



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of Acting Governor speaking to the press

The following is a transcript by the Acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, speaking to the media at CGO lobby today (Monday):

Mrs Chan: First of all, ... to the families of the young boy who died in Chai Wan and also to the relatives of those people who are still missing in the Shum Wan incident. As you know, both the Secretary for Security and Secretary for Works and other senior officials were at the scene of the tragedy as soon as possible to make sure that emergency work, particularly work in helping to find the missing persons continued without any delay. I had a meeting myself this morning with all responsible policy secretaries, just to review the situation, clearly in the light of the continuing rains and to ensure that co-ordination is carried out at the highest level. I am satisfied that we are doing everything that we possibly can. But there will obviously be an impact on traffic particularly and I hope that employers can perhaps help out by letting their staff go early today in batches so as to ease the traffic on roads, particularly as it has been necessary to close quite a few of the roads on Hong Kong Island. We will obviously be looking at these closed roads and to carry out the necessary remedial work so that we can open these roads as soon as possible. But it will clearly take a few days.

Q: A review has recently been finished on slopes. Do you think further work needs to be done?

Mrs Chan: It's a continuing effort. But I think you'll see that despite the fact that we have had such very very heavy rains over a very concentrated period, by and large, I am glad to know that the number of landslides have not in fact been as many as might have happened before we took remedial action to stabilise quite a lot of our slopes. I clearly hope that we will not see any further serious landslips in the next few days. But it depends very much on the weather conditions.

Q: So a couple of fatalities in heavy rain is acceptable ...

Mrs Chan: No, it's not acceptable. I think every life lost is not acceptable but I am saying that the government is doing everything we possibly can to avoid such landslides. If an unfortunate landslide does occur, then we must make sure that we are on the spot quickly, and helping the evacuation work. We're also doing what we can to ensure that the roads can be re-opened to traffic as soon as possible.

Q: Is there any word of what might have caused the landslips apart from the rain?

Mrs Chan: I think the fact that we had over 500 mm of rain over two days, particularly hard hit on Hong Kong Island, that in itself will tend to cause landslides.

Q: So there is no geological faults in the Aberdeen incident?

Mrs Chan: I have not been told that there are any, but clearly the Secretary for Works with his colleagues are looking very closely at the situation. You can be assured that if there needs to be further remedial works done, then we will carry these out without delay.

Q: Will there be a public inquiry?

Mrs Chan: I don't think at the moment there is any need for a general public inquiry but clearly we will be enquiring into the very bad landslip at Nam Long Shan Road.

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138 nominations received for LegCo elections

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A total of 138 nominations were received for the Legislative Council elections in September at the close of the two-week nomination period today (Monday).

Fifty were submitted for the geographical constituency elections, 70 for the functional constituency elections and 18 for the Election Committee constituency elections.

Of them, 123 are from male candidates and 15 from female candidates.

Nine constituencies are uncontested. They are Commercial (First), Commercial (Second), Industrial (First), Industrial (Second), Finance, Real Estate and Construction, Architectural, Surveying and Planning, Urban Council and Rural functional constituencies.

Twelve nominations were received on the last day of nomination today.

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Business prospects for the second half of 1995

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Manufacturers generally expect a mild increase in volume of orders in the second half of 1995 over the same period in 1994, according to the results of a recent Half-yearly Business Prospects Survey released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

For individual manufacturing industries, manufacturers in the electronic and electrical products and electrical machinery industries expect a considerable increase in volume of orders, while manufacturers in the printing industry expect a moderate increase.

On the other hand, manufacturers in the wearing apparel industry and the fabricated metal products industry anticipate a fairly stable volume of orders while those in the textiles industry foresee a mild decrease.

In general, manufacturers expect capacity utilisation to remain stable in the second half of 1995 compared with the first half. Profit margins, however, are foreseen to be lower in the second half of 1995 compared with the same period a year ago.

Exporters expect a moderate increase in both the values of domestic exports and re-exports in the second half of 1995 compared with the same period last year. Bankers generally hold slightly more optimistic views, with the expectation that total exports will improve fairly considerably in the second half of 1995.

