



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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Following is the transcript of the remarks by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after opening the 34th Orient and South East Asian Lions (OSEAL) Forum this (Friday) afternoon:

Governor: I'll say a few words when I'm leaving for the Philippines on Sunday. You would need anything urgent.

Question: Some reports say that the Chairman of the Hospital Authority, Peter Woo, will be the first Executive Head of the SAR Government. Do you think it is suitable for a commercial man to be the ...?

Governor: I can't speculate on that. It is not a decision for me. There are many people in Hong Kong with superb records of public service working in the community who are also distinguished in commercial life. Mr Woo is one of those. He is a very capable, dedicated Chairman of the Hospital Authority. But I really couldn't speculate. I think you would find that there are quite a few names mentioned in the coming weeks and months. I notice that Director Lu whom we are all delighted to see fighting fit, back at work, had said that there were dark horses and there were horses that presumably have more bets riding on them. Well, if you've been to Happy Valley you sometimes know that the dark horse wins and sometimes the favourite wins. So who knows.

Question: So what do you think about Mr Lo Tak Shing has got a Chinese passport?

Governor: That is a matter for him to explain, not for me to speculate about.

Question: Do you expect the British Government to give the visa exemption to the SAR passport holders?

Governor: Well, as you know, what we are trying to do at the moment is to reach an agreement with Chinese officials about the integrity of the SAR passport, not just its security as a document, but the security of issuing the passport. And I think that was a point that was put very clearly in a speech the other day by the distinguished Canadian Commissioner in Hong Kong. I hope that once we've got an agreement with the Chinese authorities, the sort of agreement which would be convincing not just to Britain but to other countries, we can go and talk to ministers in Britain about the importance of visa free access. You know that I've always supported it. But you also know I think that there are some questions about the passport which need to be cleared up first. They are not just questions for Britain. There are obviously going to be questions which will be asked all round the world and it is in everybody's interest, particularly the interest of Hong Kong, that we sort them out.

Question: The PWC will be dismissed this afternoon and the PWC will start the work. Do you think there will be more conflict or co-operation because some of the PWC members predict that there will still be conflict...?

Governor: Well, I hope that if the members of the Preparatory Committee who come from Hong Kong speak up for Hong Kong's interest, there will be much less argument. There will clearly be less argument if the Preparatory Committee members for Hong Kong are representative of all the views in the community. But I don't choose the members of the Preparatory Committee. When I make choices, I try to draw people from a broad section. For example, the Executive Council that I have in Hong Kong is broadly reflective of all the views in the community. And I think that gives it strength. The problems that have been in the last few weeks have not been caused by any of us in Hong Kong. There have been things said which seem to us to undermine our autonomy. There have been things said about our civil liberties. There have been things said about our levels of decent welfare provision. And I think the best thing for all for us to do would be to put those arguments behind us and hope that now that Director Lu is back at the office and in full health that we can turn a page and get on with a more co-operative and understanding approach to Hong Kong's problems.

Question: Do you ... that we get the Executive Council members to be the ...?

Governor: As I say, I don't choose the Preparatory Committee. But I am sure that if any of my Executive Councillors were approached, they would discuss the matter with their colleagues on the Executive Council and with me. As far as I am concerned, the more experienced and the more knowledgeable the members of the Preparatory Committee and the more they reflect the breadth of views in Hong Kong the better. That is in all our interest.

End

Transcript of CS's media session

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Following is the transcript of the Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan's media session after meeting Legislative Council members today (Friday):

Chief Secretary: I've just had a briefing with members of the LegCo and for this first briefing, I've told them the topic of contacts with China because I think it's an issue that is of concern not only to the community but also of concern to my colleagues in the civil service. I am very happy on this occasion to be able to say that following the success of the first informal get-together, we have now agreed with the Chinese that the next get-together will take place on December 14, that is next Thursday, at the Happy Valley Racecourse Voting Members' Box. The civil servants taking part in this get-together will be the Secretary for Home Affairs and the Secretary for Health and Welfare together with their responsible Heads of Departments and also the Director of Information Services. I very much hope and I am sure that this get-together will be conducted in a similar manner as the first one, that is in a very informal, relaxed atmosphere, facilitating a frank exchange of views between my colleagues and Chinese officials.

Question: Will there be any agenda for this meeting, I'd like to ask?

