



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, November 25, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
STI returns from informal ministerial meeting in Vancouver	1
HAD committed to speeding up minor works projects	2
Campaign to publicise occupational safety	3
Gurkha parade marks New Zealand alliance	4
49 new building plans approved in September	5
Factory fined for unreported overtime work for women	6
Fresh water cut in Sai Kung	6
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	7

Sunday, November 26, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Overseas domestic helpers contribute to HK's success: Ag CS	8
Anti-drug action plans proceed smoothly	9
Two lots of land up for auction	10
Fund-raising schedule for December	10

STI returns from informal ministerial meeting in Vancouver

* * * * *

The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, returned today (Saturday) from Vancouver, Canada, where she attended an informal two-day meeting of trade ministers and senior representatives from 16 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the challenges facing WTO and preparations for the first Ministerial Conference of WTO to be held in Singapore next year.

"We have a frank and constructive exchange on what needed to be done to implement existing obligations resulting from the Uruguay Round agreements, and on what new trade-related issues should be discussed," Miss Yue said.

The meeting is one of several informal meetings involving WTO members in the run-up to the Singapore conference.

During the meeting, ministers agreed that the agenda for the Singapore Ministerial Conference must be balanced, meeting the needs of all WTO members. They noted that preparatory work would continue to help members to fulfill the commitments for further work embodied in the Uruguay Round agreements.

They also exchanged views on what new issues might be put on the agenda of the coming conference. Some of the issues surveyed included investment, competition policy and anti-dumping, regularoty reform and regional trade arrangements.

Miss Yue led the discussion in one of the sessions of the meeting, on the subject of going further and faster on trade liberalisation.

"We are being driven forward by the increasing globalisation of trade and investment in goods and services, and the accelerating pace of economic and technological change," Miss Yue told the meeting.

"The pressure is on governments to catch up and provide a better framework for international business."

Hong Kong is an active member of WTO, which was established on January 1 this year to take charge of administering the new global trade rules agreed in the Uruguay Round.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

HAD committed to speeding up minor works projects

The Director of Home Affairs (DHA), Mrs Shelley Lau, today (Saturday) reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the speedy implementation of the rest of Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy (RPIS) Minor Works projects in order to create a better living environment in rural areas.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the completion of one of the latest RPIS Minor Works projects, the Chuen Lung Vehicular Bridge at Chuen Lung Tsuen in Tsuen Wan, Mrs Lau stressed the importance of local consultation and co-operation in achieving good results in the shortest possible time in implementing the 10-year RPIS programme which began in 1989.

Mrs Lau said the Home Affairs Department (HAD) took over the management of the programme from Territory Development Department in December 1994 and had since introduced a two-tier administrative structure to facilitate consultation with rural residents.

She said the setting up of the RPIS Minor Works Steering Committee, chaired by DHA and comprising Heung Yee Kuk members, NT District Board chairmen and representatives of other government departments, would ensure the collection and collation of appropriate advice and assistance from all parties concerned and speed up the programme's implementation.

The other tier is made up of nine District Working Groups, each headed by a District Officer, and including local leaders and district government departmental officers. They are tasked with overseeing the programme of works within their districts, setting district priorities for projects and helping to overcome any objections or disputes which may arise.

Mrs Lau said the successful commencement of \$100 million worth projects over the last 12 months had shown this administrative structure to be effective, adding that projects worth another \$130 million would commence before next April.

"The key to RPIS's success is local participation and HAD's close working relationship with other government departments. We are confident of fully implementing the \$1.6 billion RPIS Minor Works programme by 1999/2000 in achieving our goal of improving the infrastructure development and environmental improvement in rural areas," Mrs Lau said.

Turning to the Chuen Lung Vehicular Bridge project, Mrs Lau said that in 1989, the Tsuen Wan District Office carried out essential repair work to stabilise the foundation of the old bridge, which was built about 60 years ago, after it was severely damaged by erosion. It was decided that the long-term solution was to construct a new bridge.

"This has been done only after thorough consultation with local communities. The Tsuen Wan District Office and HAD's RPIS Section then co-ordinated the preparation works for the new bridge. We believe this project is a good example of how future RPIS Minor Works projects will be expeditiously implemented," Mrs Lau added.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

Campaign to publicise occupational safety

* * * * *

A series of publicity activities, including a pop concert, was held today (Saturday) in Tai Po to raise public awareness of occupational safety and health.

Jointly organised by the Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), Tai Po District Board's (TPDB) Agriculture, Fisheries, Commerce and Industrial Committee and Tai Po District Office, the activities, apart from the Occupational Safety Concert, also include an industrial safety exhibition and free distribution of industrial safety kits.

