



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, February 22, 1974

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Three-month operation to groove airport runway surface to ensure landing safety	1
Computerised driving licences to be issued	4
Four buildings in Central District declared dangerous	5
Civil Aid Services to hold annual exercise	6
Kwun Tong Community Centre celebrates tenth anniversary ...	8
Four lots of Crown land put up for sale by tender	9
Official opening of careers seminar tomorrow	9
Important role of ferry service emphasised	10
Proposed minibus stops turned down to avoid traffic congestion	12
Passing-out parade of prisons officers	13

Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

Friday, February 22, 1974

.. 1 ..

GROOVING NEW SURFACE OF AIRPORT RUNWAY

Work To Take Three Months

Work on grooving the new surface of the runway at Kai Tak is to start early this summer.

The decision to groove the surface and to begin this operation as soon as possible follows a series of exhaustive tests conducted by the Civil Engineering Office of Public Works Department in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Department.

A P.W.D. spokesman explained today that the object of the tests was to examine a range of technical options on methods, materials and timings and so arrive at the most effective means of improving the frictional characteristics of the new surface.

"A vast amount of data was gathered, including technical information from other international airports.

"The tests at Kai Tak included trial grooving of limited areas and experiments with grit-blasting as a possible short-term roughening process. These were supplemented by Mu-meter tests, which take the form of towing a Mu-meter at varying speeds and in varying weather conditions in order to measure the co-efficient of friction.

"The time and effort spent on these tests, which were carried out by consultants under P.W.D. supervision, have now amply proved their worth. The answer that has emerged is a clear indication that grooving is the best solution, and we now know the most effective way of timing and phasing this operation."

Work on

February 22, 1974

- 2 -

Work on the initial phase of grooving is expected to start in May. This work will last about three months. The estimated cost is about \$1.3 million.

These grooves will be so spaced as to allow supplementary grooves to be cut in between them at a later stage should this prove necessary.

Much of this initial work will have to be carried out at night, and this will mean the closure of the runway for part of the night during the three-month period.

The spokesman recalled that the overlay of the runway surface was completed last August. "The old surface had been grooved for the last 18 months of its operational life.

"It is impossible to groove a new overlay immediately because the surface is not sufficiently hard, and it is very important to get the timing and phasing right in order to avoid working abortively on premature grooving which might subsequently break up and possibly lead to prolonged and complete closure of the runway. Hence the importance of the tests.

"We are very satisfied with the quality of the new surface. As regards its frictional characteristics, the Mu-meter tests show that by international standards the runway rates as good in dry weather and average in very wet weather.

"This means that the frictional standard in wet weather may be marginally lower than that of the old runway surface, but against this must be set an improvement in the crossfall drainage standard and the elimination of puddles or 'birdbath' areas (where shallow layers of water gathered) on the old runway."

/A spokesman

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 3 -

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department said that the Department fully concurred with the decision to groove and was pleased that the technical questions had been solved. "We have informed the airlines and the pilots' association of the decision, and naturally they are pleased about it."

The spokesman commented: "It is impossible to make a runway too safe. Which is why we welcome the decision to start grooving as soon as possible."

He concluded: "These works, combined with the fact that the new overlay is daily becoming harder and rougher with use, are going to give us a very fine surface by any standards."

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 4 -

COMPUTER DRIVING LICENCES TO BE ISSUED

Driving licences produced by computer will be issued by the Transport Department from next Monday (February 25).

However, provisional driving licences and instructors' permits will continue to be issued in the present format.

During the initial stages, the computer licence will be inserted in the existing booklet-type licence.

This temporary measure will continue until the enactment, within the next two months or so, of amending legislation which will enable the new licence to be laminated.

Once the legislation is approved, the laminated licence will be similar to the Hong Kong identity card, and will be more convenient to carry than the present one.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said today that the new computer-produced driving licence being introduced from Monday will not be issued over the counter. It will be sent to an applicant by recorded postal delivery after it has been data-processed.

"Applicants should not, therefore, expect the issue or return of their licence at the counter. This new procedure has been adopted as a counter-check on the address of the person holding or applying for a licence," the spokesman added.

For this reason, applicants must ensure that all details on the forms are correct. At the same time they are encouraged to send in their applications by post rather than through personal attendance at the licensing offices.

Applications for renewal of driving licences and changes of particulars on the forms recently introduced can be sent by post or in person to the Transport Department's Licensing Offices at 2 Murray Road, ground floor, Hong Kong, or Pui Ching Road, ground floor, Kowloon.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 5 -

BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared 177 and 179 Wing Lok Street to be in a dangerous condition.

It also declared 181 Wing Lok Street and 17 Bonham Strand West liable to become dangerous.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these four storey pre-war buildings were inspected during the course of planned surveys in the area.

