



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, January 3, 1974

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
New transport arrangements for commuters in Central to start this Sunday .....	1
Preventive Service had busy time last year .....	4
Special education centre for handicapped children opened ....	6
First phase of 1974 anti-polio campaign launched .....	8
Fund raising concert tomorrow by Wong Tai Sin children's choir .....	9
Kowloon Tsai fire victims receive \$55,000 allowance .....	10
Finding jobs for disabled difficult .....	11
Controller of Posts retires after 37 years service .....	12

\*\*\*\*\*

Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 1 -

NEW TRAFFIC SCHEME TO BEAT CONGESTION IN CENTRAL

\*\*\*\*\*

New public transport arrangements will be introduced in Central from Sunday (January 6) under the second stage of a scheme to improve traffic flow in the district.

Basically, the scheme involves re-routing of various bus routes and shifting of public light bus stands to less congested areas in an effort to keep traffic moving in heavily used roads in Central, while at the same time providing adequate and convenient pick-up points for commuters.

At the same time, goods vehicles will also be prohibited from loading and unloading in Pottinger Street during the peak hours of 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Under the new arrangements for public light buses, commuters travelling to Kennedy Town, Wah Fu and Aberdeen should board either at the PLB terminus at the Jubilee Street Ferry Concourse or at the pick-up points at Wellington Street and Stanley Street.

Those going to Causeway Bay, North Point, Quarry Bay, Shau Kei Wan and Chai Wan, should board at the PLB terminus at Central Reclamation (between Star Ferry and Central Bus Station), or at the pick-up points at Des Voeux Road at Statue Square.

The existing public light bus stand at Wing Lok Street, between Des Voeux Road Central and Rumsey Street, will be cancelled, and public light buses will not be permitted to pick up or set down passengers between 7 a.m. and midnight on the following sections of roads:-

/Queensway .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 2 -

Queensway between Cotton Tree Drive and Garden Road; Queen's Road Central between Garden Road and On Wo Lane; Stanley Street between D'Aguilar Street and House No. 18A; Wellington Street between Wyndham Street and Cochrane Street; Murray Road between Chater Road and Queensway; Jackson Road between Connaught Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central; Pedder Street between Connaught Road Central and Queen's Road Central; and D'Aguilar Street between Queen's Road Central and Wellington Street.

Public light buses will also be prohibited from entering Des Voeux Road Central between Jackson Road and Morrison Street, except for the eastbound carriageway between Jackson Road and Pedder Street; Jervois Street between Cleverly Street and Morrison Street; Club Street; Ice House Street between Connaught Road Central and Chater Road; Douglas Street; Pottinger Street between Connaught Road Central and Queen's Road Central; Man Wah Lane between Connaught Road Central and Wing Lok Street; Hillier Street between Connaught Road Central and Wing Lok Street; Cleverly Street between Connaught Road Central and Wing Lok Street; Morrison Street between Connaught Road Central and Queen's Road Central; and Wing Lok Street between Des Voeux Road Central and Rumsey Street.

Meanwhile, the China Motor Bus Company will be starting five new bus routes in Central from Sunday.

These are: Route 10A running between Central Bus Station and North Point Station at five-minute intervals during peak hours; route 20A from Pottinger Street (North) to Quarry Bay at five-minute intervals during peak hours; route 25 from Central Bus Station to Tin Hau Temple Road every 10-15 minutes; route 25A running from Central Bus Station to Causeway Bay at 10-minute intervals during peak hours, and route 20 operating between Pottinger Street (South) and Shau Kei Wan. ....

/The fares .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 3 -

The fares on all these new routes will be 30 cents.

At the same time, westbound CMB routes 5B and 10 will be re-routed via Des Voeux Road Central, instead of Queen's Road Central between Garden Road and Jubilee Street.

Commuters from Central also have a choice of travelling to their destinations by boarding trams along Des Voeux Road Central.

Other traffic re-arrangements coming into force on Sunday include the re-routing of the section of Pottinger Street, between Des Voeux Road Central and Connaught Road Central, to one-way for southbound traffic. At the junction of Pottinger Street and Des Voeux Road Central, no right turn or left turn traffic movement from Pottinger Street into Des Voeux Road will be permitted.

Goods vehicles will be prohibited from loading or unloading in the sections of Pottinger Street, between Queen's Road Central and Connaught Road Central, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4 .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 4 -

### 1973 A BUSY YEAR FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICE

\*\*\*\*\*

Nearly \$6 million worth of dangerous drugs were seized by officers of the Preventive Service in 1973 and more than 3,800 people were arrested in connection with narcotics offences.

The quantity of drugs seized and confiscated during the year totalled 584.6 kilograms of raw and prepared opium, heroin, cannabis, and barbitone, and 215 litres of opium solution.

Of the 3,857 people arrested, 3,671 were connected with smoking or trafficking in narcotics.

One of the more noteworthy seizures occurred on January 16 when Preventive Officers smashed a highly organised drugs storage and distribution centre inside the Walled City.

On that occasion, the officers were forced to fire at a mob which attempted to retrieve the large quantities of opium and heroin seized and to rescue two female traffickers.

