CARSE, TODAY (TUESDAY) ADVISED AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS OF THE NEED FOR CONTINUING PRUDENCE IN RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING.

THIS WAS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF RECENT SUGGESTIONS THAT SOME AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS MIGHT BE PLANNING TO RELAX THE LOAN-TO-VALUATION RATIOS USED IN ASSESSING LOAN APPLICATIONS.

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, A NUMBER OF MAJOR BANKS TOOK THE LEAD IN REDUCING THEIR LOAN-TO-VALUATION RATIOS TO 70 PER CENT. THIS ARRANGEMENT SPREAD QUICKLY TO OTHER AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS.

THESE EFFORTS BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS HAVE PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS. THE RATE OF GROWTH OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LENDING APPEARS TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN IN THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1991. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT THE OVERHEATING IN THE MARKET, WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE BANKS' MORE CAUTIOUS STANCE, HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

IT WILL BE A MATTER FOR INDIVIDUAL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS TO DECIDE WHEN IT IS PRUDENT TO RELAX THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS THE COMMISSIONER'S VIEW THAT SUCH A RELAXATION WOULD BE PREMATURE AT PRESENT. HE ADVISES THEREFORE THAT AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS SHOULD MAINTAIN THEIR MORE CAUTIOUS STANCE UNTIL IT IS CLEAR THAT THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET HAS STABILISED.

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FIVE MORE MEN FOUND POSITIVE FOR HIV TEST

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FIVE MORE MEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST DECEMBER, BRINGING TO 266 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV INFECTED, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

OF THE 266 CASES, 59 WERE CONFIRMED CASES OF AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME) AT THE END OF DECEMBER, SAME AS THE PRECEDING MONTH.

SO FAR, 39 AIDS PATIENTS HAVE DIED AND 20 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 266 HIV INFECTED, 60 WERE HAEMOPHILIACS, 175 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, FIVE WERE DRUG ABUSERS, AND THREE ACQUIRED INFECTION THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FOR THE REMAINING 23, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION, HE ADDED.

/UNDER THE

UNDER THE AIDS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 221,166 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO THE END OF LAST YEAR, 1,008,474 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 17 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

查原病抗體檢驗

AIDS Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing
病毒組 檢驗室
Virus Unit, Department of Health

	Apr 85-Nov 91		Dec 91		Total	
	No. tested*	No. +ve tested*	No. tested*	No. +ve tested*	No. tested*	No. +ve tested*
經由政府診所及醫院轉介 Referrals from Govt. hospitals and clinics	24537	103	614	3	25151	106
經由私家醫生及補助醫院轉介 Referrals from private practitioners and subvented hospitals	2381	51	32	1	2413	52
前鋒社層衛生科諮詢求診人次 Attendances at social hygiene clinics	183208	45	2195	1	185403	46
血友病患者 Haemophiliacs	553	60	3	0	556	60
濫用靜脈注射毒品者 IV drug abusers	6261	1	87	0	6348	1
經由家庭計劃指導員轉介 Referrals from Family Planning Association	236	0	1	0	237	0
健康護理人員 Health care personnel	1020	0	38	0	1058	0

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TOTAL 218196 260 2970 5 221166 265

* This indicates the number of specimens and not persons as tests are repeated for certain individuals.

	Aug 85-Nov 91		Dec 91		Total	
	No. tested	No. +ve tested	No. tested	No. +ve tested	No. tested	No. +ve tested
香港紅十字會輸血服務 Hong Kong Red Cross Blood transfusion Service	992410	17	16064	0	1008474	17

Department of Health
January 1992

LEGCO TO MEET TOMORROW

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 10 BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

FOUR OF THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATES ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1992 AND THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

DEBATES ON THE OTHER SIX BILLS WILL BE RESUMED AND EACH IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE THE NOISE CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO.5) BILL 1991, THE STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO.4) BILL 1991, THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

THE HON SELINA CHOW WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE. THE MOTION READS: "THAT A SELECT COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO REVIEW THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1991 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND TO REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS; AND THAT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES THE COMMITTEE BE AUTHORISED UNDER SECTION 9 (2) OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) ORDINANCE (CAP. 382) TO EXERCISE THE POWERS CONFERRED BY SECTION 9 (1) OF THAT ORDINANCE."

IN ADDITION, THE HON PANG CHUN-HOI WILL MOVE A MOTION ON IMPORTATION OF LABOUR WHICH READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL NOTES WITH CONCERN THE CHANGES WHICH WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE FURTHER LABOUR IMPORTATION TO THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN OUR LABOUR MARKET AND, IN VIEW OF THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY AND INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO FULLY PREPARE FOR THESE CHANGES BY ASSISTING LOCAL WORKERS TO CHANGE THEIR EMPLOYMENT, URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE 'GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME' AND TO SHELVE THE SCHEME FOR THE TIME BEING."