Chief Secretary: Bearing in mind that the Secretary for Home Affairs and the Secretary for Health and Welfare, together with the Director of Social Welfare, the Director of Health, the Director of Information Services, I would expect that the discussion will evolve around those spheres of activities, particularly on our welfare expenditure and on what progress we have in the coming years. There will be a good opportunity for Mrs Fok and for the Director of Social Welfare to put Chinese minds and hearts at ease in so far as expenditure on welfare side is concerned. I stress again we adopt a very prudent financial management. Expenditure on the welfare side is well within economic growth. We intend to keep it that way. So there need be no concern that we are going down the road of welfarism.

Question: We have in the past budgets that deficits turned out to be surpluses. will we discuss the issue of budget deficits and surpluses with the Chinese side?

Chief Secretary: We have consultations with the Chinese on budget preparation. You know that currently we are taking the Chinese side through how we actually go about preparing for the budget and there will be consultation on the next budget. So there is plenty of opportunity for both sides to explain and to address concerns.

End

Governor to visit the Philippines

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, will make a two-day visit to the Philippines beginning on Sunday (December 10) at the invitation of President Fidel Ramos.

It will be the first official visit to the Philippines by a Hong Kong Governor. Mr Patten will return on Tuesday night (December 12).

During his stay, Mr Patten will have a series of top level meetings with government and parliamentary leaders, including President Ramos; the President of the Philippines Senate, Mr Neptali A Gonzales; the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Ernesto Maceda; and Manila's Cardinal Jaime Sin.

The Governor will be guest of honour at dinners and luncheons hosted by a number of business groups, including the Hong Kong-Philippines Business Community, the Philippines Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Subic Bay Development Authority.

Mr Patten will also visit the former United States base at Subic Bay which has now been transformed into a major enterprise zone with significant investment from Hong Kong interests.

A government spokesman pointed out that there was growing trade and investment links between the two communities.

Hong Kong was the Philippines fourth largest trading partner, with trade growing by 19 per cent a year over the past five years; and it was also the second largest source of foreign investment in the Philippines. Much of the investment was in manufacturing, telecommunications and power.

Hong Kong is also home to an estimated 140,000 Filipinos - the largest expatriate community in the territory.

End

Informal get together

* * * * *

Informal Get Together Between
Senior Hong Kong Civil Servants
and Officials of the Chinese Side

Following consultation with the Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch), we are pleased to announce that the second informal get together between senior Hong Kong civil servants and officials of the Chinese side will take place on December 14, 1995, at the Voting Members' Box, Happy Valley Racecourse starting at 10.30 am. It will end after lunch.

Participating officers will be:

Mr Michael Suen
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Katherine Fok
Secretary for Health and Welfare

Mrs Shelley Lau
Director of Home Affairs

Mr Ian Strachan
Director of Social Welfare

Mrs Irene Yau
Director of Information Services

Dr Margaret Chan
Director of Health

They will be accompanied by Mr Michael Stone, Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service and Mr Joshua Law, Principal Assistant Secretary for the Civil Service.

End

Volume and price movements of external trade in September

* * * * *

In the first nine months of 1995, the volume of re-exports increased by 16% over the same period last year, while the volume of domestic exports increased by 4.6%, according to statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Taking re-exports and domestic exports together, the volume of total exports increased by 14%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 16% in volume.

The growth in the volume of trade is derived from the growth in trade values with the effect of price changes being discounted.

As regards price changes over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 3.9% and 2.5% respectively. Import prices increased by 5.8%.

Price changes are reflected by changes in unit value indices, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, based on specific price data.

The terms of trade index, defined as the ratio of total export price index to import price index, decreased by 2.1% in the first nine months of 1995 over the same period last year.

Comparing September 1995 with September 1994, the volume of re-exports increased by 17%, while that of domestic exports increased by 3.5%. Taken together, the volume of total exports increased by 14%. Meanwhile, the volume of imports grew by 11%.

Over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 3.6% and 3.3% respectively. Import prices increased by 4.6%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of re-exports by end-use category are shown in Table 1.

Comparing September 1995 with September 1994, the volume of re-exports of all end-use categories recorded increases of various magnitudes: fuels (+94%), capital goods (+26%), raw materials and semi-manufactures (+18%), foodstuffs (+13%), and consumer goods (+12%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases in the prices of re-exports were noted of most of the end-use categories: raw materials and semi-manufactures (+8.1%), consumer goods (+2.4%), foodstuffs (+1%), and capital goods (+0.5%).

