



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, May 3, 1973

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FIRST AUCTION OF "LUCKY" NUMBER PLATES

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Car owners who have been waiting to obtain "lucky" number plates will be able to make a bid when the first auction of special vehicle registration numbers is held next Wednesday (May 9).

Fifty "lucky" numbers will be put up for sale by the Transport Department with the proceeds to be used for charitable purposes.

The numbers to be auctioned are:

307	309	315	349	356
359	366	374	AR1	AR2
AR3	AR8	AR9	AR10	AR40
AR50	AR60	AR70	AR11	AR22
AR33	AR88	AR99	AR100	AR400
AR500	AR600	AR700	AR111	AR222
AR333	AR888	AR999	AR1000	AR4000
AR5000	AR6000	AR7000	AR1111	AR2222
AR3333	AR8888	AR9999	AR 123	AR 234
AR 345	AR 456	AR 567	AR 678	AR 789

The number will be assigned only to a vehicle registered in the name of the successful bidder within 12 months from the date of auction.

Successful bidders will be required to pay in cash or cheque immediately after the auction, and proceeds will be paid to the Government Lotteries Fund.

The auction will be held at 5.30 p.m. in the Canteen, Central Government Offices (West Wing), 7th floor. The auctioneer will be Mr. I.L. Stanton, the Principal Government Land Agent.

A second auction will be held in about two weeks.

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES TO BE REMOVED

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Officers of the Buildings Ordinance Office today visited two buildings in Quarry Bay to make arrangements for reinstating them to their former condition, by removing many unauthorised structures.

The premises concerned are Hoi King and Hoi Sang buildings at 1026-1048 King's Road.

The unauthorised additions include balconies, swing doors and other obstructions which form the subject of notices under the Buildings Ordinance.

These structures were to have been removed by yesterday, but since this, with a few exceptions, has not been done, it is the intention of the government to carry out the work on behalf of the owners and to charge them with the costs in due course.

Beginning tomorrow, the Fire Services Department will be instituting legal proceedings with regard to summonses issued under the Fire Hazard Abatement Ordinance.

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NEW DIRECTOR OF AUDIT APPOINTED

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Hong Kong's new Director of Audit will be Mr. G.E. Lyth.

He will succeed Mr. P.T. Warr, who will be going on leave prior to retirement in August this year.

Mr. Lyth, currently the Deputy Director of Audit, is 51. He joined the Inland Revenue Department of the United Kingdom Civil Service in 1938. During the war, he served in the Middle East as a Major in the Royal Artillery and in Eritrea in the Sudan Camel Corps.

After the war he was transferred to the Overseas Audit Service and worked in Malaya and Kenya before being posted to Hong Kong in 1961. He was made Assistant Director of Audit in 1965 and promoted to his present post in 1970.

Mr. Lyth, whose appointment has been approved by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was made an official Justice of the Peace in 1969. He is married with no children.

Mr. J.C. Hobbs will succeed Mr. Lyth as Deputy Director.

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RECORD YEAR FOR TRAVELLERS

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A record number of more than 8.28 million travellers entered or left Hong Kong during the financial year ending March 1973, according to provisional figures released today by the Director of Immigration.

This was more than 1.48 million over the corresponding figure in the previous year and represented an increase of 21.8 per cent in land, air and sea traffic.

The figures do not include transients or people refused permission to land.

During the year, 4,152,472 people were recorded as having legally arrived in Hong Kong, while 4,139,399 left.

The number of people travelling by land between Hong Kong and China was up by 264,242 to 1,417,487.

Arrivals and departures by air numbered 2,877,774, an increase of 561,344 over 1971/72, while the number of people arriving or departing by sea was 3,992,610 - 659,336 more than in the previous year.

Commenting on the increases, a spokesman for the Immigration Department said they were part of a general worldwide trend which had been noted in recent years.

The fact that more people were travelling, he said, pointed to greater affluence.

He added that there had also been a considerable increase in package tours coming to Hong Kong.

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GOVERNOR TO SEE BUN FESTIVAL PARADE

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will watch the grand parade of the annual Bun Festival at Cheung Chau on Sunday (May 6).

