



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, March 25, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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NEW SCALE OF RICE PRICES ANNOUNCED

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A new scale of rice prices to come into effect next Monday (April 1) when China increases the price at which it sells rice to importers in Hong Kong, was announced today by the Commerce and Industry Department after a meeting of the Rice Advisory Committee.

The new prices provide for a maximum increase of 10 cents per catty in the retail price of top quality rice.

Members of the Rice Advisory Committee have agreed to a new scale which does not pass on the full six per cent increase in import prices for Chinese rice. For See Mew the retail price increase is about four per cent.

Importers Sales Prices and Maximum Fair Market Prices

With effect from April 1, 1974

<u>Grade of Rice</u>	<u>Importers Sales Price</u> (\$ per picul)	<u>Retail Price</u> (\$ per catty)
China Rice :		
A. See Mew	210	2.50
B. S.O. Jien	204	2.45
C. Yau Jien	203	2.45
Thai Rice :		
A. 100% Whole (1st Grade)	210	2.50
B. 100% Whole (2nd Grade)	201	2.40
C. 15% Broken	199	2.40
U.S.A. Rice :		
A. 10-15% Broken (1st Grade)	192	2.30
B. 2nd Grade, round grain, un-remilled	180	2.20
		/Australian Rice .....

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Australian Rice	190	2.30
Taiwan Rice	158	2.00
Pakistan Rice	168.50	2.10

Mr. Jimmy McGregor, Deputy Director of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman of the Rice Advisory Committee, said that the committee would bring pressure to bear on any retailers selling above the prescribed maximum retail price.

"We have representatives from all sections of the trade on the committee, and with their support it would be possible to deny rice to wholesalers or retailers who overcharge on prices," he added.

Mr. McGregor said that the committee had approved arrangements for direct sales of rice to be sold by importers to groups of retailers, provided they complied with certain conditions.

To participate in the direct purchase scheme, retailers' groups would have to form an effective co-operative purchasing agency, and nominate a company to purchase the rice on their behalf on a cash basis.

The department has made arrangements for over 2,000 tons of rice to be offered for sale by importers this morning -- more than double the normal consumption.

Mr. McGregor said that there should be no problem with supply and no increase in prices until the new price structure becomes effective on April 1.

"The new maximum prices will then apply throughout April without further change," he said.

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Note to Editors: The Commerce and Industry Department would appreciate your co-operation in giving the widest possible publicity to the new rice prices which come into effect on April 1.

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SIR MURRAY OPENS REHABILITATION WEEK

Long-Term Programme Plan On Rehabilitation Services Soon

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The government hopes to start work within the next few months on a long-term programme plan for the development and co-ordination of rehabilitation services in Hong Kong, the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said today.

He was speaking at the opening of the Rehabilitation Week at the City Hall.

Referring to the government's current Social Welfare Five-Year Plan, the Governor said it includes provision for social and vocational rehabilitation, case work services and counselling.

"The second development programme for special education for handicapped children is well underway," he said. "This programme is aimed at increasing the number of school places for handicapped children, increasing diagnostic and remedial facilities such as speech therapy; and improving teaching standards through in-service training."

Furthermore, Sir Murray said, the Green Paper on Medical and Health Services includes proposals for the expansion of medical rehabilitation services.

"All this is evidence of the government's concern for the disabled, and its awareness of present deficiencies, and its determination to do what it can to help meet them," the Governor said.

/Sir Murray .....

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Sir Murray gave his full support to the Rehabilitation Week which aims to develop greater awareness of the problems that face the disabled, and a better understanding of what can be done to solve them.

He praised Hong Kong's voluntary agencies which have played such a notable part in the development and provision of rehabilitation services.

It is through their efforts and their close co-operation with the government, Sir Murray said, that the development of rehabilitation work in Hong Kong has been remarkably rapid in recent years.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the Governor's speech are boxed for collection.

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WATER CUT

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Water supply to a number of premises in Kowloon City will be interrupted for five hours as from 6 a.m. on Wednesday (March 27) to facilitate a test for leakage to be carried out in the district.

The area affected by the temporary stoppage is bounded by Junction Road, Wang Tau Hom East Road, Fu Mei Street, Wang Tau Hom Estate Blocks 14-16 and 21-26, and Fu Mei Street Resite Area.

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## TRANSPORT NEEDS OF DISABLED

Will Not Be Forgotten

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A Transport Department official today gave an assurance that the transport needs of the disabled would not be overlooked.

The Chief Transport Officer/Public Transport, Mr. Peter Miller, said, however, that there was "no single simple remedy to assist those less fortunate members of the community in getting about."

Mr. Miller was speaking at the Rehabilitation Week Symposium which opened at the City Hall this morning.

He referred to the recently published report on the future needs of the elderly and handicapped, describing it as "a significant social document and blueprint for the future".

The Transport Department, in its recommendations to the working party, laid emphasis on improving facilities for the convenience of the travelling public.

Among these, he said, were the need at the ferry concourses for more seats for waiting passengers, more handgrips particularly on the boarding ramps of vessels, and improved queueing arrangements to prevent rushing when the entry or exit gates were opened.

"In regard to buses, on some routes where there is a preponderance of elderly people it might be as well to examine the height of steps, the provision of handgrips and guard rails together with the width of entrances, exits and gangways," Mr. Miller said.

/He pointed .....