Looking ahead, construction firms generally expect a moderate increase in the volume of construction output in the second half of 1995 compared with the same period in 1994.

The Half-yearly Business Prospects Survey is held on a half-yearly basis, covering about 300 firms from major manufacturing industries, the import/export trades, the banking industry and the construction sector. It collects views of firms on the short-term prospects of the various major business sectors covered and aims at providing a quick reference, with a minimum time lag, for assessing the short-term future economic performance of Hong Kong.

A spokesman of the department pointed out that in a survey of this nature, the results should be interpreted with caution as it is difficult to establish precisely the extent to which respondents' perception of the future accords with the underlying trends.

The survey results are published in greater detail in the "Report on Half-yearly Business Prospects Survey, July 1995". The report is now on sale at \$12 a copy at the Government Publications Sales Centre, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai. Regular subscription may also be arranged.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the General Economic Surveys Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6642.

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Update on landslips at Chai Wan and Aberdeen

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Fire Services Department staff, assisted by geotechnical engineers from the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO), are continuing with the rescue and clearance operations at the two landslip sites at Chai Wan and Aberdeen.

Photographic records, ground survey and aerial photography of the sites for the technical investigation of the failure incidents are being arranged by GEO with the assistance from other government departments. GEO is also appealing to eye-witnesses of either incident to assist in its investigation, and to report to the GEO on 2762 5354.

The Fei Tsui Road landslip occurred in a registered rock cut slope. Preliminary inspection suggests that the failure was controlled by joints within the weathered rock in the cut slope. About 1,000 cubic metres of volcanic rock and soil fell onto a strip of vacant land at the slope toe, and moved across Fei Tsui Road before coming to rest against the Baptist Church building.

Above the failure, the corner wall of a service reservoir has been partly exposed. The Water Supplies Department has stopped pumping water into the reservoir. The Church building is closed but has been checked and found structurally sound.

At the Aberdeen incident, over 5,000 cubic metres of saturated, fine grained soil flowed down to the seashore at Po Chong Wan from an area of hillside about 50m wide by 150m long between Nam Long Shan Road and Shum Wan Road.

The failed area includes a small registered cut slope at the base of the hillside. The debris was very mobile, flowing across a flat area of shipyard buildings at the seaward side of Shum Wan Road and into the sea.

A 30-metre section of Nam Long Shan Road collapsed at the head of the failure. A broken storm water pipe exposed on the south side of this slip scar has been diverted but runoff water from the broken road is still pouring into the scar during heavy rain, making conditions for rescue operations very difficult. At least two vehicles were swept downslope in the debris. A lorry and a taxi remain perched at the crest of the landslip scar.

At the base of the slope, Shum Wan Road remains blocked. A safe area on either side of the debris was fenced off. About 50 people were then evacuated from other shipyard buildings adjacent to the debris. Removal of the landslip debris has been interrupted by further heavy rain.

By 1.30 pm today (Monday), 75 landslip incidents have been reported to the Geotechnical Engineering Office. Of these 49 have affected roads, 11 occurred behind buildings, and seven affected squatters.

Among them, 52 occurred on Hong Kong Island, 12 in Kowloon, nine in the New Territories and two on outlying islands (Cheung Chau and Lamma).

Up to 1 pm today, about 350mm of rainfall have been recorded at the Royal Observatory since 8 am last Friday (August 11). Maximum cumulative rainfall for the same period has exceeded 500mm in Central and Eastern Hong Kong Island, Eastern Kowloon, and the Central and Eastern New Territories. Heavy rain exceeding 100mm occurred over some areas of the northern and eastern New Territories since early this morning.

Since the GEO emergency control centre was first activated at 10.30 pm last Friday, it has mobilised 11 emergency teams to respond to incident reported, and more than 80 professional staff have been involved.

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Hong Kong to open offices in Singapore and Australia

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Hong Kong is set to strengthen her economic and trade links in the Asia Pacific region when two new Hong Kong Economic and Trade offices (HKETOs) are opened in Singapore and Australia in the next couple of months.

