



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, December 19, 1973

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release Time: 7.00 p.m.

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CONTRACT FOR COMPUTERISED TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM SIGNED

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A scheme to install Southeast Asia's first computerised traffic control system in West Kowloon advanced a major step today with the signing of a contract for the supply and installation of the system.

The \$8.8 million contract has been awarded to GEC-Elliott Traffic Automation Ltd. Signing on behalf of the company was Mr. J.M. Weedon, Managing Director of GEC (H.K.) Ltd., local agents for GEC-Elliott. Representing the government was Mr. Gordon Sapstead, Principal Government Highway Engineer.

The senior British Trade Commissioner, Mr. T.W. Aston, was also present at the signing.

The computerised scheme, known as Area Traffic Control, has been adopted successfully in a number of cities in Europe and America, and is being introduced for the first time in Southeast Asia.

It will initially cover Yaumati, Mong Kok, parts of Tsim Sha Tsui, and Sham Shui Po to the west of Nathan Road. The system is expected to be fully operational by 1976 and may be extended to other areas with heavy traffic.

Basically, the system will consist of a network of hidden cables under the road surface which will record traffic conditions and transmit the information to a central computer which will instantly synchronise traffic signals in the whole area to enable traffic to flow more smoothly.

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Traffic information, such as the number of passing cars, speed of traffic and the length of queues, will also be fed to the Traffic Police enabling them to spot and clear traffic jams immediately.

With the computer, it will also be possible to create a clearway for fire engines and other emergency vehicles by advising the quickest route and co-ordinating the traffic lights along it.

A special team of traffic engineers and computer experts has been set up to design and supervise the installation of the system.

Their office is in the Kowloon Government Offices in Nathan Road, where the central computer will be installed.

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### SUMMER TIME BACK IN HONG KONG

#### Another Move By Government To Save Fuel

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Hong Kong is to change to Summer Time on Sunday, December 30, as another measure to conserve fuel and electricity.

Announcing the Governor in Council's decision this afternoon, a Government spokesman said that clocks should be put forward one hour from 3.30 a.m. on that day.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Richard Butler, Assistant Economic Secretary, said a change to Summer Time could save up to about 50,000 tons of fuel oil in 1974 when Hong Kong faced a possible reduction in oil supplies.

"It is most important for us to save fuel oil which is used for generating electricity and on which our industry, and therefore our economy, depends," Mr. Butler said.

"Moreover," he went on, "it is believed that the community as a whole will welcome this move, though there will be a certain amount of inconvenience to some."

Commenting on the effect on schools, a Government spokesman said that the implication for them had been carefully considered, particularly as it related to primary school children. There are 361,000 primary school children who attended morning sessions, some of whom would be affected by the change. On the other hand 314,000 young children attending afternoon sessions stand to benefit from the lighter evenings on their way home.

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The possibility of changing school hours has been examined and the Director of Education has said that there is no objection to headmasters making adjustments in school hours so that the minimum inconvenience to the children is caused.

The Government spokesman added: "The date of the change - December 30 - has been chosen because it will be during the schools' Christmas holidays. This will allow children some days to get used to the time change before they return to school and will enable any modifications to be made to school times."

Commenting on other effects of the change, the spokesman said: "This change to summer time will avoid offices and factories having to switch on lighting and sometimes heating until much later. In many cases, in the evenings, lights will not have to be switched on at all before offices and factories close."

"Games and open air activities could also continue longer in natural, rather than artificial light," he added.

"Every measure in fuel economy currently being implemented helps, and together the measures will add up to a substantial saving," the spokesman concluded.

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Background Note to Editors

The following information on school attendance and hours of work may be of interest.

/The number .....

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The number of primary school pupils attending a.m. classes is just over 361,800 while the number of secondary is nearly 71,600.

In the afternoon, 314,600 primary pupils go to school while just over 60,000 secondary students attend classes.

Primary

In rural areas most primary schools start at 7.45 a.m.

In urban areas some start at 7.30 a.m. but most schools start at 7.45 a.m.

Most schools, urban and rural, finish at 6 p.m.

Secondary

Most secondary schools, urban and rural, start at 8 a.m. and finish at 6 p.m., but there are some schools which start at 7.30 a.m. and there are some which finish at 6.30 p.m.

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SECONDARY PUPILS' AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

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A very significant development in recent years has been the increasing awareness of community problems and issues among secondary school pupils, the Assistant Director of Education (Secondary), Mr. R.M. Cameron said this evening.

Mr. Cameron was speaking at the Speech Day of St. Mary's Canossian College.

