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/Improved waste

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Ninth meeting of JLG expert group on transitional Budget

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The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group will hold their ninth round of Expert Talks on June 24 and 25 in Hong Kong to discuss the preparation of Hong Kong's transitional Budget and related matters.

The British team will be led by Mr K C Kwong, Secretary for the Treasury of the Hong Kong Government. The Chinese team will be led by Mr Chen Zuo'er, Chinese Representative on the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group. They will be assisted by experts.

End

Latest unemployment and underemployment statistics

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The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the period February - April 1996 was 3.3%, and the underemployment rate was 1.8%, according to the latest labour force statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

The provisional seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the period March - May 1996 edged slightly lower to 3.2%, while the provisional underemployment rate was marginally higher, at 1.9%.

Commenting on the latest figures, a Government spokesman said that labour market remained generally stable in recent months. Decreases in the unemployment rate were observed in the community, social and personal services and construction sectors, and to a lesser extent, also in the manufacturing sector. As to the underemployment rate, the slight increase was concentrated in the manufacturing sector. The underemployment rates in the other major sectors remained largely stable.

Total employment showed a rapid increase of 4.1% in the three months ending April 1996 over a year earlier. But labour supply grew even faster, by 4.4%. As a result, the unemployment rate remained at a relatively high level.

During the period February - April 1996, the number of unemployed persons with previous jobs was estimated at 90,700. Another 5,900 unemployed persons were first-time job-seekers. The number of underemployed persons was estimated at 58,000.

The unemployment and underemployment statistics were obtained from a continuous General Household Survey. The survey for February - April 1996 covered a quarterly sample of some 19,800 households or 66,700 persons, selected scientifically to represent the land-based civilian non-institutional population in Hong Kong. Data were obtained from the survey by interviewing each member aged 15 or over in the households sampled.

In the survey, the definitions used in measuring unemployment and underemployment follow closely those recommended by the International Labour Organisation.

'Seasonally adjusted' refers to adjustment for seasonal variations in the proportion of first-time job-seekers in the labour force.

Detailed analysis of labour force characteristics is given in the report on the General Household Survey which is published four times a year.

The next report covering the quarter ending March 1996 will be on sale at the Government Publications Centre on ground floor, Low Block, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, by the end of June 1996.

End

Changes to divorce law come into force

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A number of important changes to the divorce law will come into operation next Monday (June 24).

Commencement notices for bringing into operation amendments to the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance, the Matrimonial Causes Rules and the Matrimonial Causes (Fees) Rules are gazetted today (Friday).

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Branch said the amendments were aimed at bringing the law of divorce into line with community expectations and reducing the hardship, acrimony and distress that is often associated with divorce proceedings.

"The amendments provide for a reduction in the current minimum separation periods that apply to divorce petition from two years to one year where both parties consent to the divorce and from five years to two years where one party does not consent.

"As regards the current time limit on divorce early in marriage, the amendments provide for this to be reduced from three years to one year," the spokesman added.

In addition, a new non-adversarial procedure of divorce by mutual consent is introduced based on either one year's prior separation or a one year's period of notice, during which there would be no requirement for separation.

To provide for these changes, amendments have also been made to the Matrimonial Causes Rules, which govern court procedures relating to matrimonial proceedings. Amendments have also been made to the Matrimonial Causes (Fees) Rules to provide for the relevant fees.

The spokesman added that a bilingual leaflet had been published to introduce to the public the main contents of the amendments.

Copies of the leaflets will be available from next Monday at district offices, Family Services Centres, Legal Aid Offices, Divorce Registry, the Marketing Office of the Government Information Services, 17th floor, Siu On Centre, 176-192 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, and other major contact points.

End

New performance pledge for Water Supplies Department

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The Director of Water Supplies, Mr Hu Man-shiu, today (Friday) announced the Department's new performance pledge for 1996/97 and its achievements in 1995/96 against the performance targets announced last year.

The new pledge aims to improve the service the Department delivers to customers by enhancing openness and accountability and by developing a client-based culture within the Department.

The performance targets cover mainly the essential services provided by the Department in relation to daily water supply matters and water accounts.

In the past year, the Department had achieved very satisfactory results against the performance targets we announced, said Mr Hu.

"For the majority of the targets, the achievement rates are close to or have reached 100 per cent. For items which we have not yet achieved 100 per cent, we have made improvements over their respective 1994/95 results," he said.