The HKETO in Singapore will be headed by Mr Thomas Tso Man-tai who is scheduled to assume duties on August 18 while the office in Australia, which will be located in Sydney, will be headed by Mr Philip Chok Kin-fun who is due to take up his position on October 1.

Mr Tso joined the Administrative Service in 1975 and rose to his present rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B last year. He currently holds the post of Deputy Secretary for the Civil Service.

In the early years of his career, Mr Chok served in the Executive Officer and Trade Officer Grades and was transferred to the Administrative Service as Administrative Officer Staff Grade C in 1983. He was appointed to his present rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in 1993 and is now serving as the Deputy Director of Home Affairs.

The opening of the HKETOs in Singapore and Australia will bring Hong Kong's overseas offices to a total of ten. The eight existing HKETOs are located respectively in Washington, New York, San Francisco, Toronto, London, Brussels, Tokyo and Geneva.

The main functions of the new HKETOs are to strengthen Hong Kong's trade and economic links with Singapore and with Australia; to promote and safeguard Hong Kong's trade, economic and related interests in those two countries; and to promote Hong Kong as a business and financial hub in the Asia Pacific region.

In making the announcement today, the Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Chau Tak-hay, said with the development of closer economic and trade links between Hong Kong and other economies in the Asia Pacific region, and with Hong Kong's increasingly active participation in regional economic co-operation forums, there was a need to establish more HKETOs in the region.

"The Asia Pacific region includes some of the world's most dynamic and fastest growing economies. Our trade with the region now accounts for some 80 per cent of our total trade," he said.

In 1994, Singapore was Hong Kong's fifth largest trading partner and the seventh largest external investor in Hong Kong's manufacturing industries. In addition, the Secretariats of both APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation) and PECC (the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council), of both of which Hong Kong is a member, are located in Singapore.

Mr Chau said the new HKETO in Singapore would serve to reinforce the close trade and economic ties between Hong Kong and Singapore. At the same time, it would act as a direct point of contact between Hong Kong and the APEC and PECC Secretariats located there.

Australia was Hong Kong's 13th largest trading partner last year and a notable investor in the territory's manufacturing sector.

"Hong Kong's manufacturing industries stand to benefit from technological exchange with Australia in fields such as information technology, biotechnology, food processing and environmental technology.

"Given the importance of Australia as a source of inward investment for our manufacturing sector, there are significant benefits to be gained by improving our inward industrial investment promotion efforts in Australia through the establishment of a HKETO in Sydney, which is Australia's largest city and leading business centre," Mr Chau said.

"A HKETO in Australia will help to strengthen the already significant trade and economic relationship between Hong Kong and Australia," Mr Chau added.

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Site safety urged after inclement weather

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The Labour Department today (Monday) urged contractors and construction site management staff to take all necessary safety measures to ensure that work sites were safe before allowing workers to resume work.

"Following the inclement weather which persisted in the past few days, it would be of paramount importance to check site conditions thoroughly and carry out any necessary repairs or rectifications to render the site safe before resuming normal operation," acting Chief Factory Inspector, Mr Mak Hung-kae, said.

Common hazards found on sites after inclement weather include:

- (a) flooding in excavations or caissons;
- (b) damaged bamboo scaffolds or damaged working platforms on these scaffolds;
- (c) caving in of the sides of excavations and damage to the shoring;
- (d) loosened anchorage of lifting appliances;
- (e) leakage of electric current from electrical installations; and
- (f) missing safety fencing.

Mr Mak said the general duties provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance required employers to provide a safe plant and a safe system of work for employees.

Meanwhile, employees are also urged to co-operate with employers by using safety equipment provided by them.

"Factory Inspectors will monitor the situation to ensure that hazardous situations on sites are duly rectified before workers resume work," Mr Mak said.

Contractors who have any safety problems are requested to contact the Factory Inspectorate Division on 2815 0678.

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2,699 apply for S6 places in central allocation

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A total of 2,699 students have today (Monday) applied for central allocation of the remaining 235 secondary 6 places in the S6 admission procedures.

