



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, November 3, 1973

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RIGOROUS TRAINING FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

More than 1,100 officers and firemen have completed six-month initial training courses at the Fire Services Training School at Pat Heung since its opening five years ago.

According to a Fire Services spokesman, emphasis is put on tough physical training, which has become more and more important in the face of fast development of multi-storey buildings. Lectures are also given on many subjects including organisation and administration, building construction, electricity, fire prevention, chemistry, physics, and hydraulics.

When operational availability permits, experienced officers from various Fire commands are invited to give talks to the trainees, so that they may learn from their experiences and benefit from the knowledge gained.

On completion of this training programme, the probationary officers and firemen are posted to various fire stations, ready to apply the theoretical knowledge and training to the situations they will encounter during their day-to-day operational duties.

Besides these initial training courses, the school runs many other shorter and more specialised courses to train men in the use of sophisticated equipment. These include breathing apparatus, operating - driving-pumps, helicopter winches and first aid courses. To date, more than 290 such short courses had been organised for firemen of various ranks.

Refresher courses are run for serving firemen to keep their professional knowledge abreast with the latest techniques in modern fire fighting. A total of 448 serving firemen have attended such courses during the past five years.

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Fire fighting training is not given to firemen alone and short training programmes are continuously organised by the school for staff of other government departments and private organisations. To date, more than 2,200 men from other departments like the Royal Hong Kong Police Force, Preventive Service, Public Works Department, Housing Department and the Medical and Health Department have benefited from such training.

In addition, over 3,800 dockyard workers, ship crews, bank guards and factory workers employed by private organisations have also received such training, which last from two to four days.

Another 26 officers from the fire departments of other Asian countries - mainly Brunei and Thailand - have received training at the school, which has a reputation of being one of the most modern and progressive in Asia.

The training school, together with the New Territories District Headquarters, a fire station and an ambulance depot, occupies an eight-acre site on the slope of a hill along Fan Kam Road between Fanling and Sek Kong.

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RENT INCREASE CERTIFICATES

A spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department said today that in the last two weeks, the department had received requests for certificates of rent increase under the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1973.

"Such applications cannot be made until the proposed rent control legislation is passed by the Legislative Council," he explained.

He pointed out that the certificates for rent increase for post-war domestic premises, provided by the proposed legislation, can only be issued after the legislation is enacted and it was not possible before that time to accept any application.

"As announced by the Secretary for Housing last Wednesday, due to a change in the timetable of the Bill's passage through the Council, it will not come into force before the middle of next month."

"Application forms will be made available to the public, free of charge, as soon as the legislation is passed," he added.

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ADDITIONAL BUS SERVICES IN NEW TERRITORIES

Two new bus services will be introduced in the New Territories from Monday (November 5) on an experimental basis.

The new services, to be operated by KMB, will be route 57 - running from Lau Fau Shan to Pak Nai and route 58 - running from Lau Fau Shan to Sha Kiu (Tsim Bei Tsui).

A Transport Department spokesman said today that while these services were being introduced on an experimental basis they would continue as part of KMB's scheduled services if there was sufficient public demand.

The new routes form part of the New Territories bus expansion scheme and follow closely on two routes introduced on October 11. These were route 56 and 59 which run from Un Long to Tai Tong, and from Tuen Mun New Town to Pak Kok respectively.

Full details of the timetables and fares for the new services will be posted at terminal points and published in press notices.

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VISITS TO COMMUNITY CHEST AGENCIES BY LADY MACLEHOSE

Lady MacLehose, President of the Community Chest of Hong Kong, will begin another round of visits to member agencies on Tuesday morning (November 6).

She will be visiting the Red Cross John F. Kennedy Centre in Sandy Bay and the Wah Hong Hostel for the Aged in Wah Fu Estate.

Miss Susan Hume, Social Secretary of Government House, and Mr. Colin Morrison, Executive Director of the Chest, will accompany Lady MacLehose on the visits.

At the John F. Kennedy Centre, the party will be met by Mr. Run Run Shaw, President of the Hong Kong Red Cross, and Dr. B.M. Kotewall, Supervisor of the Centre.

The Centre is a residential school for handicapped children between the ages of four and 14, and is designed to house a maximum of 80 pupils -- 60 resident and 20 day pupils. The number is expected to be increased to 110 by 1975.

Aside from individual special instructions, the pupils are encouraged to keep up with topical events through news media and classroom discussions, and by attending exhibitions, live performances and cultural centres.

Transportation is provided for day pupils and for residential pupils who return home during weekends and holidays.

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Next, the party will visit the Wah Hong Hostel operated by the Hong Kong Christian Service, where Rev. William C. Tung, the Director, and Miss Linda Shek, the Supervisor, will guide the visitors on a tour of the premises.

The hostel is designed to provide non-institutional housing for independent and ambulatory elderly people of over 60 years. The maximum capacity is for 120.

The hostel occupies 36 flats, of which 30 are for residents, four for common rooms, one as an office and one as staff quarters.

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Note to Editors: Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the visits. Transport will be provided. Two nine-seater vans will be waiting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday at Queen's Pier to take press representatives to the Centre. Miss Brigitta Wong, Administrative Assistant to the Chest, and a GIS officer will be on hand to assist them.

The John F. Kennedy Centre is located at 15 Sandy Bay Road, and the Wah Hong Hostel at Flats 217-234 and 317-334, Wah Hong House, 1st and 2nd floors, Wah Fu Estate.

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'NEW LOOK' LAP SAP COLLECTION CENTRE

A new off-street refuse collection centre with a difference will shortly be built in Causeway Bay.

The new look lap sap collection centre - to be constructed at the junction of Paterson Street and Waterfront Road - will take on a green house look with colourful flowers decorating the roof.

The outer walls of the building will be tiled and adequate ventilation will be installed to dispel obnoxious smells.

Construction of the building, which will occupy about 27,000 square feet, is expected to begin in the middle of next month and should be completed in April next year.

It will replace the existing refuse collection point at Houston Street.

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HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION

Registration of private candidates for the 1974 Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination is now being conducted.

Applicants should bring along completed application forms when registering at either the Causeway Bay Sub-Treasury on the second floor of the Causeway Bay Magistracy Building, or at the Kowloon Sub-Treasury on the fourth floor of the Kowloon Government Offices.

Application forms are available at all City District Offices in urban areas and at District Offices in Tsuen Wan, Yuen Long and Tai Po in the New Territories.

Intending candidates are urged to register early to avoid a rush at the end of the registration period.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.