



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, January 19, 1974

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Release time: 3.00 p.m.

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MORE FOOTPATH FOR TAI TAM AREA

Part Of Countryside Recreational Development Programme

A mile-long concrete footpath, linking Pottinger Gap and Tai Tam Gap, is to be built shortly on Hong Kong Island as part of a plan to provide picnickers and hikers with better country paths.

The plan also calls for the provision of a 20,000 square feet turfed area.

In conjunction with the road work, drainage channels and cross road culverts will be constructed.

Construction work is expected to begin in March and will take about nine months to complete.

With the completion of this one, there will be three footpaths in the Tai Tam area. One of the other two near Quarry Bay was completed in August last year and the other, linking Quarry Gap and Tai Lam dam, is being built and is expected to be ready for use this summer.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today that an additional five miles of country footpath will be built within the next two years in the Tai Lam area.

"Barbecue pits, tables and benches and toilet facilities will be provided along the footpath," he said.

The project is part of a five-year countryside recreational development programme recommended by the New Territories and Hong Kong Island Advisory Committees for Recreational Development and Nature Conservation.

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The programme aims to provide easily accessible picnic spots with various facilities for the use of large numbers of visitors.

Other projects planned on Hong Kong Island include picnic spots in Aberdeen, Mount Davis and Wong Nei Chung.

Country parks have also been planned in various parts of the New Territories including Lantau Island, the Kowloon Hills, Shing Mun and Hebe Haven.

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PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARRIVAL OF LORD MOUNTBATTEN

Note to Editors: Lord Mountbatten will arrive in Hong Kong on Thursday, January 24 on his way to China on a private visit at the invitation of the Chinese Government. He is making the visit in his capacity as President of the International Council of the United World Colleges.

Special arrangements have been made for photographers to be escorted out to the tarmac to cover the arrival of Lord Mountbatten. He is arriving at Kai Tak at about 4.15 p.m. by flight BA/916. G.I.S. officers will be present to assist the press.

Special badges will be issued and photographers are requested to be at the Press Room, Airport Terminal Building by 3.30 p.m.

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EXTENSION OF EXPORT QUOTA CONTROLS ON PLASTICS

The extension of export quota controls to a second category of plastic raw materials was announced today (January 19) by the Commerce and Industry Department.

The item concerned, **polyethylene high density granules, moulding and extrusion compounds**, is shown under group 581 of the Hong Kong Imports and Exports Classification List.

Another item in the same group - **polypropylene** - has already been made subject to export quota controls.

The local plastics industry uses substantial quantities of both items for the manufacture of household products.

A Commerce and Industry Department spokesman said that export quota controls were being extended to high density polyethylene because the quantities licensed for export since January 1 this year are substantially in excess of the monthly average for 1973.

The export licensing scheme introduced on January 1 covers 55 different categories of plastic raw materials.

"We are monitoring the quantities licensed for export in each category," the spokesman said.

"Further quota controls may be introduced if re-exports show significant proportionate increases over last year's monthly averages."

The issue of export licences for high density polyethylene has been suspended until quotas have been calculated and notified to the trade.

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RECORD NUMBER OF MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN 1973

The number of marriages registered in 1973 reached a new record total of 30,436, being 3,172 more than the previous record of 27,264 in 1972, the Registrar General, Mr. W. Hume, announced today.

These figures apply to all marriages in 1973, which was the second full year when marriages might be contracted only in accordance with the Marriage Ordinance.

"The record total of registered marriages included 2,838 marriages between parties already previously married in other ways as compared with 2,795 marriages of this category in 1972. Excluding these 'remarriages', the total number of registered marriages increased by 3,129 from 24,469 to 27,598," Mr. Hume added.

The new record may have been partly due to the fact that the current lunar year, which began on February 3 last year, is a normal year with a First Day of Spring (Lap Chun) whereas the preceding lunar year had no First Day of Spring and was therefore a blind year not considered auspicious for marriage by Chinese. However, the major factor contributing to the increase is believed to be the structure of the population, which has a growing number of persons within the more popular age groups for marriage, i.e. 21 to 24 for women and 25 to 29 for men.

There was an increase in the number of church marriages in 1973, the total being 2,776 as compared with 2,258 in 1972. However, most of the registered marriages were, as usual, celebrated at the marriage registries, the total of such marriages reaching a new record of 27,660, an increase of 2,654 over the 1972 figure.

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In the New Territories, registered marriages increased significantly with a total of 3,715 marriages celebrated, up by 770 or 26 per cent as compared with 2,945 in 1972. There are now four full-time registries and fourteen part-time registries operating in the New Territories.

The two principal marriage registries at the City Hall and the Kowloon Government Offices remain the most popular registries with 43.6 per cent of all registry marriages celebrated there. Another popular registry was the San Po Kong Registry, where 2,904 marriages took place during the year.

The City Hall Marriage Registry continued to operate on Sunday mornings during the year and a total of 531 Sunday morning marriages were performed. In many cases, Sunday was chosen because it happened to be a lucky day according to the Chinese calendar; in others simply because of convenience for work or other reasons.

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OPENING HOURS OF OUT-PATIENT CLINICS

Six government out-patient clinics will remain open on Friday, January 25 from 9 a.m to 1 p.m.

They are the Violet Peel Polyclinic and the Shau Kei Wan Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island, the Kwun Tong and Yau Ma Tei Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Clinics and the Robert Black Health Centre in Kowloon and the Lady Trench Polyclinic in Tsuen Wan.