It was discovered that the brick-work in the party-wall between 177 and 179 Wing Lok Street was severely bulged, crushed and fractured.

It is considered that as there is imminent danger of a local collapse, precautionary shoring should be erected immediately and an application for closure is to be made.

Owing to defects in the party-wall between 179 and 181 Wing Lok Street it is further considered that there is a risk of failure leading to collapse during or after the demolition of the adjoining buildings.

Therefore closure is considered necessary and the subsequent demolition would involve removal of the access staircase to 17 Bonham Strand West.

Notices of intention to apply in the Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on March 22, 1974 for closure orders on all four buildings were posted today.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 6 -

C.A.S. HOLDS ANNUAL EXERCISE

The Civil Aid Services will hold its annual exercise this Sunday (February 24) to ensure that volunteers' training is up-to-date and that they are fully prepared and ready for any emergency which may arise.

Due to the fuel economy drive, the colony-wide exercise will be reduced to a regional one held simultaneously on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon, with a limited movement of vehicular traffic.

The exercise, code-named "Yellow Stone", is set in Hong Kong against a background of simulated events during the tropical cyclone season.

After seven days of continuous rainfall, there result many isolated landslides, collapse of old tenement houses, flooding and road blockages.

The Civil Aid Services has been alerted to be ready to render assistance, if necessary, at very short notice.

On February 24, a further torrential downpour occurs, causing severe damage to property and posing a threat of landslides. The Commissioner, C.A.S., mobilises 600 officers and members in the early hours of the morning to assist in the rescue of victims from a large landslide which has occurred in a squatter area near Wong Nai Chung Reservoir, and in a squatter area near the Kowloon Reservoir.

/Many huts

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 7 -

Many huts have been swept away in a landslide of mud, earth and rock. About 100 people are unaccounted for and are either trapped, injured or lost.

All Warden Zones in Hong Kong and Kowloon have been alerted and sections of Wardens move to the site to begin rescue work under the Mobile Tactical Command Unit. The heavy Rescue Units have been deployed in the New Territories to assist in a similar exercise in Tsuen Wan district, and are not available for use during Exercise Yellow Stone in the urban area.

.....

Note to Editors: You are invited to send a representative to cover the exercise at the site at Wong Nai Chung Reservoir. A Civil Aid Services press liaison officer will meet members of the Press on the site at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday to brief them on the situation and the rescue methods being employed.

For further enquiries, please contact Mr. Chan Chun-ying, Principal Training Officer of the C.A.S. on telephone 5-778241, ext. 73.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 8 -

COMMUNITY CENTRE CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Social Welfare Department's Community Centre in Kwun Tong marks its 10th Anniversary tomorrow (February 23).

The Community Centre staff will be holding an anniversary celebration at which Mr. Thomas Lee, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, will address the gathering. He will also present certificates of appreciation and souvenirs to volunteers and members of the centre.

Winners of various competitions organised by the Centre during the past year will also receive their prizes which will be presented by the City District Officer (Kwun Tong), Mr. Michael Sze, and the Divisional Superintendent of Police (Kwun Tong), Mr. Patrick O'Regan.

In addition, the money which was raised by the Centre's members in last Sunday's "Walk for a million" will be handed over to a representative of the Community Chest.

Some 500 guests comprising local leaders of the district, heads of schools and members of the Centre's council have been invited.

.....

Note to Editors: You are welcome to cover the Centre's 10th Anniversary Celebration tomorrow. It will begin at 3.00 p.m. The Kwun Tong Community Centre is located in Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 9 -

CROWN LAND SALES

Four lots of Crown land in Hung Hom and Diamond Hill have been put up for sale by tender.

The sites have a total area of more than 40,000 square feet, and are all earmarked for funeral parlour purposes.

The two sites in Hung Hom are located off Winslow Street, and those at Diamond Hill are situated off Po Kwong Village Road.

Closing date for the acceptance of tenders is 12 noon on March 29 (Friday).

Forms of tender, tender notices and condition of sale may be obtained from the Crown Lands and Survey Offices on the 19th floor of Murray Building, Garden Road and on the 10th floor of the Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road.

Sales plans can also be inspected.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CAREERS SEMINAR

Note to Editors: A two-day careers seminar will be officially opened by the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Lao Mou-chi, at the Kwun Tong Government Technical Secondary School, 90 Kung Lok Road, Kwun Tong tomorrow (Saturday) at 10.30 a.m.

You are invited to send a reporter to cover the opening ceremony.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Friday, February 22, 1974

-- 10 --

FERRIES CONTINUE TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE

The ferry companies have not been overlooked in the government's long-term planning even though ferries do not require flyovers and underpasses to cross each others' paths without collision.