Speaking at a ceremony to kick off the concert, Tai Po District Officer, Mr Danny Tsui, said previous occupational safety campaigns had apparently contributed to a lowering of industrial accidents.

He cited Labour Department statistics which showed 16,422 industrial accidents were recorded last year in the construction industry alone. This represented a decrease of 28.9 per cent when compared to 23,115 accidents reported in 1991.

The concert featured a number of prominent artistes, including Mr Hacken Lee, Miss Kelly Chan, Miss Sammi Cheng, Miss Linda Wong, Miss Amanda Lee, Mr Koo Kui Kay, Mr Eric Suen, and Miss Ng Wing Mei. It was broadcast live by RTHK-1 which also hosted a phone-in programme on industrial safety from November 20 to 24.

Other officiating guests at the concert included Tai Po District Board Chairman, Mr Cheung Hok-ming; the Executive Director of OSHC, Mr Yip Yuk-lun; and the Deputy Head of Radio 1, Mr Eric Ng.

The pop concert is jointly organised by OSHC, TPDB and the District Office and sponsored by Nestle Daily Farm Limited and Wellcome Company Limited.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

Gurkha parade marks New Zealand alliance

* * * * *

To mark the long-standing alliance between the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (RNZIR) soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles (1RGR) will be on parade with their New Zealand counterparts at Malaya Lines at 11.30 am on Monday (November 27).

Principal Inspecting Officer will be the Honorary Colonel of 1RNZIR, Colonel David Mooney, who will be accompanied by the Commanding Officer of 1RGR, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Hinton, representing the Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas. Also present will be the Commanding Officer of 1RNZIR, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Abbott.

1995 marks the 80th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign in which 6 and 10 Gurkha Rifles and 1 RNZIR took part, landing together at ANZAC Cove and attacking Sari Bair. Although the Gallipoli Landings ultimately ended in failure, the courage, in adversity, of both Gurkha and New Zealand soldiers formed the beginning of a future alliance.

During the Second World War, Gurkhas once again fought alongside New Zealand soldiers in the battle for Italy. In post-war years battalions of 2, 6, 7 and 10 Gurkha Rifles and RNZIR worked closely together in both the Malayan Emergency and Concentration in Borneo.

In later times companies from Gurkha battalions in Hong Kong have stayed and exercised with RNZIR in New Zealand and they, in turn, have sent companies back for training in the Territory.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

49 new building plans approved in September

* * * * *

The Buildings Department has approved 49 building plans in September and among them, 12 are for Hong Kong Island, 16 for Kowloon and 21 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 13 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, eight for commercial development and 15 for factory and industrial developments, and 13 for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 24 building projects, which involve 13,292 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 9,908 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same period, the department also issued 31 occupation permits - four for Hong Kong Island, 11 for Kowloon and 16 for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 193,209 square metres and 106,403 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about 8,598 million.

In addition, 21 demolition consents involving 40 buildings were issued.

In September, the Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 653 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 305 removal orders on unauthorised works.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

Factory fined for unreported overtime work for women

* * * * *

Employers should give notice to the Labour Department before engaging women or young persons in industry to work overtime.

The call came from the Labour Department after Ziang Kong Garment Manufacturing Company Ltd in Kwai Chung was fined \$10,000 at Tsuen Wan Magistracy for engaging 22 women to work overtime without notifying the department.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Miss Rita Ma, said today (Saturday) that employers had to complete an Overtime Employment Report (Form LD 336) and deliver it to the Commissioner for Labour before engaging women or young persons in overtime work.

Failure to do so is an offence under the Women and Young Persons (Industry) Regulations and the maximum fine is \$10,000.

"The law also requires the employer to post up a Notice of Permissible Hours of Work (Form LD 334) conspicuously in his industrial undertaking setting out the period of employment, intervals for meals or rest, and rest day for women and young persons," Miss Ma said.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

Fresh water cut in Sai Kung

* * * * *

Fresh water supply to some premises at Tai Mong Tsai Road, Sai Kung will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (November 28) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water main works.

The suspension will affect all villages and premises along Tai Mong Tsai Road from Tso Wo Hang to Pak Tam Road, including Tso Wo Hang, San Tin Hang, Chi Fai Path, Tit Chi Shan, Yan Yee Road, Tai Po Tsai, She Tau, Tam Wat, Wong Mo Ying, Tai Mong Tsai, Tsam Chuk Wan, Wong Keng Tei, Tsak Yue Wu, Pak Tam Chung, Po Leung Kuk Holiday Camp and Lady MacLehose Holiday Village.