Mr Hu also said that as part of its continuous efforts to provide a better service to customers, the Department introduced last year two new features to the Water Infolink for receiving requests for commonly used Waterworks Forms and reports of self-reading of the water meters.

"We have also started to publicise in advance our major planned water supply suspensions by placing advertisements in a number of leading newspapers on a weekly basis. By joining Internet, our customers can obtain information concerning our Department and its services and leave their comments on the Suggestion Box Page," he said.

Mr Hu pointed out that after reviewing the 1995/96 results and having heard the valuable suggestions of our customers channelled to the Department through various means, the Department had also decided to further enhance some of the performance targets with a view to further improving our service to customers.

"The Department is pledged to provide a reliable, efficient and customer-oriented service to its customers and will continue its best efforts within the available resources to achieve this goal," he stressed.

Copies of a booklet containing details of the Water Supplies Department's performance pledge can be obtained free-of-charge from all of its Customer Enquiry Centres and district offices.

End

Social relevance in education stressed

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The Director of Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, stressed today (Friday) that science and technology education must be socially relevant.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Science and Technology Education Conference '96, Mrs Yu said that the curricula for science and technology in Hong Kong are now moving towards greater relevance for students.

Citing examples, Mrs Yu noted that the Chemistry Syllabus at Secondary 4-5 level give due emphasis to social relevance with an inclusion of a study on chemicals and health.

The Science Syllabus at Secondary 1-3 level is also being revised. Elements of modern technology will be incorporated while societal issues like sex education will be strengthened.

She said, "The main drive behind this change is our determination to develop among our students an awareness of the social, economic, environmental and technological implications of science."

Education today faces a major challenge in helping the young to cope with the advances in science and technology, in developing the skills to live and work in the 21st century.

"Confining science education to the study of natural phenomena is no longer adequate or appropriate. Technology education now has to be more than a craft course for mere acquisition of technical skills," Mrs Yu said.

"Students should be guided to foster an ability to use concepts of science and technology to solve daily problems, to respond to day-to-day situations and to make responsible decisions in everyday life."

"They should also be able to recognise the strengths and limitations of science and technology for advancing human welfare."

The Science and Technology Education Conference '96 provides an opportunity for science and technology teachers, teacher educators and curriculum developers to share and to take reference from one another's experience.

The conference is jointly organised by the Faculty of Education and Department of Curriculum Studies of the Hong Kong University, the Hong Kong Association for Science and Mathematics Education and the Curriculum Development Institute of the Education Department.

End

Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data appointed

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The Governor has appointed Mr Stephen Lau Ka-men as the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data for a term of five years commencing August 1, 1996, a Government spokesman announced today (Friday).

The Privacy Commissioner is responsible for enforcing and promoting compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, which provides for the protection of individuals' privacy with respect to personal data.

Mr Lau is currently the Managing Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Operations of Electronic Data Systems, the world's largest provider of information technology services.

For the past 28 years, he has served in both the public and private sectors in the information technology field.

In the public sector, Mr Lau rose to the highest echelon of his profession and became the first head of the Government Data Processing Agency in 1978, which was the forerunner of the current Information Technology Services Department.

He was also a prime mover in raising the issue of data protection within Government in the early 1980's and he served on the Government Working Group on Data Protection Legislation from 1983 to 1986.

"Mr Lau will bring to the appointment strong information technology expertise, a high level of public and private sector management experience and in-depth knowledge of personal data privacy issues," the spokesman said.

"The combination of these qualities means that Mr Lau is exceptionally well suited to this position. We are very pleased to have secured his services," he added.

End

Senior appointments at Hong Kong Monetary Authority

* * * * *

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced today (Friday) that the Financial Secretary has approved the appointment of Mr Peter Pang Sing-tong as Executive Director (Monetary Policy & Markets), and Mr Raymond Li Ling-cheung as Executive Director (Banking Policy), of the Authority.

The Executive Director (Monetary Policy & Markets) post is vacant following Mr Norman Chan's appointment as Deputy Chief Executive in June. Mr Peter Pang Sing-tong will fill the post with effect from July 22, 1996. In his new posting, Mr Pang will be responsible for monetary management, market infrastructure including the implementation of a new interbank clearing system and the promotion of the debt market.