The two women were subsequently sentenced to 18 and 12 months' imprisonment and fined \$20,000 each, or 12 months' jail.

Two days later, on January 18, officers surrounded the Luen Shan Farm at Yuen Long and after a search located one of the largest heroin manufactories ever discovered. A large quantity of No. 4 heroin undergoing the various refining processes, barbitone and manufacturing equipment were seized.

The manufacturer was arrested at the scene and subsequently sentenced in the Supreme Court to 10 years in prison.

/In actions .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 5 -

In actions taken to protect revenue, 116 people were arrested for various offences against the Dutiable Commodities Ordinance while a further 550 people were summonsed for licensing infringements.

Sixty-one illicit stills were discovered in rural and suburban areas and 2,750 gallons of Chinese type spirit and alcohol were subsequently confiscated.

Adulterated brandy, whisky and gin amounting to the equivalent of 1,512 quart bottles were also seized with 13 arrests made for offences relating to adulteration.

Mid-1973 saw a sudden upsurge in the smuggling of gold and 39 arriving passengers at Kai Tak airport were arrested for illegal carrying of gold. Three others, including a local businessman, were also arrested for the same offence.

In all, a total of 108.55 Kg. of gold with an estimated value of \$2 million was confiscated during the year by Preventive Service Officers.

Significant seizures, were also made by officers engaged in harbour operations. They found 61 tons of rice, worth about \$210,000, on board four freighters from Bangkok.

On another occasion, they seized more than 4,000 watches and watch movements - all cheap imitations of some famous brands - on board a Dutch vessel.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 6 -

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT

For Children With Learning Difficulties

\*\*\*\*\*

Children with learning difficulties can receive a comprehensive educational assessment at the Education Department's Special Education Services Centre at Sai Ying Pun on Hong Kong Island.

They will not have to travel to various centres as a wide range of services is now provided at the Centre which was opened this morning by the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning.

"This is a great help to busy parents," Mr. Canning said in his opening address. "Furthermore, educational specialists concerned with the child can meet together without difficulty to discuss all aspects of the child's problem and to plan appropriate measures to help the child. This ensures that the best of advice is readily available."

The Director said that plans were already in hand to open a second Centre providing a similar range of services in Kowloon.

He urged parents, schools and all those who have dealings with children suspected of handicap or learning difficulties to refer them to the newly opened Centre.

During 1973 over 19,000 children were screened and about 4,000 children were assessed individually by the Department's Special Education Section.

/He said .....

.....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 7 -

He said that the ultimate aim under the Second Development Programme for Special Education was to provide assessment and remedial services for 175,000 children a year.

Under the programme, provision has been made for 14,400 additional places for children in need of special education treatment.

"This will bring the total number of such places to 18,400 by the end of March 1977. It is intended that 4,000 of these places will be in special schools for the severely handicapped, the blind, the deaf, the physically handicapped and the slow-learning.

"Another 10,000 places will be in special classes for the less severely handicapped and 400 places will be in classes operated in hospitals for physically handicapped children undergoing treatment," Mr. Canning said.

He stressed that "in order to ensure that proper use is made of these places and that handicapped children are integrated with ordinary children whenever possible, it is essential that children with learning difficulties should be properly assessed."

In developing the Department's Special Education Services, Mr. Canning said, "we are very glad to have the co-operation of the Medical and Health Department specialist clinics and of the Social Welfare Department."

The Director mentioned two important gifts from the community - a donation in 1967 of \$40,000 from the Rotary Club Island West to meet the cost of a sound proof test chamber for audiological testing at the Centre and today's donation of two sets of group hearing aids from Philips Hong Kong Limited for use in the Centre.

/In thanking .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 8 -

In thanking the company for this generous and public-spirited donation, Mr. Canning said that the "co-operation of the business community of Hong Kong in all aspects of rehabilitation is necessary if handicapped people are to get the chance in life they so badly need."

.....

Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Canning's speech are boxed for collection.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### ANTI-POLIO CAMPAIGN 1974

\*\*\*\*\*

The Medical and Health Department's annual immunisation campaign against poliomyelitis began on January 2, and will last until February 16.

A spokesman explained today that this was merely the first phase of the annual drive. The second phase will begin on March 18, and will continue until the end of April.

Anti-polio vaccine is available free to infants throughout the year at all the department's maternal and child health centres, and the annual campaigns are "intended to remind mothers of the availability of this service, and to take advantage of it."

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 9 -

FUND RAISING CONCERT

\*\*\*\*\*

A fund raising concert by the Wong Tai Sin District Children's Choir will be held tomorrow (Friday) at the City Hall Concert Hall. The money raised will be used for the choir's operating expenses. The choir was established by the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre's Cultural and Recreational Committee a year ago.

"The idea of forming this choir was to promote and strengthen co-operation and liaison among cultural and welfare agencies in the district," said Mr. Chan Fu-sai of Wong Tai Sin Community Centre.

"It also gives children a chance to develop their talent, interest and knowledge in music," he added.