The Assistant Director pointed out that many schools were already participating in community service work even before the introduction of the Anti-litter, Fight Crime and Road Safety Campaigns.

"The campaigns, of course, have brought about an even greater interest in such activities," Mr. Cameron said.

"This is a very healthy sign. It means that before they have to enter the wider, adult community an increasing number of our young people are involving themselves and becoming knowledgeable in the problems facing our society.

"This is valuable preparation for the time when they themselves will take their place in that society. They will not enter completely uninformed.

But Mr. Cameron felt it was even more important that before the pupils enter this wider community they were given a chance "to play a part within a self-contained social group, to express their opinion, to make suggestions and have them turned down at times by the majority, to learn to rub along with others without losing their individuality - in other words, to learn the give and take of life."

/Mr. Cameron .....

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Mr. Cameron believed that only when classroom lessons were complemented by a range of pupil centred interest activities that a day-school could provide an all round education.

He praised St. Mary's Canossian College for having completed another successful year and congratulated all concerned for achieving a strong corporate spirit which was continuing to flourish within the school.

At the ceremony successful pupils received prizes and awards from Mrs. Cameron.

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#### PASSING OUT PARADE OF FIRE OFFICERS

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Mr. R. Holmes, Chief Fire Officer, will take the salute at a passing-out parade of Fire Officers on Saturday (December 22).

The parade will take place at the Fire Services Training School, Fan Kam Road, Pat Heung, New Territories at 10.30 a.m.

Among those passing out are two from Brunei.

Also on parade will be about 100 instructors and trainees.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/  
or a photographer to cover the passing-out  
parade which will start at 10.30 a.m.

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ADVICE ON MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE MOORINGS

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The Director of Marine, Mr. A. Fletcher, has given hints on the use and maintenance of private moorings to their owners.

In a notice, he said: "All such moorings should be maintained in good condition and kept in correct position.

"Only the recommended types and sizes of mooring components should be used and regular maintenance must be carried out after the mooring has been laid."

Owners of double moorings, Mr. Fletcher said, should draw the buoys together on leaving the berth. This would keep the fire lanes clear for navigation and reduce the possibility of damage to boats and moorings.

To transfer ownership of a private mooring from one person to another, the formalities must be completed by both parties and received by the Director of Marine before bills for buoy dues can be re-directed to the new owner.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

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A Christmas party will be held tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon for boys in the O Pui Shan Boys' Home and other children in the Sham Shui Po and Lai Chi Kok areas.

The party will be held at the O Pui Shan Boys' Home at Kau Wa Keng, Lai Chi Kok.

The City District Officer (Sham Shui Po), Mr. Chan Hon-kwong will officially start the party at 2.15 p.m.

Guests will include Mr. J.M. Hanger, Magistrate of Kwun Tong Court and officers of the Probation and Corrections Division of Social Welfare Department under which the Home is operated.

The party will be held in two parts, one for indoor events and one for outdoor. The first part of the afternoon will include carol singing, stage plays and folk dancing.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a fun fair of 12 stalls organised by different groups including scouts and secondary and university students.

Altogether some 350 boys at the Home and children from the surrounding areas will take part.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to cover the party tomorrow.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Wednesday) 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 Mow -- old crop	Good	1.64
See Mow -- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	1.58
new crop		1.66
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.5
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Limited	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.52
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	-	-

/Supplies and .....

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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	3.5	2.6	3.0
Big-Eyes	Good	2.4	0.45	1.5
Squid	Normal	5.5	1.7	4.0
Hair-Tails	Good	1.7	0.8	1.4
Lizard Fishes	Good	2.3	0.8	1.6
Croakers	Good	1.3	0.55	1.0
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.5	1.7	2.0
Melon Coat	Normal	2.0	1.3	1.8
Breams	Limited	3.8	3.0	3.5
Yellow Belly	Good	2.0	0.6	1.5
Mackerels	Normal	3.4	2.8	3.0
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.1	0.5	1.6
Fork-Tail	Good	1.4	0.45	1.0
Horse-Head	Normal	4.5	2.2	3.2
Melon Seed	Normal	2.0	1.5	1.8
Pomfrets	Limited	7.5	6.0	6.5
Garoupas	Normal	6.5	4.2	5.0
Yellow Croaker	Good	5.0	3.5	4.0

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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	2.2	0.8	1.4
White cabbage	Normal	0.6	0.2	0.4
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.55	0.2	0.4
Chinese Kale	Normal	0.65	0.2	0.4
Spring onion	Normal	1.2	0.4	0.8
Spinach	Normal	1.4	0.5	1.0
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.35	0.65
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.5	0.2	0.4
Tomato	Normal	1.5	0.8	1.0

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

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