Mr Pang joined the Government in 1979. He has since held various senior posts including Assistant Commissioner of Banking and Assistant Director of Trade. In June 1994, he joined the HKMA as Executive Director (Banking Policy). Mr Pang was instrumental in the formulation of financial disclosure packages and derivatives guidelines for authorised institutions and the introduction of amendments to the Banking Ordinance.

Mr Li will succeed Mr Pang as Executive Director (Banking Policy) with effect from July 8, 1996. He will be responsible for the development of banking supervisory and industry related policies and the legal framework laid down in the Banking Ordinance to meet evolving supervisory needs.

Mr Li joined the Government in 1982. He joined the former Monetary Affairs Branch in January 1987 as Assistant Secretary and became Principal Assistant Secretary in 1990. Mr Li became Head of Banking Development shortly after the HKMA was set up in 1993. He took up his current post of Head (Administration) in 1995.

End

Education Commission member appointed

* * * * *

The Government announced today (Friday) the appointment of Mr Michael Tien Pak-sun as a member of the Education Commission for a period of one and a half years with effect from July 1.

Mr Tien is the Managing Director of G2000 (Apparel) Ltd. He has served on the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications (ACTEQ) since 1993 and the Language Fund Advisory Committee since 1994. He is currently chairing the ACTEQ's sub-group on Professional Relevance.

Chaired by Professor Rosie Young, the Education Commission advises the government on the development of the education system, as a whole, in the light of community needs.

Other members include Mr Cheung Man-kwong, Professor Cheng Kai-ming, Mr Moses Cheng Mo-chi, Ms Sansan Ching Teh-chi, Mr Irving Koo, Mr Peter Lee Ting-chang, Mr Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen, Mr Mak Kwai-po, Mr Tai Hay-lap, Mr Benjamin Wong Pui-tong and the Rev Margaret Wong.

Ex-officio members of the Commission include the Chairman of the ACTEQ, the Board of Education, the University Grants Committee and the Vocational Training Council, and the Director of Education. The Secretary for Education and Manpower is the vice-chairman of the Commission.

End

Gasholders Regulation

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The Gas Safety (Gasholders Examination) Regulation published in the Government Gazette today (Friday), consolidates in one piece of legislation existing statutory provisions relating to the examination, safety, construction and operation of gasholders.

These provisions are currently divided between the Gas Safety Ordinance and the Gasholders Examination Ordinance. The Regulation will repeal and replace the Gasholders Examination Ordinance.

The Regulation provides for external and internal examination of gasholders at specified intervals and for the reporting of defects and remedial work to the Gas Authority (the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services).

The Regulation will be tabled in the Legislative Council on June 26, 1996.

End

122 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

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A group of 122 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam, today (Friday) on the 43rd flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

Most of the returnees, comprising 53 men, 34 women, 16 boys and 19 girls, are from North Vietnam.

The majority of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1989, with the remaining in 1988, 1990 and 1991.

The group brought the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991 to 3,760.

End

Monitors' Report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Friday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors comprised a non-official Justice of the Peace, Mr Peter Lee Shung-tak; and a representative from a non-governmental organisation, Miss Ho Tak-yin from Oxfam.

End

Livestock waste control areas expanded

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Control of livestock waste will be further extended to some areas in the New Territories with effect from July 1.

Affected areas include the corridor between Tuen Mun and Yuen Long, part of Yuen Long area and Kam Tin River.

"Starting July, treated wastewater from livestock farms in these areas must comply with the discharge standards, initially at 250 mg/L : 250 mg/L (biochemical oxygen demand : suspended solids), later to 100 : 100 and finally to the 50 : 50 standards, in three years' time," Principal Environmental Protection Officer of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Dr Ellen Chan, said.

For farms already under livestock waste control on July 1, 1995 or earlier, they would have to meet the agreed discharge standards of 100 : 100 starting July 1 this year.

Letters advising farmers on the tightening of discharge standards have been sent to all affected farms.

"The three-year phased programme in meeting discharge standards is to give livestock farmers sufficient time to adjust to the use of waste treatment facilities," Dr Chan said.

"And to facilitate the implementation of the livestock waste control scheme, an improved waste collection service will be provided, starting also on July 1.

"Livestock farms requiring the service may contact the contractor, Waylung Waste Collection Ltd, direct on 2653 0146," Dr Chan said.

Leaflets on the waste collection service will be available at district offices. Enquiries on livestock waste control can be made to EPD's Local Control Offices.