/MEANWHILE, THE

MEANWHILE, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER AND THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY WILL REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT IN AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON "GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT" RAISED BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERIES BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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UNAUTHORISED WORKS AT SHAM SHUI PO TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS ON A BUILDING AT SHAM SHUI PO SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OVER THE FOURTH FLOOR OF 4 YEN CHOW STREET.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 24 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (TUESDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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SPECIAL POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR
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THERE WOULD BE A SPECIAL MAIL DELIVERY AND POSTING BOX COLLECTIONS ON FEBRUARY 6 (THURSDAY), THE THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

HOWEVER, NO DELIVERY OR COLLECTION WOULD BE MADE ON FEBRUARY 4 AND 5, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY AND THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

ALL POST OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

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DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS OPEN FOR APPLICATION

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THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD IS INVITING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN APRIL AND NOVEMBER.

THE FUNDS SHOULD BE USED FOR PROMOTING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AMONG RESIDENTS AND ENHANCING THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, OWNERS CORPORATIONS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN SHAM SHUI PO ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR THE FUNDS TO ORGANISE CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL, SPORTS OR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37 TONKIN STREET.

"COMPLETED FORMS FOR PROGRAMMES TO BE HELD BETWEEN LATE APRIL AND JUNE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 28. THOSE FOR ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 14.

"THE VETTING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS AT ITS MEETINGS ON APRIL 10 AND JUNE 4 RESPECTIVELY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 728 0781.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	28 JAN 92	28 JAN 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q205	Y286
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,282 MN	HKD 540 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.27 PCT	4.78 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.29 PCT	4.80 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 23 PCT	ABOUT 93 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.31 PCT	4.93 PCT

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 3 FEBRUARY 1992 -

TENDER DATE	3 FEB 92	3 FEB 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q206	H257
ISSUE DATE	7 FEB 92	7 FEB 92
MATURITY DATE	6 MAY 92	5 AUG 92
TENOR	89 DAYS	180 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$500 + 100 MN	HK\$200 + 60 MN

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DISCUSSIONS ON BCCHK CONTINUING

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, THE PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR OF BCCHK, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE STILL CONTINUING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE HONG KONG CHINESE BANK AND THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGAL ADVISERS.

HE CONFIRMED IT IS STILL THE INTENTION OF BOTH SIDES, IF POSSIBLE, TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF THE BUSINESS ON SUCH TERMS AS COULD BE AGREED BETWEEN THEM AND APPROVED BY THE COURT.

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CCTV TO MONITOR HONG KONG ISLAND TRAFFIC

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL INSTALL 34 CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS ALONG STRATEGIC LOCATIONS OF THE ROAD NETWORK ON THE NORTHERN SHORE OF HONG KONG ISLAND TO PROVIDE REAL-TIME VISUAL SURVEILLANCE OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE CAMERAS WOULD BE CONNECTED WITH THE HONG KONG AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) SYSTEM WHICH CONTROLS A TOTAL OF ABOUT 160 TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

A \$10.3 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED. IT ALSO INVOLVES THE LAYING OF ASSOCIATED CABLES AND INSTALLING EQUIPMENT IN THE ATC CENTRE AT HARBOUR BUILDING IN CENTRAL.

"UPON COMPLETION OF THE WORKS IN LATE 1992, PROMPT RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC CONDITIONS BY MEANS OF VISUAL SURVEILLANCE CAN BE MADE, THUS IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW AND OPTIMISING UTILISATION OF THE LIMITED ROAD CAPACITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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PUBLIC ADVISED NOT TO CUT TREES AND PLANTS

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THE PUBLIC WERE TODAY (TUESDAY) ADVISED NOT TO CUT TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR DECORATIVE USE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD.

A COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR LAI CHING-WAI, EXPLAINED THAT CUTTING TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE FORESTS AND COUNTRYSIDE ORDINANCE.

"CONTRAVENTIONS TO THE ORDINANCE MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC IS BECOMING MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THE COUNTRYSIDE, SIX PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED LAST YEAR FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF PROTECTED PLANTS," HE SAID.

MR LAI SAID WILD FLOWERS AND TREES WERE BEST APPRECIATED IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT AND SHOULD NOT BE PICKED OR CUT.

HE CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO REPORT SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO THE NEAREST COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE -----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	27.1.92	1,100
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	28.1.92	-400*
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-100
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+250**
* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED	-500 MN	
OTHER FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED	+100 MN	
** O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED ON 29 JANUARY 92		
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.6	*+0.2*	28.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.88 PCT	22 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.32	5.54
1 MONTH	4.48 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.22 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.22 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.75 PCT					
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,916 MN						
CLOSED 28 JANUARY 1992						

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