All government out-patient clinics and evening clinics, other than those listed above, will be closed during the Chinese New Year holidays from January 23 to 25 inclusive.

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5,400 PEOPLE HELPED TO OBTAIN WORK

By Local Employment Service

The Local Employment Service of the Labour Department helped place 5,434 people in employment last year - an increase of 12 per cent over the number placed in 1972.

The head of the Employment Division, Mrs. Soo Mok Sau-ha said the increase in placement was due to the fact that more employers were making use of the service.

"In the fourth quarter of 1973 alone," she said, "the Service introduced 3,776 job-seekers to employers for selection interview, and 980 of them were successfully placed in employment."

Of the 980 applicants, 418 were placed in commerce, 223 in industry, 118 in Government Service, 139 in the public utilities and 82 in other establishments.

"Five of the successful applicants received an initial salary of \$1,000 or more a month and 486 started work at monthly salaries of \$500 - \$999," Mrs. Soo said.

Currently there are 7,302 job-seekers registered with the Service including the young and inexperienced who are looking for their first jobs, university graduates as well as those seeking better prospects. According to Mrs. Soo, the Service at the moment has over 200 vacancies on its books, ranging from executives to office boys in commerce, engineers to general workers in industry and artisans to messengers in the civil service.

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"The service is provided free to employers and job-seekers alike. Job-seekers are invited to register personally at any branch of the Service, bringing with them their identity cards and a passport-size photograph. Employers with vacancies which they wish to fill are invited to telephone any office of the Service," Mrs. Soo said.

The Local Employment Service operates at the following addresses:-

- (a) New Rodney Block,
99 Queensway,
Ground floor,
Hong Kong.

Tel. 5-270276,
5-282523 Ext. 70 & 77

- (b) Canton Road Government Offices,
Fourth floor,
Kowloon.

Tel. 3-688131 & 3-675514

- (c) Post Office Building,
First floor,
Un Chau Street,
Shamshuipo,
Kowloon.

Tel. 3-875837

- (d) Kwun Tong District Branch Office Building,
Second floor,
Tung Yan Street,
Kwun Tong,
Kowloon.

Tel. 3-896539

- (e) Chartered Bank Building,
Third floor,
Sha Tsui Road,
Tsuen Wan,
New Territories.

Tel. 12-426722

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PASSING-OUT PARADE

Nine University Graduates To Become Immigration Officers

Nine university graduates will become fully-qualified Immigration Officers on Monday (January 21) after completing an intensive training course.

On that day, the Deputy Colonial Secretary, Mr. Michael Clinton, will take the salute at their passing-out parade and present a shield to the best recruit.

The parade will be a special event for the Immigration Department because it will be the first time that an organised group of university graduates completes the induction course and joins the work of the department.

The six-month course includes subjects such as immigration laws and procedures, visa system, and the organisation and work of the government.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the parade.

It will take place at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Parade Ground, Sports Road, Happy Valley, on Monday (January 21), beginning at 9.30 a.m.

Two of the Immigration Officers, one of them the best recruit, will be available for interviews after the parade.

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VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT TO BE EXPANDED

Four new court rooms will soon be built in the Victoria District Court, bringing its total number of court rooms to 10.

The additional court rooms are part of a project to carry out alterations and additions to the existing court building on Battery Path in Central.

Three new cells will also be built in the basement, in addition to the two existing cells.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said sizes and designs of the new court rooms and cells would basically be similar to the present ones.

Three of the four additional court rooms will be on the top floor of the three-storey building and the remaining one on the ground floor.

Work is expected to start by the end of next month and will take about three months to complete.

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HELPING DISABLED FIND JOBS

The use of radio slogans is still proving useful in helping disabled people obtain employment, Mr. Chan Shiu-wing, Officer-in-charge of the Social Welfare Department's Job Placement Unit said today.

"Although the response is not as high now as when we first began using slogans in October last year, we are still getting calls from prospective employers who are interested in giving handicapped people jobs," he said.

Reviewing last month's job placement situation, Mr. Chan said his unit has received eight enquiries for the supply of apprentices or workers.

"Though this is not as many as we would like, it is still encouraging and I would like to thank radio stations for their assistance in broadcasting the slogans for us," he said.

Mr. Chan said during the month his unit had successfully placed 21 disabled people in jobs. Among them were a mentally retarded person, a cured TB patient, two blind, three cured mentally ill patients, four deaf and 10 crippled.

They were engaged in machine sewing, assembling, thread trimming, packing, cleansing work, general factory work and watch keeping.

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CRASH OF R.H.K.A.A.F. PLANE

Board Of Inquiry Completes Investigation

An official inquiry into the crash of a Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force Musketeer aircraft on September 27 last year has been completed.

The Musketeer aircraft crashed into the hillside on the northern slope of the Pat Sin Range that afternoon while on exercise with the army.

The pilot, Flying Officer, M.A. Wightman, who was the only passenger at that time, was not hurt.

According to the investigation report by a Board of Inquiry, set up by the R.H.K.A.A.F., no evidence of any defect or malfunction -- both mechanical or electrical -- was found on subsequent examination of the aircraft, which could have possibly caused the accident.

The conclusion was that the accident was caused by down drafting conditions that could have occurred over the area of the accident in the weather conditions at that time.

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