On the other hand, the re-export price of fuels decreased by 6.4%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of domestic exports by principal commodity group are shown in Table 2.

Comparing September 1995 with September 1994, commodity groups which recorded increases in volume of domestic exports included radios of all kinds (+103%); and travel goods, handbags and similar articles (+34%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of footwear and textile made-ups and related articles decreased by 77% and 21% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded increases in domestic export prices included textile yarn and thread (+9.1%); and radios of all kinds (+6.6%).

On the other hand, the domestic export price of domestic appliances decreased by 0.3%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of imports by end-use category are shown in Table 3.

The import volume of foodstuffs increased by 5.6% in September 1995 compared with September 1994.

Significant increases in the import volume were noted of meat and meat preparations; and sugar. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of tea and coffee; and soya bean oil, peanut oil, vegetable oil and lard.

Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods increased by 6.2%.

Significant increases in import volume were recorded in alcoholic beverages; and household-type electrical appliances. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of passenger motor cars; and tobacco manufactures.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 12% in September 1995 compared with September 1994.

Significant increases in import volume were noted of wool and other animal hair; and thermionic, cold cathode or photo-cathode valves and tubes, diodes, transistors and so on and parts thereof. However, the import volume of silk fabrics; and raw cotton declined.

Imports of fuels increased by 16% in volume in September 1995 compared with September 1994.

As regards capital goods, the import volume increased by 20% in September 1995 over September 1994.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of construction machinery; and textile machinery. The import volume of transport equipment; and industrial machinery, other than electrical machinery and textile machinery however declined.

Comparing September 1995 with September 1994, the import prices of most of the end-use categories increased: raw materials and semi-manufactures (+8.2%), foodstuffs (+4.5%), consumer goods (+3.2%), and capital goods (+2.0%).

On the other hand, the import price of fuels decreased by 4.6%.

Details of the above statistics are published in the September 1995 issue of the "Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers".

The report will be available on sale around December 12 at \$14 per copy at either the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway; or the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department at 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, Tel 2598 8194; and enquiries on trade indices to the Census and Statistics Department, Tel 2582 4918.

Table 1 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing SEP 1995 with SEP 1994			Comparing JAN-SEP 1995 with JAN-SEP 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	14.8	1.0	13.3	20.3	2.1	19.4
Consumer goods	15.1	2.4	11.9	11.1	2.3	8.9
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	28.3	8.1	18.2	31.4	9.1	20.3
Fuels	84.5	-6.4	94.0	46.5	1.4	44.3
Capital goods	19.6	0.5	25.9	24.8	0.4	29.0
ALL COMMODITIES	19.7	3.6	16.6	19.4	3.9	16.1

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing SEP 1995 with SEP 1994			Comparing JAN-SEP 1995 with JAN-SEP 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	5.2	2.8	3.7	4.5	1.7	3.3
Textile fabrics	-15.7	4.0	-20.2	-5.5	4.4	-10.2
Textile yarn and thread	-12.8	9.1	-20.0	-6.8	4.0	-11.0
Textile made-ups and related articles	-20.5	0.3	-20.7	11.3	9.7	0.4
Radios of all kinds	117.4	6.6	102.8	22.3	1.9	25.6
Electronic components	26.9	5.7	22.7	23.8	4.6	20.7
Footwear	-76.0	0.2	-76.8	-60.0	3.3	-62.7
Metal manufactures	-12.0	5.8	-17.6	4.4	3.1	1.3
Metal ores and scrap	2.9	4.4	-0.4	36.2	6.0	29.2
Watches and clocks	18.9	0.9	17.0	11.5	2.0	8.3
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	34.2	1.6	34.3	3.3	-1.4	6.1
Domestic electrical appliances	-3.6	-0.3	-2.7	-6.0	1.0	-6.3
ALL COMMODITIES	6.1	3.3	3.5	7.4	2.5	4.6

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing SEP 1995 with SEP 1994			Comparing JAN-SEP 1995 with JAN-SEP 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	10.2	4.5	5.6	17.7	4.8	12.4
Consumer goods	9.4	3.2	6.2	11.8	4.1	8.0
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	20.0	8.2	11.8	29.7	9.1	19.0
Fuels	14.8	-4.6	15.6	16.4	-0.4	18.1
Capital goods	21.7	2.0	20.4	33.4	4.4	28.6
ALL COMMODITIES	15.3	4.6	10.8	22.2	5.8	15.9

End

HK to hold talks with the US on new origin rules

In response to press enquiries on the possible impact of the new US origin rules for textiles and clothing products on Hong Kong's exports to the US, a Trade Department spokesman said today (Friday) the matter would be discussed in consultations with the US next Monday (December 11) in Washington DC.

