



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, May 28, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Students may apply for government maintenance grants for matriculation courses	1
Experimental traffic indicator bollards to bring local traffic signs up to international standards	2
Public urged to observe personal and environmental hygiene during the cholera season	4
First day covers for new definitive set of stamps will be on sale on Wednesday	6
Special traffic arrangements for a reception at Government House	8
Ping pong competition to be held in June for boys and girls in correctional centres	9

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 1 -

GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE GRANTS TO NEEDY PUPILS

Needy and deserving pupils who have good results in this year's Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examinations (English and Chinese) can apply for government maintenance grants to enable them to take matriculation courses.

The amount of the grant will be determined by a maintenance grants committee appointed by the Director of Education.

In recent years grants awarded have been in the region of \$50 a month and are tenable for one year at any school approved by him.

"A grant shall be discontinued at any time if, in the opinion of the Director, the recipient fails to merit the award by reason of lack of progress or unsatisfactory conduct," an Education Department spokesman said.

Application forms are obtainable from June 1 at the Education Department headquarters in Lee Gardens.

Completed forms must be returned, through heads of schools, to the Secretary of the Maintenance Grants Committee, Education Department not later than 10 days after the publication of the results of the Certificate of Education Examinations (Chinese and English).

The spokesman said: "Heads of schools have been asked to inform pupils in upper forms and middle 5 classes about two Education Department circulars which give details on how to apply for the grants."

During the 1972/73 academic year, 165 pupils in Chinese middle schools applied for maintenance grants. Of these, 132 were awarded grants totalling \$45,600.

In the same period, there were 1,036 applications from pupils in upper forms in Anglo-Chinese secondary schools. Grants totalling \$241,850 were awarded to 777 pupils to study in lower and upper 6 forms.

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/2

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 2 -

EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC DIRECTION INDICATORS

New traffic indicator bollards are being installed in urban areas in Hong Kong as an experiment to improve and update local traffic signs to international standards.

They are known as Morrison bollards in which the traffic direction sign is indicated by a white arrow on a blue background. The sign is set in a yellow and white coloured plastic container fastened to the kerb.

At night they are completely illuminated and provide motorists with a more easily identifiable sign than the existing ones which have red flashing lights on top and the directions written in English and Chinese.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today the new design fits in with the concept in international traffic codes that the traffic direction should be conveyed by symbols and not words.

As the bollards are made entirely of plastic, they are more economical and durable.

The spokesman added that if the response to the experiment were favourable, the existing bollards would be replaced by the new ones.

The Morrison bollards have been imported from the United Kingdom, but the workshops of the Public Works Department have modified the design to produce plastic bollards of a slightly different shape.

/In the

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 3 -

In the current experiment, eight bollards of both designs will be sited at different locations on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon: two at the junction of To Kwa Wan Road and Sung Wong Toi Road; two in Upper Albert Road; two at the junction of Nathan Road and Salisbury Road; one at the junction of Garden Road and Cotton Tree Drive; and one at the junction of Lower Albert Road and Garden Road.

Some of the bollards have already been set up, and it is expected that installation of all eight will soon be completed.

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Note to Editors: Photographs of the Morrison bollard are boxed this evening.

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/4

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 4 -

PRECAUTIONS DURING CHOLERA SEASON

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, advised today that with the approach of the cholera season, "personal and environmental cleanliness" were essential if Hong Kong was to remain free of the disease this year.

He warned that "primary protection during the summer months" meant clean food, clean water, the washing of hands before and after meals, and after visits to the toilet.

The public is also urged to be "extra cautious" in their choice of food and drink.

"Improperly cooked food can cause infection, while properly cooked food cannot. If the latter is not eaten immediately, it should not be left in the open and so exposed to contamination," he said.

Dr. Choa made it perfectly clear that water coming directly from the mains in Hong Kong was pure and safe for drinking, and did not require to be boiled.

In his view, danger of impurity arose when this water left the mains for storage in tanks, drums, or buckets. As these containers were sometimes left for long periods without cleaning, or otherwise not regularly or hygienically attended to, they made possible the contamination of the water by germs.

/"In these

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 5 -

"In these circumstances," Dr. Choa said, "stored water should be boiled before drinking. This is not a reflection on the quality of the water, but relates to storage conditions."

In a reference to personal hygiene, he explained that when this was seriously taken into account by members of the public, it amounted to "a protective measure not only against cholera, but also other intestinal diseases such as typhoid and dysentery."

He emphasised that there had only been 10 cases of cholera in the last eight years, but with summer now here, it was necessary to draw attention to the need for protective measures.