He will be met on arrival at Cheung Chau by the District Officer, Islands, Mr. Mayer Ng, and his Liaison Officer, Mr. J. Pun Hong-sing.

The vice-Chairman of the Cheung Chau Rural Committee, Mr. Fung Pak-choy, the Director of the Festival Organising Committee, Mr. Kwong Ping-yau and other officials of the committees will also greet the Governor.

The Bun Festival, commonly known as "Ta Chiu", is one of Hong Kong's most colourful pageants.

It is held by residents of Cheung Chau to placate the avenging spirits of people tortured and murdered by pirates on the island many decades ago.

According to legend, these spirits are responsible for Cheung Chau's calamities. Buddhist priests are therefore called in for the religious ceremony of "Ta Chiu" to pacify the spirits.

The festival begins tomorrow and will last until next Monday (May 7). During this time residents of Cheung Chau may eat only vegetarian food.

As it is a festival of gods and spirits, all the principal idols from the nine temples on the island will be assembled beside the bun towers. After the procession, the idols will be returned to their temples.

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The grand procession will take place on Sunday (May 6) at 2:30 p.m. It will last about an hour. Before the procession, a military band will play interlude music.

The "Ta Chiu" religious ceremony will be held at noon on the same day.

During the five days of festivities, Cantonese operas will be performed nightly.

On Saturday at 3 p.m., the District Officer, Islands, Mr. Mayer Ng, will perform the eye-dotting ceremonies for unicorns and lions in the forecourt of the Pak Tai Temple.

The highlight of the festival will be the traditional bun tower "scramble" which will take place near the temple at midnight on Sunday. The islanders believe that the buns will bring them good luck for the rest of the year. On Monday, there will be a repeat of the procession, so that more visitors may have the opportunity to see this colourful event.

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Note to Editors: The Cheung Chau Rural Committee is making all the arrangement for Press coverage of the parade.

Sir Richard Ward will arrive at Cheung Chau at 2.30 p.m. on Friday.

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MORE PLAYGROUNDS FOR SAU MAU PING

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Three playgrounds will be built in the Sau Mau Ping public housing estate to provide more recreational facilities for the residents.

They will cover a total area of two acres.

The work involves the provision of playground equipment, a shelter, flower beds and garden seats.

Recreational facilities will comprise 5 basketball courts, cabin slides, an ocean wave, a jungle gym, swings and a hopscotch court.

The playgrounds will be located at the west of Block 4, north of Block 3 and south of Block 3. Construction is expected to begin in mid-June and should be completed by September.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE

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Note to Editors: The Preventive Service will be holding a passing-out parade on Saturday (May 5) at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Headquarters, Sports Road, Happy Valley. One-hundred-and-fifty officers will take part, 70 of whom will be passing-out.

The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr. D.C.C. Luddington, will take the salute at the parade.

You are invited to cover the ceremony which will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Copies of Mr. Luddington's speech will be distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes on that day.

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MORE LAND AT MUI WO FOR SALE

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Another piece of Crown Land at Mui Wo on Lantau Island is being put up for auction.

The lot, covering an area of 2,500 square feet is for non-industrial purposes. The upset price is \$500,000.

An adjacent lot in Mui Wo with the same area was sold last month for \$870,000, or about \$350 per square foot.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from and sale plans inspected at the New Territories Administration, North Kowloon Magistracy, Tai Po Road, and at the District Offices of Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Tai Po, Sai Kung and Islands.

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BUILDING IN ALDRICH VILLAGE DECLARED DANGEROUS

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The Building Authority today declared No. 28 Aldrich Village, Hong Kong to be in a dangerous condition.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that this 2-storey pre-war building was inspected as the result of an emergency call by the police and it was found that a portion of the wall of the kitchen block had collapsed.

As there is danger of further collapse an Emergency Closure Order was applied for at 4.30 p.m. yesterday (May 2) and granted by the District Judge.

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"MEET THE MEDIA"

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Note to Editors: Another "meet the media" session will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 3 p.m. in the 35mm theatre in G.I.S., Beaconsfield House, 5th floor.

Attending the meeting will be Mr. G.J. Bell, Director of the Royal Observatory.

You are invited to have the meeting covered. Television crews are advised to arrive early so that they will have ample time to set up their equipment.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.