End

Improved waste charging arrangements proposed

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A Bill which seeks to facilitate the implementation of charging schemes for waste disposal is gazetted today (Friday).

A Government spokesman said the Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill sought to provide for account billing arrangements to enable users of waste disposal facilities to pay in arrears.

"This will address some users' concern as it would help ease their cashflow position."

It also seeks to empower the Director of Environmental Protection to delegate to waste disposal facility operators the charge collection service and the necessary enforcement powers.

"The Bill will not pose additional financial burden on waste producers but will facilitate the implementation of charging schemes and application of the polluter pays principle."

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on July 3.

End

Public invited to enrol as 'Friends of Red Ribbon Centre'

* * * * *

A Promotion Day to recruit "Friends of the Red Ribbon Centre" was held by the Department of Health today (Friday) to publicise the services of the new centre and to encourage the public to use its facilities when it is open.

The Red Ribbon Centre is a new project developed by the Department of Health under the sponsorship of the AIDS Trust Fund.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Promotion Day, the Assistant Director of Health, Dr Chan Wai-man, said that "Red Ribbon" is the international symbol for concern about HIV/AIDS and people living with the disease.

"The main objectives of the Centre are to promote community participation in AIDS education and research; and to facilitate the development of social, behavioural and epidemiological research on HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong and the region.

"It also aims to enhance the development of quality education programmes; and to provide an avenue for local and international collaboration in the fight against HIV/AIDS," she said.

The Red Ribbon Centre will have an information centre, an exhibition area, a library and a resource unit which provides support to small non-governmental organisations working on AIDS.

Audio-visual and desktop publishing facilities will also be available. No treatment facilities, however, will be provided in the Centre.

Dr Chan said that members of the public could have access to these facilities by simply enrolling as 'Friends of the Red Ribbon Centre'.

"AIDS has far-reaching impacts on the society and is a cause of concern for everyone. I urge all Hong Kong residents to enrol as 'Friends of the Red Ribbon Centre' so as to learn more about the disease and to render care and assistance to those who are affected by it," she added.

All Hong Kong residents aged 11 or above can submit their applications to the AIDS Unit of the Department of Health by mail or in person. Application is free of charge.

Friends of the Red Ribbon Centre can make use of the facilities provided by the library, receive newsletters published by the Centre regularly, obtain copies of certain publications free of charge, and participate in the promotion of educational activities organised by the Centre.

The Centre is located on the second floor of Wang Tau Hom Jockey Club Clinic, 200 Junction Road, Kowloon and will become operational in the third quarter of this year.

The AIDS Unit of the Department of Health has already organised two exhibitions to publicise the setting up of the Centre. Another exhibition will be held from 9 am to 6 pm between June 26 and 28 at Wo Che Shopping Centre in Sha Tin.

General information on AIDS, ways of transmission and other educational materials will be displayed in the exhibition.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition. Admission is free.

End

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in April

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in April 1996 decreased by 5% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing April 1996 with April 1995, a significant increase in the value of orders was registered in the fabricated metal products industry (+34%).

On the other hand, decreases in the value of orders were recorded in the plastic products industry (-12%), the textiles industry (-12%), the printing and publishing industry (-9%), the electronic products industry (-5%), the wearing apparel industry (-4%) and the electrical products industry (-1%).

Compared with March 1996, and bearing in mind this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in April 1996 increased by 1%.

The monthly survey of orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month.

Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the department said caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. The trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for April 1996 is now on sale at \$7 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries:

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	March 1996 <u>over March 1995</u> (Revised)	April 1996 <u>over April 1995</u> (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	- 3	- 5
* Wearing apparel	- 4	- 4
* Textiles	- 9	-12
* Electronic products	- 1	- 5
* Electrical products	+ 3	- 1
* Fabricated metal products	+11	+34
* Plastic products	- 10	-12
* Printing and publishing	- 2	- 9

End

Survey of transport and related services results released

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The business receipts and other income, that is, total receipts, generated by transport establishments in 1994 amounted to \$210 billion, representing an increase of 9% over 1993.

Net of operating expenses and compensation of employees, the gross surplus accounted for 14.6% of the total receipts. This was 0.7 percentage point higher than the figure for 1993.

The value added, which is a measure of the sector's contribution to Hong Kong's gross domestic product, grew by 16%, from \$53 billion in 1993 to \$62 billion in 1994.