The spokesman said although the department had completed a preliminary impact study on the new US origin rules which were scheduled to come into force on July 1, 1996, it was not possible to give a complete and accurate assessment because key areas of the new rules were unclear.

"For example, for cut and sewn garments, the new rules require assembling as the origin conferring process instead of the existing rule of cutting," the spokesman said.

"At the same time, however, the new rules state that minor attachments, minor embellishments, and minor subassemblies will not affect the status of goods as wholly assembled in a single place. Unfortunately, the new rules do not provide sufficient explanations as to what exactly are such minor processes."

The situation remained unclear even after briefings given in Hong Kong by three visiting US officials from the Customs Service and Department of Commerce who had just visited Singapore and Indonesia to give talks on the new rules.

They briefed a group of Hong Kong textiles and clothing manufacturers and exporters at a seminar jointly organised yesterday by the Trade Department and the Textile Council. After the seminar, they also held an informal meeting with Trade Department officials.

The spokesman said the meetings were useful in clarifying some points but the US officials were unable to provide definitive advice to some of the questions raised at the informal meeting.

For other textiles and clothing products, the spokesman said the new US origin rules were clearer.

"For example, for finished fabrics and certain textiles made-up articles such as bed, table and kitchen linens, scarves and handkerchiefs, under the new rules, such products using imported grey fabrics will no longer be regarded as of Hong Kong origin.

"This could seriously affect Hong Kong's exports of such products to the US," the spokesman said, noting that the values of Hong Kong exports to the US of these two types of products in 1994 amounted to HK\$235 million.

In respect of these types of products, the spokesman said, the new US rules of origin were fundamentally different from existing rules and represented a drastic departure from established practices.

To reiterate Hong Kong's objections to the new US origin rules both in principle and in practice, Hong Kong will hold formal consultations with the US next week.

"If we cannot reach a mutually agreeable solution to the problem through bilateral consultations, Hong Kong will have to consider referring the matter to the World Trade Organisation for a recommendation," the spokesman added.

The Deputy Director-General of Trade, Mr Thomas Yiu, will lead the Hong Kong delegation to the consultations with the US.

Separately, at the consultations, Hong Kong will also raise the issue of the unilateral move by the US earlier to impose import control on Hong Kong's textiles and clothing products.

The Hong Kong delegation will depart for the US tomorrow (Saturday).

End

Fire chief visits China

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The Director of Fire Services, Mr Peter Cheung, will lead a group of six fire officers to visit their Chinese counterparts tomorrow (Saturday).

During their trip, they will exchange views and experiences on matters of mutual interest with officials of the Fire Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing.

The group will also visit the Beijing Fire Brigade, the Qingdao Fire Brigade and the Shanghai Fire Brigade.

They will return to Hong Kong on December 18 from Shanghai.

End

Strike may cause delay to airmail service to France

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The Assistant Postmaster General (Postal Services), Mr P C Luk, announced today (Friday) that due to the public administration and public transport strike in France, all airmail services to France, including Speedpost service, may be subject to delay.

A further announcement will be made as and when the services return to normal.

End

New welfare advisory committee members appointed

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The Government has gazetted today (Friday) the appointment of three new members and re-appointment of five incumbent members to serve on the Social Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) for a period of two years with effect from December 1.

The three new members are Ms Virginia Chan Choi-ying, Mr Moses Cheng Mo-chi and Dr Law Chi-kwong.

The five incumbent members who have been re-appointed are Dr Philemon Choi Yuen-wan, Mr Michael Lai Kam-cheung, Mr Lam Hoi-ham, Mr Ng Shui-lai and Dr Owen Wong Hong-hin.