"Waterborne transport will always play a vital role in our development," the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. Denis Bray, said today at the launching of the newest Hong Kong and Yaumatei ferry at the Hong Kong Shipyard in Tai Kok Tsui.

"We must remember that this harbour is the reason why Hong Kong is here in the first place," he said, "and its strategic importance has not changed one whit.

"It is in itself a ready-made and comparatively inexpensive highway for fast communications."

He said the cross-harbour tunnel had not taken away all the traffic from the ferry companies, and he saw that far from nearing the end of their usefulness, the ferries were about to embark upon a "whole new era of activity."

The new ferry "Man Kung" is the longest (210 feet) vessel so far commissioned by the Company.

At a full-load tonnage of 1,322, it holds about 90 cars on both decks. It will ply on the Jordan Road -- Jubilee Street route.

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Bray's speech are distributed separately through the G.I.S. press boxes.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 11 -

ADDITIONAL P.L.B. STOPS IN CENTRAL RULED OUT

The government, after careful consideration, has decided that it is not practicable to approve the introduction of two additional public light bus stops in the Central area.

The suggestion for the two stops -- one in Ice House Street and the other in Queen's Road Central west of Jubilee Street -- was put forward by representatives of mini-bus associations at their last meeting with the Transport Department.

The Chief Transport Officer for Public Transport, Mr. Peter Miller, told the representatives at another meeting today that the suggested Ice House Street stand was ruled out after a detailed traffic survey was carried out.

The survey revealed that the use of this section of the road by mini-buses would create severe traffic congestion at the point where Lower Albert Road joins Wyndham Street.

During peak hours, Wyndham Street is already heavily choked with traffic and the problem would become intolerable if mini-buses were allowed into the area.

As for the suggested stand in Queen's Road, near Jubilee Street, Mr. Miller said that this was turned down because of its close proximity to the existing mini-bus stand in Wellington Street, only a few yards away.

He pointed out that since the introduction of the third stage of the Central District Traffic Arrangements early last month, there had been a big improvement in traffic flow in the Central area. This was particularly noticeable in Queen's Road Central, Des Voeux Road Central and Connaught Road Central.

/The Stanley

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 12 -

The Stanley Street route for mini-buses will be improved with the introduction soon of restrictions on the loading and unloading of goods vehicles during certain hours.

Mr. Miller also reiterated that the existing PLB stand in Des Voeux Road Central next to Statue Square will be closed within the next month or so.

The PLB representatives were first told of this move last year as the site will be needed for future works connected with the mass transit scheme.

However, to compensate for the loss of Statue Square, the Transport Department is to open up a new section of the mini-bus stand near Connaught Centre. This will be opened as soon as the Statue Square stand is closed, and will be capable of holding some 60 PLB's.

Mr. Miller added that access to this stand is likely to be improved in the near future by new traffic routing.

The Connaught Centre stand and the one near the vehicular ferry pier, both of which have only been in operation for about two months, are proving quite popular.

The mini-bus representatives were also informed of another new arrangement to reduce congestion. From next Friday (March 1) no PLB's, except those holding a permit, will be allowed to travel westwards along Peak Road from its junction with Magazine Gap Road.

This measure is necessary to eliminate the serious congestion at the Upper Peak Tram Terminus caused by mini-buses plying for hire in the area on Sundays and public holidays.

The PLB association representatives were first told of the decision several months ago.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

Friday, February 22, 1974

- 13 -

PASSING-OUT PARADE

Note to Editors: A passing-out parade for about 100
prisons officers will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow
(Saturday) at the Prisons Department Staff
Training Institute at Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley.

Mr. David Hampton, Inspector of Prisons,
will inspect the parade and address the recruits.

You are invited to have the occasion
covered. Copies of Mr. Hampton's speech in
English will be boxed at the G.I.S. tomorrow.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Friday, February 22, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Friday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Now -- old crop	Good	1.84
-- new crop	Good	
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	1.78
Po Ngai	-	-
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>	Good	1.74
100% Whole	-	-
10-15% Broken	-	-
A1 Super Extra	-	-
A1 Super	Good	1.32/1.42
Whole Glutinous	Good	1.82
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.74
<u>Australian Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	-	-

/Supplies and

Friday, February 22, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	1.6	0.6	1.2
White cabbage	Normal	0.8	0.2	0.5
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.6	0.15	0.4
Chinese Kale	Normal	0.8	0.2	0.5
Spring onion	Good	0.8	0.2	0.5
Spinach	Normal	0.7	0.2	0.5
Water cress	Normal	0.9	0.2	0.55
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.7	0.2	0.45
Tomato	Limited	1.6	0.5	1.0

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300