A spokesman for the Education Department reminded applicants to return on Friday (August 18) to the same centre where they applied for central allocation to see if they have been allocated with a place. Application results will be displayed at the specified centre at 9 am on Friday. Successful candidates should take their allocation slips to their chosen schools for registration before 3.30 pm on the same day. The spokesman reiterated that a place was allocated on the basis of the applicants' Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) results under central allocation in stage V.

He said if students were still unable to secure a place after the completion of stage V, they might be able to get one at the beginning of the new school year in September because some successful students may decide not to take up their places by that time.

A list of schools with S6 vacancies will be displayed and updated weekly at all district education offices throughout September.

Students should apply to these schools direct but admission will be at the schools' discretion.

The department has received a complaint today about schools not following the admission procedure.

Up to 5.30 pm today, the department's central hotline and district education offices have handled 251 enquiries on matters related to the S6 admission procedures. This brings to 2,672 the total number of enquiries made at the hotline and the district education offices.

At the same time, the Careers Education Centre of the Education Department received 173 visitors and 126 telephone enquiries on matters related to the S6 admission procedures, further studies, locally and overseas, and careers by the time it closed at 5.30 pm today.

This brings to 1,615 the total number of people visited and 1,179 callers telephoned the centre since August 8 when the results of HKCEE were released.

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School heads urged to observe guidelines on LegCo election

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School heads are reminded to observe the guidelines on the participation of school pupils in election activities for individual candidates in the Legislative Council election to be held on September 17.

An Education Department spokesman said today (Monday): "In no circumstances should primary or pre-primary pupils be asked to take part in election activities on behalf of individual candidates.

"For secondary schools, supervisors and principals are advised to consider carefully the appropriateness of such involvement of their pupils before giving consent.

"They are also advised that prior approval of the school's management committee should be obtained. In cases where approval is given to participation by pupils in such activities, school heads and teachers will be expected to observe the following guidelines:

- * participation by secondary students in election activities on behalf of an individual candidate must be entirely voluntary;
- * for students below the age of 18, the written consent of parents or guardians must be obtained beforehand;
- * there should be no disruption of the pupils' education, and in no circumstances should normal lessons be interrupted to enable pupils to take part in such activities; and
- * in no circumstances should pupils be asked to take part in activities in areas where they may be subject to various elements of danger, including that arising from traffic.

"The above points were highlighted in a school circular issued recently.

"Although pupils should be given every encouragement to take an interest in community affairs and current issues and to form their own opinions on such issues, the Education Department has reservations as to the desirability of pupils of a school being collectively and directly involved in election activities on behalf of any individual candidates, whether or not the candidate is connected with the school as a manager, as a head, or as a teacher.

"These reservations reflect the basic concern that the education of pupils should not be subject to interference or interruption and that pupils' welfare should be safeguarded," the spokesman concluded.

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Buildings Department seeks to close illegal structure

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The Buildings Department is seeking to close an illegal rooftop structure at 79 Chuen Lung Street in Tsuen Wan for demolition without endangering the occupiers and the public.

A notice was posted at the structure today (Monday) informing the occupiers that the Buildings Department would apply for a closure in respect of the structure from the court on December 13.

Acting Chief Building Surveyor, Mr Jeffrey Dobbing, said that the planned closure was part of an exercise to enforce an order issued under the Buildings Ordinance requiring removal of the illegal structure. Demolition of the structure would commence once the closure order was granted, but Mr Dobbing stressed that no one would be rendered homeless in line with the government's policy.

He advised the occupiers to approach the Buildings Department if they require assistance in rehousing, adding that the department would put them in touch with the Housing Department for screening and assessment of their eligibility for rehousing.

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Mail delivery affected by inclement weather

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The Post Office today (Monday) announces that due to heavy rainfall and landslides in some areas, mail delivery services to some addresses has been affected and there may be delays.