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening balance in the account	2,324	09:30	-1,025
Closing balance in the account	1,014	10:00	-1,025
Change attributable to:		11:00	-1,025
Money market activity	1,025	11:30	-1,025
LAF today	-285	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.2 *+0.1* 25.11.95

End/Saturday, November 25, 1995

Overseas domestic helpers contribute to HK's success: Ag CS

* * * * *

The services of overseas domestic helpers (ODHs) have enabled many working parents and other career people to go out to work, the acting Chief Secretary, Mr Michael Suen, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the opening of the Bayanihan Kennedy Town Centre, the first full-time ODH community centre in Hong Kong, Mr Suen expressed his appreciation to the 150,000 ODHs for their positive contribution to the community.

Mr Suen noted that in a few weeks, another full-time Bayanihan Centre will open its doors in Mong Kok, also under the management of the Bayanihan Trust.

"The two full-time centres will have a combined capacity of over 2,000 and will provide a variety of services and facilities, such as remittance and long-distance telephone services and cultural, recreational and educational programmes," he said.

Mr Suen also paid tribute to the Bayanihan Trust which, in the two years since its establishment, had been operating five Sunday activities centres. These centres, which have a combined capacity of over 1,000, enjoyed an average utilisation rate of 80 per cent.

The Bayanihan Kennedy Town Centre, located at 55 Victoria Road, was an abandoned school premises leased by the Government for a token \$1 per annum to the Bayanihan Trust, which financed its conversion into an ODH community centre.

Mr Suen also thanked the local community and the relevant District Board chairmen and members for their support in the setting up of ODH centres in different districts.

It opens Wednesday through Sunday, providing a wide range of educational programmes and recreational activities.

The First Lady of the Philippines, Mrs Amelita Ramos; the Thai, Indonesian and Philippine Consul-Generals are among the guests at the Centre's opening.

End/Sunday, November 26, 1995

Anti-drug action plans proceed smoothly

* * * * *

The Government has made steady progress on the two anti-drug action plans which resulted from the Governor's Summit Meeting on Drugs in March, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Alasdair Sinclair, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the Eastern District Fight Crime and Anti-drug Carnival at Victoria Park, Mr Sinclair said there was a 26-point government plan announced at the summit and a 42-point follow-up plan based on suggestions made by the participants.

"Of the 26 measures in the government plan, nine have been completed in full, 11 are making progress and six are on-going commitments," he remarked.

"As for the 42-point follow-up plan, ten initiatives have been fully implemented, 16 have been substantially achieved and action on another 12 is progressing in the right direction.

"One item has been deferred while three others are not being taken forward after consultation with the relevant authorities," Mr Sinclair said.

On the Beat Drugs Fund, the Commissioner said the Government was making arrangements for the establishment of the \$350 million Fund.

"It will provide a substantial new source of funds to advance the aims of the Beat Drugs campaign," he explained.

"It will finance projects relating to preventive education, publicity, research, training, law enforcement, and treatment and rehabilitation."

Mr Sinclair urged the community to join the Beat Drugs campaign.

"Drug abuse has long been a social problem in Hong Kong. Though there is no instant solution, all of us, every section of the community, can play our part," he said.

"Together we can beat drugs," he stressed.

End/Sunday, November 26, 1995

Two lots of land up for auction

* * * * *

The Lands Department will auction two lots of land on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories tomorrow (Monday).

The public auction will begin at 2.30 pm in the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui.

The first lot, located in 26 Mount Kellett Road, The Peak, has an area of 1,936.1 square metres for private residential use.

Located in Wo Tik Street, Tsuen Wan, the second lot has an area of 572 square metres for non-industrial use, excluding godown and hotel.

End/Sunday, November 26, 1995

Fund-raising schedule for December

* * * * *

Fifteen organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next (December) month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added. Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

Event Date	Organisation
-----	-----
December 2	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth
December 9	Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped
December 16	Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care Ltd
December 23	The Road Safety Association Ltd
December 30	Hong Kong Council of Early Childhood Education & Services Ltd

Public Subscription

Event Day	Organisation
-----	-----
December 1, 2 & 10	The Methodist Centre
December 1 & 2	Hong Kong Aids Foundation Ltd
December 1	Keswick Foundation Ltd

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| December 2, 3, 6,
7, 9 & 10 | Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF |
| December 3, 10, 17,
24, 25 & 31 | Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd |
| December 3 | Word for the World Christian Fellowship |
| December 9 | Land of Virtue Centre Ltd |
| December 9 | Sowers Action |
| December 10 & 17 | Society for Community Organisation Ltd |
| December 30 & 31 | Sharon Au & Associates Ltd |

End/Sunday, November 26, 1995