



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Government comments on PWC statement on civil service issue

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Following is a statement issued by the Government in response to the Preliminary Working Committee's statement on civil service issue:

"We welcome this comprehensive statement from the Preliminary Working Committee on areas in the Basic Law relating to the civil service. It is good that the PWC recognises the importance of the civil service in a smooth transition. Naturally we would like to study it in some detail.

"However, we can now say that it is helpful the PWC have emphasised the importance it attaches to the significant sections in the Basic Law dealing with the civil service, for example the way in which appointments are made to the civil service, promotion considered on merit, and the various bodies which give advice to the Government on these matters.

"We also welcome the restatement that all public servants may remain in posts in their same jobs after 1997. It is also useful to have clarified which posts the PWC regard as Principal Official posts and we note that this amounts to 27.

"The PWC have also made some comments on areas such as the handling over of files of civil servants and of their nationalities. Our position on this is very clear and has been spelt out many times. We do not think it needs to be reiterated here.

"All we would say is that we have an agreement with the Chinese side for handing over of archives in June 1997 and we shall stick to this.

"All the archives necessary for the administration of Hong Kong after 1997 will be transferred by the British Government to the Chinese Government who will in turn authorised the Government of the SAR to take them over. This process of transfer will not require any physical movement of the record.

"We have also said the Chief Executive (Designate) will have access to all the files/information that he needs well before June 1997 in order to nominate officers to the Central People's Government for appointment to Principal Official posts."

End

Boundaries talks schedule for next week

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Further discussions on matters relating to the boundaries of administration between Hong Kong and Guangdong will take place in Hong Kong on December 11 to 13 between the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong provincial authorities, a government spokesman said today (Saturday).

The Deputy Political Adviser, Mr John Ashton, will lead the Hong Kong team.

Mr Xiao Jinzhe, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangdong Provincial Government will lead the Guangdong team.

End

"Beat Drugs" carnival to be held in Kwun Tong

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To arouse young people's awareness of the problems of drug abuse, the Kwun Tong District Fight Crime Committee (KTDFCC) will organise a "Beat Drugs" carnival in the district tomorrow (Sunday).

Specially-designed game stalls will be set up by local voluntary agencies and secondary schools to educate the residents on the importance of staying away from drugs while having fun.

Exhibition which introduce the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN)'s work in law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and international co-operation, will be at the venue.

Winning entries of the anti-drug slogan and comics competitions organised earlier in the district will be on display.

Other highlights of the carnival include quizzes, singing, magic and acrobatics shows.

The carnival will begin at 1.30 pm at Playground No 8 of Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate.

Officiating guests of the opening ceremony include the Kwun Tong District Officer, Mr Tsang Hing-kay; the KTDFCC chairman, Mr Cheung Shing-kuen; Chairlady of the Kwun Tong District Board, Mrs Winnie Poon; the Police District Commander for Kwun Tong, Mr Ian Blair; and the Deputy Police District Commander for Sau Mau Ping, Mr Ian Griffiths.

The activity is organised with the assistance of Kwun Tong District Office and the joint sponsorship of Kwun Tong District Board and ACAN.

End

Sai Wan Ho Fire Station Open Day

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Sai Wan Ho Fire Station will be open to members of the public from 10 am to 6 pm tomorrow (December 10).

The event is part of the Fire Services Department's effort to promote the 1995-96 Fire Prevention Campaign.

Visitors will have a chance to learn more about fire prevention in commercial premises - the theme of this year's campaign.

They can also see various modern fire engines and equipment as well as a rescue demonstration.

More than 1,000 students and teachers have been invited to visit the fire station which is located at 20, Wai Hang Street, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong.

End

Christmas comes earlier

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Some 40 children from the Social Welfare Department's Sha Kok Children's Home were today (Saturday) treated to an early Christmas party.

The seasonal function, hosted by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, also marked the 10th anniversary of the home in Sha Tin.

In addition to enjoying a series of entertaining performances, the children were treated to a delicious buffet lunch and were each presented a most welcome Christmas gift.

The home, opened in 1985, provides 40 residential places and care services to children aged between six and 12.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,419	09:30	-1,075
Closing balance in the account	1,232	10:00	-1,075
Change attributable to:		11:00	-1,075
Money market activity	-1,075	11:30	-1,075
LAF today	-112	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.5 *+0.0* 9.12.95

End

Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's media session at the airport before leaving for the Philippines this (Sunday) afternoon:

Governor: Good afternoon. At the invitation of the President, I'm making the first ever official visit to the Philippines by a Governor of Hong Kong. It underlines our strong trading and economic relationship. Our trade with the Philippines has been growing steadily at a rate of about 25 per cent a year. We are the second largest investor in the Philippines. And of course there are many Filipinos working here in Hong Kong contributing to our economic success story, over 140,000 Filipinos altogether, of whom about 129,000 are domestic helpers. So it is a strong economic relationship. I'll be talking about that and about our role together in APEC with the President, with parliamentary leaders, with business leaders. And I'm also visiting Subic Bay where there are many Hong Kong investors in what is in effect an enterprise zone or free port. I'll also be seeing Cardinal Sin tomorrow morning and making a number of speeches. In addition to discussions about the economy and trading matters, I'll also be raising one or two other issues with President. For example, there is a good deal of concern in the community which has been expressed by the Legislative Council about the length of time that two of our citizens have been waiting for the hearing of an appeal into their sentence four years ago. None of us and no members of the Legislative Council and certainly not the administration wishes to interfere in the independent judicial process in the Philippines, but we do very much hope that the appeal itself can be expedited, can be heard as soon as possible, because Mr Au and Mr Wong have been waiting a very long time for that to happen. But it is important to stress I think the positive economic and trade relationship we have with the Philippines which has course had a very successful transition to democracy over the last few years and that's something I think everybody in the region greatly applauds.

Question: (on domestic helpers)

Governor: I'll be explaining what we have been doing to ensure that domestic helpers get as fair and decent a bargain as possible. And there is a report coming out on domestic helpers tomorrow which will, I think, underline the importance of making sure that their contracts have stressed the sort of living conditions which they have when they are in Hong Kong. I'm sure the President and others will ask me about the situation after 1997. Obviously that is going to be a matter for the SAR Government. But I will point to them that under the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, a labour policy is entirely a matter for the SAR Government. And of course as the case today Filipinos make a very substantial contribution to our economy and I am sure they will continue to do so.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: As I've said, I'll be raising that with President Ramos.

Question: (on Au's case)

Governor: I've already said that is what I am going to do.

Question: (on domestic helpers)

Governor: No. They have, as you know, a very good consulate here and take up cases that come to their attention where there are problems with some of the Filipino community. I have been involved in one or two charitable activities to provide better facilities for Filipinos, but I can't think of a specific case which has been raised with this. The Philippines Government is concerned in general about the welfare of their citizens not just in Hong Kong, but in the region and around the world. I think here in Hong Kong we can say that we give Filipinos as good and cheerful a welcome as anybody in the world does.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: That hasn't been raised with me. Whether it will be raised on this visit we'll see. But I think the main questions will be about the implications of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and 1997 for what is a substantial community, 129,000 people helping us.

End

Shell house to promote sense of nature conservation

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It is hoped that the construction of a house on shells would arouse the public's interest towards the beauty of shells and the need for nature conservation, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony of the house for exhibition in the Lions Nature Education Centre, Dr Lee said the project was an indication of continued co-operation and dedication among non-government organisations and the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in the area of nature conservation and education.

The construction of the house is a joint project between the Lions Clubs International District 303 (Hong Kong and Macau) and the Shell Hong Kong Limited.

Dr Lee said the displays in the exhibition house, to be known as the Lions Shell House, would cover various aspects of shells.

"They will include ecology, diversity, commercial and economic value and conservation.

"In order to enrich the exhibition, live specimens will also be displayed. There will also be a photo-taking corner for visitors to capture pleasant memories," Dr Lee said.

"The addition of this exhibition house in the Lions Nature Education Centre will no doubt enhance its attractiveness and education value of the Centre," he added.

End

Public co-operation crucial in fight against drugs

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Kwun Tong District Officer, Mr Tsang Hing-kay, said today (Sunday) the residents' and local groups' participation and co-operation are crucial in spreading the message of "Staying Away From Drugs" effectively.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Kwun Tong District "Beat Drugs" Carnival, Mr Tsang said: "As long as we all perform our civic duties in reporting drug-related crimes and taking preventive measures against drug abuse among young people, I believe that the situation in our district will improve."

He also paid tribute to the Kwun Tong District Fight Crime Committee (KTDFCC) for its efforts in organising activities to further the public's co-operation with the police in combating crime.

Today's carnival, organised by KTDFCC with the assistance of Kwun Tong District Office, was aimed at arousing young people's awareness of the dangers of drug abuse.

Carnival activities included game stalls specially designed by local voluntary agencies and secondary schools, anti-drug exhibitions, quizzes, singing, magic and acrobatics shows.

End

Workers should observe industrial safety law

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Workers in various industries are reminded today (Sunday) to comply with industrial safety regulations in the same way as their employers.

Chief Factory Inspector of the Labour Department, Mr Chan Tat-king, said full co-operation and commitment of workers in the adoption of safety precautions was a key element in improving and maintaining the standard of safety and health at work.

Under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations, a proprietor has the duty to protect the safety and health of workers by providing a safe system of work, a safe plant, necessary training and instructions as well as suitable personal protective equipment where required.

"A worker is also required to care for the safety and health of himself and of other people. When circumstances dictate that certain personal protective equipment must be worn, he must wear it. It is after all for his own protection," Mr Chan said.