These are some of the major findings of the 1994 Survey of Transport and Related Services, conducted from May last year to early this year, released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

All value figures in this press release are expressed in current prices terms. Percentage changes derived from these figures have not been adjusted for price changes. Caution should therefore be taken in interpreting the survey results.

The operating expenses incurred by transport establishments in 1994 accounted for 70.9% of the total receipts. Compared with 1993, this decreased by 1.4 percentage points.

The compensation of employees accounted for 14.5% of the total receipts. This was 0.8 percentage point higher than the 1993 level.

The survey results showed that some 42,000 transport establishments were in operation in 1994, a slight increase of 1% over 1993.

Within the transport sector, air transport accounted for the largest share of value added in 1994, accounting for 24% of the sector's total.

This was followed by land passenger transport (22%), ocean and coastal water transport (18%), services incidental to transport (13%) and land freight transport (12%). Inland water transport and supporting services to water transport and land transport accounted for the remaining 11%.

Compared with 1993, the share of total value added attributable to air transport rose by 2.1 percentage points in 1994, representing a percentage increase of 10%. This was in line with the steady growth in air passenger and cargo throughput.

The share of supporting services to land transport increased by 0.2 percentage point over 1993. This was largely contributed by the thriving business of car parks and vehicular tunnels.

The share of land passenger transport went up by 0.4 percentage point over 1993, representing a percentage increase of 1.7%. This was due to the continued growth in the business of various public transport services.

On the other hand, the shares of land freight transport, supporting services to water transport and ocean and coastal water transport decreased by 1.5, 0.7 and 0.3 percentage point respectively.

Over the same period, inland water transport and services incidental to transport remained relatively stable.

The attached table compares some selected principal statistics by major transport group for 1993 and 1994.

More detailed results together with the background and methodology of the survey will be given in a full survey report to be published around August.

It will be on sale in August at the Government Publications Centre of the Information Services Department, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding the survey results may be directed to the Transport and Miscellaneous Services Statistics Section, Tel 2802 1277.

COMPARISON OF SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS
IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR BETWEEN 1993 AND 1994

End

MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP		NUMBER OF ESTABLISH- MENTS	NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	COMPENSA- TION OF EMPLOYEES	OPERATING EXPENSES	BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME	GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS	VALUE ADDED	GROSS SURPLUS
					(\$Mn)	(\$Mn)	(\$Mn)	(\$Mn)	(\$Mn)	(\$Mn)
LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT	1994	19 446	52 587	33 600	5,479	8,246	20,125	2,200	13,711	6,400
	1993	18 216	51 180	31 635	4,728	7,727	18,013	3,956	11,603	5,558
	% change	+7	+3	+6	+16	+7	+12	-44	+18	+15
LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT	1994	14 453	43 057	26 886	3,277	7,861	14,314	934	7,126	3,176
	1993	14 868	45 583	29 771	3,428	8,214	14,292	903	6,910	2,651
	% change	-3	-6	-10	-4	-4	*	+4	+3	+20
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT	1994	136	5 078	5 027	550	2,329	3,746	88	1,601	868
	1993	139	3 836	3 793	438	1,762	2,877	79	1,270	678
	% change	-2	+32	+33	+25	+32	+30	+11	+26	+28
OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT	1994	504	18 213	18 209	4,422	12,244	22,746	4,101	11,092	6,079
	1993	517	17 643	17 625	3,618	9,809	19,297	2,825	9,731	5,870
	% change	-3	+3	+3	+22	+25	+18	+45	+14	+4
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT	1994	931	7 455	6 766	939	2,242	4,110	599	1,844	928
	1993	944	7 105	6 446	829	2,295	4,017	529	1,577	894
	% change	-1	+5	+5	+13	-2	+2	+13	+17	+4
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT	1994	2 662	13 725	11 263	1,778	6,203	9,243	977	3,448	1,261
	1993	2 755	13 888	11 293	1,711	6,286	9,188	641	3,334	1,191
	% change	-3	-1	*	+4	-1	+1	+53	+3	+6
AIR TRANSPORT	1994	63	23 436	23 436	8,327	18,920	36,456	2,836	14,900	9,210
	1993	63	22 333	22 333	6,600	18,851	33,103	4,150	11,711	7,652
	% change	*	+5	+5	+26	*	+10	-32	+27	+20
SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT	1994	3 766	40 278	39 038	5,692	90,608	98,980	1,053	8,087	2,680
	1993	4 149	40 338	39 448	4,999	83,609	90,794	835	7,080	2,185
	% change	-9	*	-1	+14	+8	+9	+26	+14	+23
ALL TRANSPORT GROUPS	1994	41 962	203 829	164 225	30,466	148,653	209,720	12,789	61,809	30,602
	1993	41 650	201 906	162 343	26,352	138,551	191,581	13,917	53,216	26,678
	% change	+1	+1	+1	+16	+7	+9	-8	+16	+15
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT	1994	2	984	984	410	627	3,592	225	2,967	N.A.
	1993	2	982	982	377	540	3,139	430	2,600	N.A.
	% change	*	*	*	+9	+16	+14	-48	+14	(-)

