



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, October 6, 1973.

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INCREASE IN PENSIONS

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The Government announced today that an eight per cent increase in pensions will be paid with effect from April 1 this year.

The increase will be granted to government pensioners whose first day of retirement was April 1, 1973 or earlier, and who have reached the age of 55.

Pensioners who retired after April 1 will not be eligible for the increase but their pensions will be adjusted as necessary to take into account the recent government salary increase.

Widows and Orphans pensions which were in effect at April 1 this year will also be increased by eight per cent with effect from that date.

Those pensioners paid locally, who are eligible for the increased benefits, should receive them in their payments for November 1973. The arrears of benefits will be paid as soon as possible thereafter.

The increase in pensions will cost approximately 4.6 million dollars for the current financial year.

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REPORT ON TEACHER PAY DISPUTE READY SOON

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The special Commission appointed by the Governor to enquire into the teacher pay dispute earlier this year is now preparing its report and expects to submit it to the Governor later this month.

The Commission was set up in May this year to examine and report on the underlying causes of the Certificated Masters' dispute and to suggest ways of preventing similar problems arising again.

It is chaired by Mr. T.K. Ann, with Dr. B.M. Kotewall and Dr. Rayson Huang as members.

Altogether, the Commission held 17 meetings and met a total of 45 people including 30 certificated masters, the principals of the Colleges of Education, the Chairman of the Grant Schools Council, representatives of the Association of Lecturers at College of Education, representatives of all village schools in the New Territories, and of the 1971 and 1972 Graduates of the three Colleges of Education, as well as the Deputy Commissioner of Labour and the Assistant Commissioner (Administration).

They also met with the Joint Secretariat of 13 Hong Kong Educational Bodies which later handed in representations, and saw the Hong Kong Professional Teachers Union and the Government Schools Non-Graduate Teachers Union.

/In addition, .....

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In addition, the Commission held discussions with Mr. Li Fook-wo who was a member of the Working Group of the 1971 Salaries Commission; Mr. Jack Cater, Secretary for Home Affairs; Mr. C.J.G. Lowe, acting Director of Education; Mr. Yeung Kwong-siu, Assistant Director for Primary Education; Mr. J.R. Allen, the former Registrar of Trade Unions; and the current Registrar, Mr. Tsang Tat-sing.

More recently the Commission interviewed the Establishment Secretary, Mr. R.G.B. Bridge, and had another meeting with the Director of Education, Mr. J. Canning.

The Commission's terms of reference are:

- \* To examine the underlying causes of the dispute which has arisen between the Certificated Masters in government and aided-schools and the government, including existing channels of communication and promotion prospects, and
- \* To advise on what measures, apart from the newly announced salary scales, should be taken to obviate a recurrence of such a dispute affecting teachers employed in government and aided schools.

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#### HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS NEARS FINAL STAGE

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The new railway terminus at Hung Hom will move a step nearer completion within the next three months when work starts on the final stage.

The work will involve construction of the terminal building, together with a multi-storey car park and a bus terminal. The three structures will be built on a 600,000-square-foot concrete podium which is now being erected over the railway tracks and platform.

The terminus building will be a single-storey structure but will have a mezzanine floor in some parts. It will accommodate a large station concourse with ticket booths, waiting areas, a V.I.P. room, shops, restaurants, rented offices and railway administration offices.

A seven-storey car park will be built on top of the terminus building. It will provide about 840 covered parking spaces and 215 open spaces.

The bus terminus will be situated on the podium itself. Within its concourse will be a total of seven parking bays and a number of covered pedestrian islands, in addition to a canteen and regulators' office.

Buses proceeding to the terminus, which is one floor above ground level, will go up a flyover extending from Gillies Avenue.

The terminus building and the bus terminus are expected to be completed in mid-1975, while the multi-storey car park is scheduled to be ready about four months later.

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### THE MERITS OF EVALUATION

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We live in a world of projects and even the best of projects can go wrong because of unpredictable factors.