He said the Factory Inspectorate would ensure that safety regulations were observed and would not hesitate to prosecute anyone who breached the law, be he the employer or the employee.

Any worker who breaches the safety regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and imprisonment for six months. The maximum penalty for an employer is a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for one year.

End

Sand sculptors shape anti-drug message

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A joint effort to construct sand sculptures will produce the best results, in much the same way as to combat the drug abuse problem.

The remark was made by the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Alasdair Sinclair, today (Sunday) at the presentation ceremony of the Anti-drug Sand Sculpture Competition held at Shek O Beach, Hong Kong Island.

The event was organised by the Youth Volunteer Group (YVG) of the Action Committee Against Narcotics.

"In watching the construction of the sand sculptures, I have been struck by the way in which different members of each team contributed," Mr Sinclair said.

He said in much the same way, a joint effort to combat the drug abuse problem would make the greatest impact.

"Not only the Government, but numerous voluntary agencies and individuals are pooling their efforts to prevent people's lives, especially young people's lives, from being ruined by drug abuse," he said.

The Commissioner admired the effort and imagination the participating teams put into creating their sculptures.

"I am sure that none of them would have preferred to pass the few hours they have spent here in taking illicit drugs.

"The secret of a healthy and successful life is to do our best in every aspect and engage positively with the opportunities that present themselves," he said.

Mr Sinclair said drug abuse helped nobody except the drug dealer.

"Challenges and pressure need to be faced up to with courage. If there is anything you cannot deal with, look for somebody who can help, for example, family members, teachers or social workers," he said.

About 200 people turned up in Shek O Beach to vie for the championships of the competition which was divided into three categories - open, students and families.

Also officiating at the ceremony were member of the Visual Arts Society, Mr Ha Pik-chuen, and YVG Chairman, Mr Wong Ho-fai.

End

Exhibition on slope maintenance opens

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Members of the public will have a chance to know about slope maintenance through a roving exhibition which will begin tomorrow (Monday) at the Wonderful Worlds of Whampoa in Hung Hom.

Organised by the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department, the exhibition is aimed at bringing home the message of the importance of slope maintenance.

The exhibition will feature various aspects of proper slope maintenance by means of colourful illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs.

Also being displayed at the exhibition are the two guide books on slope maintenance, namely the "Geoguide 5 - Guide to Slope Maintenance" and the "Layman's Guide to Slope Maintenance".

Visitors will also be able to take home leaflets on slope maintenance.

The exhibition at Hung Hom will last for one week and will be open daily between 8 am and 10 pm.

The same exhibition will also be mounted at Dragon Centre, Sham Shui Po from January 8 to 14 next year and at Peninsula Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui East between February 5 and 12.

Information on slope maintenance can also be obtained by calling the GEO's 24-hour automatic hotline 2762 5165.

End

New District Officer For Kwai Tsing

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Mr Ngai Wing-chit will assume the post of Kwai Tsing District Officer tomorrow (Monday).

Mr Ngai, aged 36, joined the Government as an administrative officer in 1987 and was promoted to senior administrative officer in April last year.

He has worked in the Housing Department and the Constitutional Affairs Branch. His last posting was Assistant Secretary for Constitutional Affairs.

End

Inter-school theme song singing contest

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Eighteen primary schools will compete in the 1995-96 Most Improved Primary Pupils Award Scheme Inter-school Theme Song Singing Contest at Tsuen Wan Town Hall tomorrow (Monday).

The competition is organised by the Education Department, Yan Chai Hospital, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Po Leung Kuk and Subsidised Primary Schools Council.

It aims at promoting the Most Improved Primary Pupils Award Scheme which seeks to encourage primary pupils to develop their potential fully and strive towards greater achievement.

The first prize winner will be awarded \$5,000 while the second and third prize winners will be awarded \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

In addition to cash award, all winners will be presented a trophy.

End

Calendar cards to promote child care

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The Social Welfare Department has produced 150,000 copies of a calendar card for the year 1996 to further publicise the message of home safety.

The calendar cards, which convey a message appealing to members of the public to make full use of the occasional child care service, are now being distributed free at all service units of the department, all child care centres and all maternal and child health centres of the Department of Health.

"Children should under no circumstances be left alone at home, even for a short while," a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

"At present, there are 149 child care centres providing a total of 453 occasional child care places to help needy parents to temporarily look after their children," he said.

The child care centres offer temporary care for children aged under six on a two-hour, half-day or whole-day basis. The fee for a two-hour session is \$14.

Members of the public who wish to use the service may contact the Social Welfare Department hotline 2343 2255 or the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate on 2835 2725.

End

Fresh water cut in Sai Kung

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Sai Kung will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (December 13) to 6 am the following day to facilitate watermain works.

Affected area will include Sai Sha Road between Wong Chuk Wan and Cheung Muk Tau.

End