- Notes : (1) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.
(2) Individual items may not add up to the corresponding total due to rounding.
(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product.
The definition can be found in the "Report on 1994 Survey of Transport and Related Services".
(4) * denotes % change less than $\pm 0.5\%$

Resource material on PADS to be transferred to UC library

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The entire collection of resource material in the Airport and Port Projects Resource Centre (APPRC) in Causeway Bay will be transferred to the Urban Council's Reference Library in the City Hall with effect from next Monday (June 24).

Starting on July 1, the resource material will be available to the public in the Reference Library instead of the Resource Centre presently located in the East Exchange Tower at Leighton Road.

The resource centre was set up by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office (NAPCO) in 1991 in the French Mission Building in Central for the public to know more about the airport and port development projects. It was later relocated to its present premises.

The centre has a collection of 1,060 volumes in 584 titles, with the majority being technical and planning papers, including consultancy reports, reports on feasibility studies and other research papers commissioned by various government departments for the Port and Airport Development Strategy (PADS) study and projects.

The relocation of the resource materials to the Urban Council's Reference Library will enable the public to continue having access to the information on PADS.

The Reference Library is located on the tenth floor of the City Hall High Block in Central. The library is open throughout the week, and is closed on Sunday afternoons and on public holidays.

"Compared with the resource centre's present location, the reference Library is much more convenient to those seeking resource material about the PADS," said a spokesman for NAPCO.

Enquiries can be made to NAPCO's Community Relations Division on 2829 6282.

End

Feature article on findings of household expenditure survey

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A feature article entitled "Results of the 1994/95 Household Expenditure Survey and the Rebasing of the Consumer Price Indices" is published in the June 1996 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics.

The 1994/95 Household Expenditure Survey (HES) was conducted from October 1994 to September 1995 to collect up-to-date information on expenditure patterns of households in Hong Kong. The information collected is used in updating the expenditure weights which are essential inputs to the compilation of the Consumer Price Indices (CPIs).

Based on the results of the survey, the weighting patterns of the CPIs were updated. Over the five-year period, from 1989/90 to 1994/95, the most significant changes in the expenditure weights of the CPIs have been a decline in the expenditure share of food (by 4 to 6 percentage points) and an increase in that of housing (by 4 to 5 percentage points).

The new expenditure patterns derived from the results of the 1994/95 HES are used in compiling the new 1994/95-based CPIs.

More details on the results of the 1994/95 HES and the new CPI series are given in the feature article.

The June 1996 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics is now on sale at \$50 a copy. It contains most up-to-date information on Hong Kong's situation regarding economic growth, the labour market, inflation and many other social and economic issues.

Purchases of this publication can be made at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. The publication is also available for sale at the Publications Unit of the Census & Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Regular subscription can also be arranged with the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department on 2598 8194.

End

Grading of beach water quality

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The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Friday) announced the latest gradings of Hong Kong's beaches, based on the bacteriological water quality, for the 1996 swimming season.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

The grading is based on the most recent E. coli data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme.