Members of the public in these areas who wish to obtain further information about their mail are advised to call the Post Office on the following telephone numbers:

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Enquiry Tel No</u>
Shum Wan	2921 2303
Island Road	(Miss Chu)
Repulse Bay Road	

Stanley 2886 6582
Tai Tam Road (Miss Ng)
Red Hill Peninsula

Mount Kellett 2921 2301
(Mr Yan)

Razar Hills Road 2417 6464
Pak Shek Terrace (Mr Chan)
Tai Chung Hau
Wo Mei Mok Tze Che
Tsank Chuk Wan, Wong Keng Tei
Sai Keng, Yung Shu O and
Kei Ling Ha Lo Wai of Sai Sha Road

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Kindergartens remain closed tomorrow

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The Education Department today (Monday) announced that due to uncertain weather and that road and traffic conditions are not expected to return to normal completely, all kindergartens will remain closed tomorrow (Tuesday).

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US champion will compete in HK Dragon Boat Race

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The Philadelphia US Dragon Boat Club team will be flown to Hong Kong to compete in the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival International Races scheduled for June next year after winning the US national championship race of the Fifth Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival held in New York yesterday (Sunday).

The team, which was awarded the HongkongBank Cup following their victory, also won the New York race in 1994 and subsequently placed seventh in the International Races in Hong Kong this year.

A total of eight teams from the New York City competitions held last week competed against dragon boat teams which won races carried out this summer in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Boston, Washington, DC, Hampton, VA, and Glen Cove, LI.

The New York City teams that competed today were: Dah Chong Hong, Chase Manhattan Bank, Metro-Asian Event, the Titans, Wall Street Lions Club, and three all-star teams comprised crew members from Deloitte & Touche and the Big Apple, the YMCA and Shanghai Commercial Bank, and AT&T and Wall Street Lions B-team.

The Fifth Annual Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival was organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office and the Hong Kong Association of New York. The HongkongBank Division of Marine Midland Bank serves as the Festival patron.

"I am delighted that the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival has become so well-established here in New York, and in other cities in the United States," said Hong Kong Commissioner, USA, Mr Barrie Wiggham, at the closing ceremony of the Festival.

"I hope through these cultural and sporting activities we can foster closer business, cultural and social ties between our communities."

"The Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival has now become firmly established in New York's summer calendar of exciting events," said the Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Mr David Tsui.

"What began in 1991 as a race involving only 10 teams taking part has grown tremendously into a major sporting event involving about 50 teams and approximately 1,000 athletes competing in New York.

"We are proud to be able to bring this major sporting and cultural event to New York. Moreover, the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York, Inc, is also very instrumental in organising dragon boat races in other cities including Boston, Atlanta, and Glen Cove on Long Island."

He pointed out that teams are fielded by many Fortune 500 companies as well as other leading New York organisations such as the YMCA and the New York City Fire Department.

In addition to Hongkong Bank, corporate sponsors include such major firms as American Express TRS Co, AT&T, The Chase Manhattan Bank, NA, Citibank, NA, Coopers & Lybrand, LLP, Deloitte and Touche, LLP, Marine Midland Bank, and Yau Choy Lin.

Additional sponsors include Anheuser-Busch Companies, IPI/InterPacific Tours, NYNEX and The Peninsula New York.

Apart from the dragon boat races, the Festival was a colourful and exciting event featuring a Hong Kong village celebrating arts and crafts from Hong Kong and China, electrifying martial arts demonstrations, dance performances, and traditional Chinese food.

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Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 91.9 per cent of capacity or 538.741 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 547.090 million cubic metres of water, representing 93.3 per cent of capacity.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	14 Aug 1995
Paper on offer	EF notes
Issue number	2708
Amount applied	HK\$1,860 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$500 MN
Average price (yield) accepted	99.90 (6.21 PCT)
Lowest price (yield) accepted	99.87 (6.22 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	About 42 PCT
Average tender price (yield)	99.84 (6.24 PCT)

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,675	0930	-167
Closing balance in the account	1,470	1000	-167
Change attributable to :		1100	-175
Money market activity	-175	1200	-175
LAF today	-30	1500	-175
		1600	-175

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 120.8 *+0.2* 14.8.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.62	2 years	2705	6.40	100.62	6.11
1 month	5.63	3 years	3807	6.16	98.93	6.67
3 months	5.65	5 years	5006	6.60	97.30	7.40
6 months	5.70	5 years	M501	7.90	100.83	7.83
12 months	5.79					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$19,242 million

Closed August 14, 1995

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