The appointments were made strictly on an ad personam basis. The three new members had been chosen because they all had valuable contributions to make in their own right. They were not appointed to represent the views of any party or organisation of which they might be a member.

The main functions of the Committee are to keep social welfare services under continuous review; and to advise the Government on all matters of social welfare policy.

End

Invitation of tenders for rehabilitation of Sai Sha Road

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The Highways Departments is inviting tenders for the rehabilitation a section of Sai Sha Road in Sai Kung.

The project is to rehabilitate the existing Sai Sha Road between Long Keng and Kei Leng Ha Lo Wai and to improve four roadside slopes.

Works are expected to commence in February 1996 for completion in April 1997.

Forms of tender and further particulars may be obtained from the Regional Highway Engineer/New Territories, Highways Department, second floor, Room 218, Ho Man Tin Government Offices, 88 Chung Hau Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon.

Tenders must be addressed to the Chairman, Public Works Tender Board, and placed in the Public Works Tender Box on 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, before noon on Friday, December 29, 1995. Late tenders will not be accepted.

End

Car salesman fined for tax evasion

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A 56-year-old sales representative of a motor car company pleaded guilty in the Western Magistracy of submitting false salaries tax returns contrary to Section 82(1)(d) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

Alec Louie Shiu-keung was convicted of tax evasion and sentenced to imprisonment for two months, suspended for 12 months. In addition, Louie was fined a total of \$81,000 - 179 per cent to the tax evaded - and ordered to pay \$6,000 costs.

Louie, a sales representative of Crown Motors Limited, was charged with three counts of tax evasion by falsifying his claim for outgoings and expenses deduction through the submission of false invoices, cash sale notes and cash memos. The false deduction claims amounted to \$283,566 and the salaries tax evaded was \$45,297.

The tax evasion offences involved the submission by Louie to the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) of salaries tax returns for the tax assessment years 1988-89 to 1990-91 in which assessable income had been understated, and as a result, salaries tax evaded.

An IRD spokesman reminded the public that tax evasion is a criminal offence. Upon conviction, the maximum sentence is three years imprisonment and a fine of \$20,000 on each charge (or \$25,000 for an offence committed during the period from August 1, 1994 to July 18, 1995 or \$50,000 for an offence committed after July 18, 1995), plus a further fine equivalent to three times the amount of tax undercharged.

End

Royal Observatory Calendar 1996 now on sale

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The Royal Observatory Calendar 1996 is now available for sale to the public at the Government Publications Centre and the Royal Observatory Headquarters.

The theme of the calendar is "Meteorology in the Service of Sports" which is also the theme of the World Meteorological Day 1996 (March 23).

This calendar describes the close connection between weather and sports and how the various meteorological services and information provided by the Royal Observatory help to enhance the enjoyment of various sports and avoid weather-induced inconveniences or hazards to sportsmen in Hong Kong.

It also contains useful geophysical information such as rising and setting times of the sun and moon, tide and monthly climatological normals and extremes.

This beautifully printed and attractively presented calendar would be an excellent gift to friends and relatives for Christmas and the New Year.

The calendar can be purchased at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, 66 Queensway and the Royal Observatory Headquarters, 134A Nathan Road, Kowloon at \$72 a copy.

End

The weather of November

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November 1995 was dry with only 1.8 millimetres of rainfall recorded against a normal of 35.1 millimetres. Despite this, the accumulated rainfall since January 1 amounted to 2746.5 millimetres, 26 per cent above the normal for the same period.

The monthly mean relative humidity was only 64 per cent, five per cent below normal. The Fire Danger Warnings had to be issued for 19 days in the month.

Under the influence of a continental airstream, November started fine and dry. The first day of the month happened to be the Chung Yeung Festival, and about 160 cases of hill fire were reported. Fine weather prevailed until November 5 when the outer rainbands associated with Severe Tropical Storm Angela, moving over the South China Sea towards Hainan, began to affect local areas.

A dry surge arrived on the afternoon of November 7 and winds strengthened from the north. The dry air gradually cleared the clouds and temperatures climbed to 27.9 degrees, the highest of the month, on November 10.

An easterly airstream arrived on November 11. Although it brought more clouds to the territory, the air was still relatively dry and firemen had to fight a hill fire at Kowloon Peak for 20 hours on November 12.