As with last year, the grading also includes an estimate of the risk of suffering some minor skin or gastrointestinal complaints as a result of swimming at a beach which has some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large body of statistical information gathered in Hong Kong in recent bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches may vary during the summer. This represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters in most cases, as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

However, the grades give a good general picture of the water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

"Bathers should avoid such beaches for two or three days after a storm, longer if the weather remains overcast or less if there is strong sunshine", Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Patrick Lei said.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows:

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E. coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E. coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E. coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E. coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present five gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Approach, Castle Peak, Rocky Bay and Ting Kau, are closed to swimmers, while Old Cafeteria is re-opened. The decision to open or close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1995. The public are advised not to swim at the closed beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below:

Beach	Previous Grading (as at 6.6.96)	Present Grading (as at 20.6.96)
<u>Hong Kong South</u>		
Big Wave Bay (S)	3	3
Chung Hom Kok (S)	1	1
Deep Water Bay (S)	1	1
Hairpin (S)	2	2
Middle Bay (S)	1	2
Repulse Bay (S)	1	1
Shek O (S)	2	2
South Bay (S)	1	1
St. Stephen's (S)	2	3
Turtle Cove (S)	1	1
Stanley Main (S)	2	2
Rocky Bay	X	X

Tuen Mun District

Golden Beach	3	2
Old Cafeteria	3	3
New Cafeteria	3	2
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie (S)	3	3
Butterfly (S)	3	3

Sai Kung District

Clear Water Bay 1st Beach (S)	2	2
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach (S)	2	2
Ha Mun Bay (S)	1	1
Kiu Tsui (S)	1	1
Silverstrand (S)	3	2
Trio (Hebe Haven) (S)	2	2

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	3	3
Discovery Bay*	2	2
Hung Shing Yeh	1	1
Kwun Yam Wan	2	2
Tong Fuk	1	1
Lo So Shing	1	1
Pui O	1	1
Silvermine Bay	2	2
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau (S)	2	1

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	X	X
Casam (S)	4	3
Gemini	4	4
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido (S)	3	3
Ting Kau	X	X
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note: "X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

* Non-gazetted beaches.

(S) The beach has a shark-prevention net installed.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

Tung Wan, Cheung Chau from "2" to "1"; Silverstrand, Golden Beach and New Cafeteria from "3" to "2"; Casam from "4" to "3"; Middle Bay from "1" to "2" and St. Stephen's from "2" to "3".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

End

Unlicensed guesthouse operator fined

* * * * *

Guesthouse operators were reminded today (Friday) that they must operate their establishments only after having obtained a licence from the Home Affairs Department (HAD) or risk facing a maximum penalty of \$200,000 in fines and two years' imprisonment.

An HAD spokesman issued the warning after a guesthouse operator pleaded guilty to operating an unlicensed guesthouse in Kowloon Tong and was fined \$13,000 in San Po Kong Magistracy.

In an operation, officers of HAD's Licensing Authority inspected the premises on first floor, 21-23 Cumberland Road and found that it was being operated as a guesthouse without a licence, contrary to Section 5 of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

The spokesman said unlicensed guesthouses would not be tolerated and enforcement action would continue to be taken.

He appealed to members of the public to continue to help in the crackdown on unlicensed guesthouses by reporting them to the Licensing Authority on 2881 7034.

End

Fresh water cut in Central

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Central will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (June 24) to 6 am the following day to facilitate waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect: -

- * All even number premises between 2-48 and odd number premises between 5-23 and 47-151 Caine Road;
- * All odd number premises between 1B-19 and 51-55 Elgin Street;
- * All even number premises between 68-74A Hollywood Road;
- * All even number premises between 36-90 and odd number premises between 45-67 Staunton Street;
- * Bridges Street;
- * Coronation Terrace;
- * Po Wa Street;
- * Wa In Fong East;
- * Wa In Fong West;
- * Wing Lee Street;
- * Ladder Street Terrace;
- * U Lam Terrace;
- * All odd number premises between 5A-13 Arbuthnot Road;
- * All even number premises between 62-76 and all odd number premises between 63-71A Peel Street;
- * All even number premises between 20-44 and all odd number premises between 35-57 Aberdeen Street;
- * Chung Wo Lane;

- * All even number premises between 2-14 and all odd number premises between 17-19 Shing Wong Street;
- * Ping On Lane; and
- * Kui In Fong.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,950	0930	+ 8
Closing balance in the account	1,814	1000	+ 8
Change attributable to :		1100	+ 8
Money market activity	-6	1200	+11
LAF today	-130	1500	+11
		1600	- 6

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.3 *+0.2* 21.6.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.95	2 years	2805	6.30	99.89	6.46
1 month	5.04	3 years	3904	6.30	98.87	6.85
3 months	5.22	5 years	5106	7.23	99.41	7.51
6 months	5.46	7 years	7305	7.60	99.51	7.84
12 months	5.84	5 years	M502	7.30	99.06	7.70

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,971 million

Closed June 21, 1996

End