



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, February 15, 1973

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LION ROCK TUNNEL TRAFFIC SET NEW RECORD

During Lunar New Year

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The total number of vehicles passing through the Lion Rock Tunnel during the Lunar New Year has set a new record.

According to statistics released by the Transport Department, a total of 69,445 vehicles passed through the tunnel during the four-day holiday period.

The highest daily record was set on February 5 when 21,673 vehicles passed through the toll booths.

The previous daily record of 20,967 vehicles was set on the third day of the last Lunar New Year (February 17, 1972).

The usage of the Lion Rock Tunnel, which operates on a round-the-clock basis, has been increasing steadily since its opening at the end of 1967.

Traffic has been increasing at the rate of about 20 per cent per annum -- from an initial daily average of approximately 5,000 vehicles to about 11,500 now during weekdays and over 15,000 during weekends and public holidays.

The Lion Rock Tunnel Road was originally built to relieve congestion on the old Tai Po Road, linking Kowloon and the eastern part of the New Territories.

But with the rapid development of the New Territories, especially Sha Tin, traffic congestion is still experienced on both roads during peak hours.

Traffic volume on Tai Po Road has now risen to a level which is even higher than that before the opening of the tunnel.

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The Government has therefore decided to construct a second Lion Rock Tunnel Road, similar to the existing one, to cope with the even higher volume of traffic expected as Sha Tin develops.

It will be built parallel to and on the western side of the present tunnel, with entry and exit points close to the existing portals. When completed, each tunnel will be used for dual-carriageway one-way traffic.

Drilling work has already begun earlier this year and the new tunnel is expected to be open within the next 3 to 4 years.

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LAND SALES NEXT MONTH

Two lots of Crown land situated in Kowloon's "Broadcasting City" will be offered for sale at a public auction in the City Hall next month.

Both lots, located off Broadcast Drive, are for private residential development and have a combined upset price of \$19 million.

The auction will take place at 2.30 p.m. on March 16 in the City Hall Lecture Room.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices, West Wing, ground floor, and at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, No. 405 Nathan Road, 10th floor.

Sale plans can be inspected at these offices.

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TONG MI ROAD RECLAMATION PROJECT

Last Link In Seawall To Be Built Soon

The last link in the seawall for the Tong Mi Road extension and reclamation scheme will be built in April.

The seawall, measuring over 1,000 feet, will be built at the northeastern corner of Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter. It will link the seawall opposite Oak Street with the one off Shan Tung Street.

Work is expected to be completed in nine months.

On completion of the seawall, an area of 23.2 acres of land will be reclaimed to provide for cargo-handling areas, public open spaces and major roadworks.

The reclamation will enable Tong Mi Road to be extended to form part of a major waterfront route linking Tsim Sha Tsui with Tsuen Wan.

The new coastal road is expected to relieve the traffic situation in Nathan Road.

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SCOUT ASSOCIATION TO SET UP TRAINING CENTRE

With Grant From Lotteries Fund

A capital grant of \$240,000 has been allocated from the Lotteries Fund to assist the Scout Association in setting up a Training Centre at Tung Tsz, Plover Cove, in the New Territories.

The Association has already obtained Government agreement to the allocation of a site there.

Under the project, three buildings and three huts previously occupied by staff employed on the Plover Cove Water Scheme will be converted into dormitories to provide overnight accommodation and camping facilities for 700 young people.

A large assembly hall is now under construction and a jetty will be built towards the end of the year.

The project started in 1971 and will be completed next year.

The total cost of the project is \$280,000, of which \$40,000 has already been spent on initial site preparation.

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BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared No. 68 Des Voeux Road West to be in a dangerous condition and Nos. 66 and 70 Des Voeux Road West liable to become dangerous.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these four-storey pre-war buildings were inspected following a complaint.

It was revealed that the roof of No. 68 Des Voeux Road West was in a dangerous condition and liable to collapse.

In addition brickwork to the load bearing walls is fractured and there is evidence of decay in the floor joists.