Officiating at the concert, which will last from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., will be Mr. K.W.J. Topley, Director of Social Welfare.

Tickets at \$100, \$50, \$10, \$5 and \$3 will be available at the ticketing office of City Hall from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. tomorrow and from the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre, 104 Ching Tak Street, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon.

Children in the area who want to join the choir should contact its office at the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre in person or telephone either 3-210914 or 3-211313 during office hours.

.....

Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to attend this concert.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10 .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 10 -

\$55,000 DISTRIBUTED TO KOWLOON TSAI FIRE VICTIMS

\*\*\*\*\*

Cash allowance totalling \$55,000 was paid out today (Thursday) to 550 victims of the Christmas Day fire at the Kowloon Tsai Squatter Area, who have been offered public housing units at either Kwai Fong or Lam Tin Estate.

The grants, \$100 for each person, were given out from the Emergency Relief Fund to enable them to re-equip their new homes.

Another 700 people who have also been offered public housing will receive their share tomorrow at the Squatter Control Office at Li Cheng Uk Estate.

Payments of re-accommodation and re-equipment grants will also be made at the same office to 139 people who are only eligible for licensed area sites. Site allocation for them will be carried out on Tuesday (January 8).

Today, some of the families who have been offered public housing moved into Lam Tin and Kwai Fong Estates. Others will move into the two estates next week when intake commences on Monday.

Meanwhile, Housing Department staff are processing the claims of the victims of the Ma Tsai Hang fire last Tuesday.

Screening of the 376 victims for intake into public housing will begin next Monday. Another 27 people who are eligible for resite accommodation will be allowed to re-erect their huts on the site when it has been cleared.

Cash allowance from the Emergency Relief Fund will be paid out to them in the middle of next week.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11 .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 11 -

FINDING JOBS FOR THE DISABLED

\*\*\*\*\*

Applications from disabled people for job assistance went up again in November last year when the Job Placement Unit of Social Welfare Department received 66 applications.

However, the unit is still encountering difficulties in finding jobs for them, according to Mr. Chan Shiu-wing, Officer-in-charge of the Unit. While job openings for unskilled disabled persons were rather limited, there was still a need for skilled workers in some trades such as trained machine sewing workers, he said.

Through its rehabilitation centres the department can provide vocational training to disabled persons to give them a better chance of getting employment, he said, and he urged disabled people to take advantage of this.

For the month under review, the unit successfully found open employments for 25 disabled persons.

They comprised 12 crippled, eight deaf, four cured mentally ill patients and one mentally retarded.

They were engaged as a junior clerk, a painter, apprentices, a watchman, cleansing workers, machine sewing workers, assemblers, thread trimmers, packers and general factory workers.

- - - - C - - - -

/12 .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

- 12 -

CONTROLLER OF POSTS RETIRING

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Li Yun-gun, Senior Controller of Posts, will be retiring shortly after more than 37 years with the Post Office.

On behalf of his colleagues, the Postmaster General, Mr. M. Addi, will present him with a gift on Sunday (January 6) at the Post Office Recreation Club in Caroline Hill.

Mr. Li first joined the Post Office as a Postal Clerk in 1936. He was promoted to Superintendent of Mails in 1952, Assistant Controller of Posts in 1957, and Controller of Posts in 1966. He assumed his present post of Senior Controller in 1970. In 1959, he won a government merit trip to U.K.

He was awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

.....

Note to Editors: You are invited to have the presentation covered. It will take place at 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Post Office Recreation Club.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Thursday, January 3, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

\*\*\*\*\*

The following prices were realised today (Thursday) 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 Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien - new crop	Good	1.66
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Good	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	1.42
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

/Supplies and .....

Thursday, January 3, 1974

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.5	3.3	3.8
Big-Eyes	Good	2.9	0.6	2.0
Squid	Limited	6.5	3.0	4.5
Hair-Tails	Limited	2.5	1.2	2.1
Lizard Fishes	Limited	3.4	1.0	2.0
Croakers	Normal	2.5	0.9	1.8
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	3.2	2.4	3.0
Melon Coat	Limited	2.8	2.0	2.5
Breams	Limited	4.5	3.4	4.0
Yellow Belly	Good	1.5	0.75	1.2
Mackerels	Normal	4.5	3.0	3.6
Red Goat Fish	Good	1.85	0.6	1.4
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.3	0.7	1.1
Horse-Head	Normal	5.5	3.5	4.5
Melon Seed	Limited	3.0	1.4	2.4
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.0	7.5	7.8
Garoupas	Normal	7.5	5.8	6.5

/Supplies and .....

Thursday, January 3, 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	3.0	1.2	2.2
White cabbage	Limited	1.6	0.7	1.2
Chinese lettuce	Normal	1.4	0.4	1.0
Chinese kale	Limited	1.6	0.6	1.0
Spring onion	Limited	2.0	1.0	1.5
Spinach	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.6
Water cress	Limited	1.8	0.8	1.2
Leaf mustard oabbage	Scarce	1.6	0.5	1.0
Tomato	Limited	1.8	1.0	1.4

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/picul)</u>
Pork	Normal	285

----- 0 -----