A surge of the winter monsoon arrived from the north on November 14, bringing cooler air to the territory. Local winds strengthened and there was light rain during the night.

Between November 16 and 25, the weather was marked by long sunny periods. Strong northerly winds accompanied by cool and dry air reached the territory on November 23. A scaffolding was brought down in Tsim Sha Tsui in the afternoon.

The relative humidity dropped to only 17 per cent, the lowest on record for November, on the afternoon of November 24. Temperatures at the Royal Observatory dropped to 13.9 degrees, the lowest for the month, on the morning of the following day. Temperatures at Ta Kwu Ling on that morning were even lower with a minimum of only 4.5 degrees.

Cloud amount increased again on November 26 as easterly winds replaced the northerlies and gave rise to some light rain patches on November 28 and 30.

There were four tropical cyclones over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month of November.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarized in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of November are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in November 1995

Warnings / Signals	Effective date and time

Strong Monsoon Signals	7 Nov 1500 - 8 Nov 0500
	4 Nov 2100 - 15 Nov 0530
	23 Nov 1130 - 24 Nov 0930

Fire Danger Warnings	
Red	1 Nov 0000 - 2 Nov 2400
Yellow	4 Nov 0000 - 5 Nov 1530
Red	8 Nov 0600 - 9 Nov 2310
Yellow	11 Nov 0000 - 11 Nov 0600
Red	11 Nov 0600 - 12 Nov 0600
Yellow	12 Nov 0600 - 12 Nov 2330
Red	16 Nov 0600 - 17 Nov 0600
Yellow	18 Nov 0600 - 20 Nov 0600
Red	20 Nov 0600 - 22 Nov 0600
Red	23 Nov 0600 - 26 Nov 2315

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - November 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	181.6 hours; 0.1 hours above normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	12.50 MJ/SQM; 0.89 MJ/SQM below normal
Total Rainfall	1.8 mm; 33.3 mm below normal
Mean Cloud Amount	54%; 1 % above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	64%; 5% below normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	24.6 Degrees Celsius; 0.4 Degree Celsius above normal
Mean Air Temperature	21.2 Degrees Celsius; 0.2 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	18.8 Degrees Celsius; 0.4 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Dew Point	13.7 Degrees Celsius; 1.5 Degrees Celsius below normal
Total Evaporation	102.8 mm; 26.3 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End

Temporary suspension of section of Mid-Levels escalators

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The two escalators linking Queen Victoria Street with the Central Escalator Link Alley on the second floor of Central Market will be temporarily suspended from 9 am tomorrow (Saturday) to 5 pm on December 23 (Saturday).

The temporary suspension is to facilitate the Urban Services Department's painting of the wall and the ceiling of the void above these two escalators at the frontage facing the street.

The painting work will be supervised by Architectural Services Department.

Members of the public are advised to use the staircase situated at the Jubilee Street entrance of Central Market or the escalators next to Hang Seng Bank to enter or leave the Central Escalator Link Alley.

Escalator users who wish to enter or leave the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System can also use the escalators situated at Queen's Road Central next to the CRC Department Store.

Notices will be displayed at all major entrances. Broadcasts through the public address system of the escalator and walkway system will also be made to inform escalator users of the new arrangement throughout the period of the temporary suspension of the two escalators.

End

Fresh water cut in Causeway Bay

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Causeway Bay will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm next Monday (December 11) to 6 am the following day to facilitate watermain works.

Affected area will include all odd number premises between 9-11 Kingston Street, 310-311 Gloucester Road, all even number premises between 2-10 and odd number premises between 11-29 Great George Street, Sugar Street, all odd number premises between 1-31 Yee Wo Street, all even number premises between 2-36 and odd number premises between 1-27 Paterson Street.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,620	0930	-382
Closing balance in the account	2,419	1000	-382
Change attributable to :		1100	-347
Money market activity	-323	1200	-347
LAF today	+1,122	1500	-347
		1600	-323

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.5 *+0.0* 8.12.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.88	2 years	2711	5.60	99.97	5.69
1 month	5.80	3 years	3810	6.15	100.70	5.97
3 months	5.60	5 years	5009	6.95	102.44	6.45
6 months	5.58	7 years	7211	6.82	100.40	6.86
12 months	5.56	5 years	M502	7.30	102.19	6.88

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,337 million

Closed December 8, 1995

End