This is something we all must bear in mind in whatever we do, says Mr. K.W.J. Topley, Director of Social Welfare, because what should work in theory may turn out differently in practice.

He said there is a very large number of variables to be identified.

"You can always miss out a variable or the principles of their interaction may be imperfectly understood or a dynamic factor can enter as when human beings hear about a prediction and determine to prove it false.

"So, when we make plans, we try to think of everything but we must not be surprised if things do not go quite as expected. Even if the plan works in a sense perfectly, we have to deal with the unintended effects of our actions."

Mr. Topley was speaking at the opening ceremony today of the 1973 Hong Kong Junior Chamber National Convention at the Kiangsu-Chekiang College.

He told the gathering it would be a very good idea then, because of uncertainty in human affairs, to evaluate the degree of success or failure of every project undertaken.

/He said .....

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He said this would show up what is going well and what is not going so well, thus giving an indication of where efforts should be concentrated.

"Some things must be mended or ended. So, one should end up by concentrating one's resources on the things one does well. If you capitalise on your assets and dedicate your forces, you will make the maximum real impact."

Mr. Topley said the Junior Chamber could make a great contribution if they could devise effective techniques to establish and maintain a tradition of dispassionate evaluation of worthwhile projects.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of Mr. Topley's speech (English only) are boxed for collection.

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THREE-DAY OUTING FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

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A group of 243 disabled children are to be taken next week on a three-day outing for fun and games in the open air.

The outing will be held at the Wu Kai Sha camp site in the New Territories and has been arranged by the Rehabilitation Division of the Social Welfare Department. It will take place from October 9 to 11.

The group will comprise children with different types of disability such as physical handicaps, mental retardation and deafness. They are members of various clubs, children's centres, and the work activities group of the department's Aberdeen Rehabilitation Centre.

On hand to look after them will be 46 staff and volunteers including a nurse. The programme will include a variety of recreational activities and games.

Apart from a \$2 registration fee, all other expenses such as for food, camping fees and transportation and so on will be met by the Social Welfare Department.

"This camp has been organised to give disabled children an opportunity to have some fun" said Mr. Y.K. Che, Officer-in-charge of the Deaf and Mental Welfare Unit. "It is also a chance for them to experience the outdoor life and social activities through working and living with others."

/Winners of .....

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Winners of the various sporting events will receive prizes at a ceremony to be held at the camp site on Wednesday (October 10) afternoon. Miss Daphne Ho, a well-known personality in the field of rehabilitation in Hong Kong will present the prizes.

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Note to Editors: Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the prize-giving ceremony on Wednesday. It will take place at the camp site from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. However, to enable photographs to be taken of some of the sporting events, arrangements have been made to take press representatives to Wu Kai Sha in the morning. Lunch will be provided.

Those assigned to cover the occasion should assemble not later than 9.30 a.m., at the Kowloon Transport Sub-pool behind the Tsimshatsui Post Office where a van (AM 2143) will be waiting to transport them to the camp and back.

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MONEY ORDER SERVICE WITH BANGLADESH TO BE RESUMED

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The Postmaster General announced today that the Post Office Money Order service with Bangladesh will be resumed on October 15.

The maximum amount for a single order will be HK\$650. The standard poundage charges will apply.

Post Office Money Order services with Bangladesh were suspended in January last year.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN CENTRAL AND TSUEN WAN

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New traffic arrangements will be introduced in Central district and in Tsuen Wan, New Territories, on Tuesday (October 9) to improve traffic conditions in the two areas.

In Central, the section of Cochrane Street between Stanley Street and Wellington Street will be re-routed one-way southbound as from 10 a.m. on that day.

At the same time, the section of Tsuen Wan Market Street between Chung On Street and Chuen Lung Street will be re-routed one-way westwards from Chung On Street towards Chuen Lung Street.

Appropriate traffic signs will be posted to guide motorists.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to Choi Hung Estate will be interrupted for five hours on Tuesday (October 9) starting from 1 a.m.

The temporary stoppage is to facilitate a leakage test in the area.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.