No. 66 Des Voeux Road West shares a common staircase with No. 68.

Taking into account defects in the floors and walls, No. 66 will be liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of No. 68.

On the other side, the party wall between No. 68 and 70 is extensively fractured and there will be risk of collapse during or after the demolition of No. 68.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on March 23, 1973 were posted today.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

The Transport Department today announced a series of new traffic arrangements on both sides of the harbour.

From 10 a.m. on Saturday (February 17), the loop road joining Yuk Choi Road, Hung Hom, will be made one-way southbound to facilitate vehicular access to the Hong Kong Polytechnic.

Parking at Wan Chai Ferry Pier will be suspended from 9.30 a.m. on Saturday for about three days for the re-arrangement of parking spaces.

Sing Woo Crescent in Happy Valley will be made one-way southbound from 10 a.m. on Tuesday (February 20).

Appropriate signs will be put up to guide motorists.

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ANTI-SMALLPOX CAMPAIGN ENTERING SECOND WEEK

The 1973 anti-smallpox campaign is entering its second week today.

In the first week, a total of 2,552 doses of vaccine was administered -- 74 on the Island, 2,217 in Kowloon, and 261 in the New Territories.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said the three-week campaign aimed at vaccinating as many members of the public as possible against smallpox.

The drive lasting until February 24, is also intended to keep up the community's immunity to the disease.

Free vaccinations are available at all government clinics and inoculation centres.

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TWELVE CANDIDATES TO STAND FOR THE COMING

Urban Council Election Next Month

Twelve nominations have been accepted for the Urban Council elections in March.

The Returning Officer, Mr. Donald Tsang, announced this at 5 p.m. this evening at the end of the nomination period.

The nominations accepted included two candidates who, in the tests for proficiency in the English language conducted by the testing authority, had failed to reach the standard of English normally required of a juror.

These were Mr. Lai Shiu-lam, of the Hong Kong Reform Club, and Mr. Choi Kwok-ching, of the Hongkong Civic Association.

The Returning Officer, being satisfied that their standard of English is sufficient to enable them to make a reasonable contribution to the affairs of the Council, exercised his discretion and accepted their nominations.

He took into account the fact that it is intended that Urban Council sessions are to become fully bilingual as soon as adequate translation facilities are available; this should be within a year.

The full list of nominations is as follows:

HONGKONG CIVIC ASSOCIATION

1. CHAN Peter Chi-kwan
2. CHOW Wai-hung, Edmund
3. WONG Henry
4. CHOI Kwok-ching
5. Sansan Teh-chi CHING

THE HONG KONG REFORM CLUB

1. Bernacchi Brook A, OBE, QC, JP
2. TSIN Sai-nin
3. Bernacchi Patricia S.
4. HU Hung-lick, Henry
5. LAI Shiu-lam
6. WONG Pun-cheuk
7. YOUNG C.P.

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GOVERNOR PAID SURPRISE VISIT TO POLICE STATIONS

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, paid a surprise visit this afternoon to Hong Kong Island District Police Headquarters and to Western Police Station.

He showed particular interest in the whole procedure of crime reporting and how members of the public reported crime to the police.

Accompanied by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. C.P. Sutcliffe, the Governor first visited Hong Kong Island District Headquarters, where he inspected the 999 emergency control room and the Traffic Office.

Later the Governor went to the Western Police Station, where he was met by the Divisional Superintendent, Mr. L. Power.

Again, Sir Murray was keenly interested in the crime reporting system, and the procedures which are in use.

He wished to see for himself some of the day-to-day problems with which the police have to deal.

He visited the Criminal Investigation Office before being given a final briefing on police matters by Assistant Divisional Superintendent, Mr. D.T. Emmett.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED

The Port Health Authority announced today that quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Singapore (Port and Airport), on account of cholera.

At the same time, quarantine restrictions imposed against arrivals from Quetta (Airport), Pakistan, on account of smallpox have been removed.

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Release Time: 7.30 p.m.