"People get cholera by taking in the vibrio carried from the waste of infectious persons to exposed food and water, and flies aid in the spread of the disease," he said.

Departmental measures being taken to prevent any outbreak of cholera in Hong Kong, and to locate carriers of the disease, include the testing of night soil and samples from all cases of diarrhoea that come to light.

Cholera vaccinations are available free at all government clinics and vaccination centres for intending travellers.

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/6

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 6 -

FIRST DAY COVERS FOR DEFINITIVE SET OF STAMPS

Special first day covers for Hong Kong's new definitive set of stamps will go on sale on Wednesday (May 30) at all post offices.

The covers, costing 20 cents each, feature a design by Government Information Services.

A spokesman for the post office said today that people are asked to obtain their requirements early to avoid disappointment.

The new definitive set of stamps, comprising 14 denominations, will be put on sale from June 12.

The spokesman said that advance orders for servicing first day covers will be accepted at the General Post Office, Pedder Street; the Kowloon Central Post Office, Nathan Road; and the Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office in Salisbury Road.

For this service, addressed first day covers must be handed in with an order form together with a remittance to cover the cost.

The charges for the whole set will be \$42.35 per cover which includes the cost of the whole set of stamps together with a service fee of 50 cents; charges for a limited set will be \$5.35 which includes the cost of the stamps value up to \$1.30 together with the 50 cent service fee.

The covers must be fully addressed by the applicant and not less than five covers will be accepted with each order. The order forms will be available at the General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on Wednesday (May 30).

/Any person

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 7 -

Any person ordering serviced covers addressed to a local destination may collect them on June 13 from the office where the order was placed. Covers addressed overseas will be sent forward by ordinary post, surface mail, unless sufficient stamps are affixed to cover airmail or registration charges or both.

The latest time of acceptance for advance orders of serviced covers will be noon on Thursday, June 7.

A service will be provided on June 12 at all post offices whereby first day covers will be accepted over the counter, impressed with the normal post office steel date stamp and handed back to the person presenting them.

No "time type" will appear in the postmark. The special conditions for this service are that only articles bearing an indication that they are 'first day covers' will be handled; the articles must be addressed to a local address; and they must not bear any other cancellation. No registered items will be processed by this method.

Special posting boxes will also be available at the General Post Office; Kowloon Central Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on the June 12 for those who wish to have first day covers carefully hand-postmarked before despatch to the address on the cover.

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/8

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 8 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

About 2,000 community leaders from all walks of life involved in the fight violent crime campaign have been invited to a reception at Government House on Wednesday (May 30).

Because of the large number of people attending, special traffic arrangements are being made to cope with the increased number of cars in the area.

From 1 p.m. all metered parking spaces in Upper Albert Road and two metered spaces in Lower Albert Road at its junction with Upper Albert Road will be suspended.

Vehicles with blue parking labels may be parked in these spaces. Those with Government House labels may park within the grounds of Government House.

A special free bus service will be provided by the China Motor Bus Company between the Star Ferry and Government House between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. and also between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. for guests not using their private cars.

Motorists are warned that there may be traffic congestion in Garden Road and Upper Albert Road between 2 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. and also again between 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on that day.

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Note to Editors: No press photographers other than those provided with special passes will be admitted to Government House.

Photographers assigned to cover the ceremony are requested to assemble at the guard room of Government House not later than 2.30 p.m.

G.I.S. officers will be on hand to give assistance.

..... Newspapers not receiving passes will be able to obtain photographs by making arrangements for the supply of prints in the ordinary way with Golden Studio, 527 Hennessey Road, Hong Kong, Telephone No. 5-777940.

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/9

Monday, May 28, 1973

- 9 -

PING PONG COMPETITION

A ping pong competition is being sponsored next month for boys and girls in care centres and correctional institutions.

The competition, organised by the Society of Boys' Centres, is one of the annual series of activities held during the summer months.

It is open to boys from the Juvenile Care Centre, the Society of Boys' Centres, the Kwun Tong Hostel, the Castle Peak Boys' Home, the O Pui Shan Boys' Home and the Begonia Road Boys' Home and girls from the Ma Tau Wei Girls' Home.

A spokesman for the organisers said the aim of the competition is to give the boys and girls a chance to develop their skill in the game and to allow them to foster a relationship which could be helpful in the future.

The matches will be played at the So Uk Chuen Youth Centre, So Uk Estate, Shamshuipo, and members of the public are welcome to attend. They will be held every weekend in June, beginning next Saturday (June 2), from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.