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He pointed out that in Britain there were special "low bridge" type vehicles with a single low step into the bottom saloon.

Mr. Miller also complained at the absence of proper queue rails to assist in the orderly boarding of buses, and said that more seats should be provided by the Urban Services Department at the main bus station "to improve the general appearance of what otherwise appear to be austere and functional pieces of land".

Turning to taxis, Mr. Miller said there might be some advantage by ensuring that they were specially built to provide easier means of access for passengers "many of whom find it difficult getting in and out of these cars".

In conclusion, Mr. Miller said he hoped the symposium "will have given us all food for thought and we can go away with renewed vigour and determination to ensure that the needs of the entire community are catered for in the future".

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#### NEW RADIOS FOR FIRE SERVICES

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Fire Services Department communications have taken a big step forward with the purchase of 30 transmitter/receiver sets which can be used in both portable and mobile roles.

Aptly named "Porta-Mobil", the American-made sets will greatly improve the flexibility of officers commanding fire fighting operations.

The sets are replacing those at present installed in senior officers' cars and on fire appliances, which are non-portable.

Senior officers attending fire grounds have been operating small "walkie-talkie" sets which cannot be used to contact control because of their limited range.

Whenever they needed to get in touch with control, they had to break off fire fighting and use the longer range sets installed in their vehicles or on appliances at the scene. This was inconvenient if, for example, the officer was on an upper floor of a multi-storey building. Now, they can carry the "Porta-Mobil" with them wherever they go and maintain constant two-way communications with control.

The sets weigh less than 13 lbs and can be carried by hand or strapped to an officer's back or shoulder. They are small enough to be fitted beneath the instrument panel of a vehicle and can be connected to a battery so as to provide additional charging. When fully charged, they give eight hours' continuous operation.

/The "Porta-Mobil" .....

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The "Porta-Mobil" was chosen from a number of similar transmitters/receivers after several months of evaluation by Fire Services officers. They are more complicated than ordinary sets, but this is justified by their much greater flexibility. An additional 39 sets are on order.

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Note to Editors: Copies of photographs of the "Porta-Mobil" transmitter/receiver sets are boxed for collection.

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#### MOCK OIL FIRE ON TSING YI

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Note to Editors: The Fire Services will carry out a mobilisation exercise at the Mobil Oil installation on Tsing Yi Island on Wednesday (March 27) beginning at 2.30 p.m.

The exercise will assume a fire has broken out in tank number 10 and a total of nine appliances, including a fire boat, will be sent to the scene.

Press, television and radio representatives are invited to attend the exercise. They should meet Mr. Donald Strange of the Fire Services Department shortly before 2.15 p.m. at Kwai Chung Fire Station from where transport will be provided to take them to the exercise site.

Kwai Chung Fire Station is in Tai Lin Pai Road, junction of Kwai On Road.

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NEW STALLS FOR ESTATE HAWKERS

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A total of 80 stalls will be offered by ballot and auction to Yau Tong Estate hawkers, who are now plying the trade in a temporary bazaar located between Block 8 and 11.

Twenty-three stalls are now available in the modular market at Ko Chiu Road Estate while another 57 should be ready in June when the modular market in Yau Tong Estate is completed.

The Housing Department sent out letters today inviting eligible hawkers to register with the estate office for the ballot, which will be held on April 3.

As soon as hawkers have vacated the temporary bazaar, it will be developed into a much needed recreational area for estate tenants.

On April 2, an auction will also be held at the Yau Tong Estate office for a number of meat, fish, poultry and cooked food stalls in these modular markets.

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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 (Monday) 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 Mew - old crop	-	-
See Mew - new crop	Good	2.00
S.O. Jien - new crop	Good	1.94
Po Ngai	-	-
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.91
10-15% Broken	Good	1.89
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.67
A1 Super	Good	1.52
Whole Glutinous	Good	2.00
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.82
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.80
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.60

/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	4.8	3.2	3.8
Big-Eyes	Good	2.7	0.7	1.8
Squid	Normal	5.0	3.2	4.0
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.5	1.2	2.0
Lizard Fishes	Normal	3.5	1.4	2.0
Croakers	Normal	2.7	1.0	1.4
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.8	1.8	2.5
Melon Coat	Limited	2.5	1.6	2.2
Breams	Normal	4.5	3.5	4.2
Yellow Belly	Good	1.6	0.7	1.3
Mackerels	Good	4.8	3.5	4.0
Red Goat Fish	Normal	1.0	0.6	0.7
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.8	1.2	1.4
Horse-Head	Good	5.7	3.5	4.0
Melon Seed	Limited	2.8	2.2	2.5
Pomfrets	Scarce	10.0	8.0	9.0
Garoupas	Good	7.0	5.5	6.0
Yellow Croaker	Normal	6.0	5.0	5.5

/Supplies and .....

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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	1.8	0.7	1.4
White cabbage	Normal	1.2	0.5	0.8
Chinese lettuce	Limited	0.8	0.3	0.6
Chinese kale	Normal	1.2	0.5	0.8
Spring onion	Good	0.6	0.2	0.4
Spinach	Normal	1.6	0.8	1.2
Water cress	Normal	1.0	0.2	0.6
Leaf mustard cabbage	Normal	0.8	0.25	0.5
Chinese spinach	Scarce	2.2	1.2	1.6
Tomato	Limited	1.8	0.8	1.4

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300

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