



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WATER BILLING STREAMLINED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE IN ITS SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC ON COMPLETING ITS PHASE II COMPUTERISATION OF WATER ACCOUNTS FOR NON-TRADE USERS.

THIS STAGE OF COMPUTERISATION WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON THURSDAY (MARCH 20).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT ALREADY ABOUT 100 000 TRADE ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN COMPUTERISED IN PHASE OF THE EXERCISE.

HE REVEALED THAT THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED CONSUMERS, TOTALLING SOME 900 000 AT PRESENT, IS INCREASING AT THE RATE OF SOME 5 000 A MONTH.

+INTRODUCTION OF COMPUTERISATION WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE BILLING SYSTEM AND WILL PROVIDE A BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS ARE IN THE SERVICE ON BILLING ENQUIRY AND IN SPEEDING UP PROCEDURES FOR BILLING AND BOOK-KEEPING.

+HOWEVER, NOT ALL DOMESTIC USERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR NEXT WATER BILL IN THE COMPUTERISED FORMAT BECAUSE THE VARIOUS WATER BILLING CYCLES ARE BEING GRADUALLY CONVERTED OVER A 16-MONTH PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE BILL IN THE NEW FORMAT WILL ALSO RECEIVE AN EXPLANATORY NOTE EXPLAINING THE NEW FEATURES OF THE BILL.

ABOUT 60 000 DOMESTIC CONSUMERS IN 11 AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON WILL RECEIVE THEIR NEXT WATER BILL IN THE NEW COMPUTERISED FORM.

THE AREAS INCLUDE WAN CHAI, CAUSEWAY BAY, SHAM SHUI PO, SO UK ESTATE, WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, CHOI HUNG ESTATE, PING SHEK ESTATE, MA TAU WAI ESTATE, WOR LOK ESTATE, TAI HANG TUNG ESTATE AND TAI HANG SAI ESTATE.

THE NEW BILL IS DIFFERENT FROM THE MANUALLY COMPILED ONE IN THAT IT WILL BE MORE INFORMATIVE.

IT WILL SHOW THE CONSUMER'S METER NUMBER, THE PREVIOUS READING DATE, AND THE BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE LAST BILL. ALL CHARGES WILL BE ROUNDED DOWN TO THE NEAREST HONG KONG DOLLAR WITH THE ODD CENTS CARRIED FORWARD TO THE NEXT BILL. THE CONSUMER WILL BE GIVEN A NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER COMPRISING 14 DIGITS.

+ONE POINT CONSUMERS SHOULD NOTE IS THAT IN THE CALCULATION OF WATER CHARGES UNDER THE NEW COMPUTERISED SYSTEM, 'ONE-MONTH' IS TO BE RECKONED AS EQUAL TO 30.41 DAYS.+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE BILLING SCHEDULE FOR BOTH TRADE AND DOMESTIC ACCOUNTS WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AND ALL REGISTERED CONSUMERS WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THEIR BILLS AT THE USUAL TIME — ONCE EVERY FOUR MONTHS.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO URGED DOMESTIC CONSUMERS RECEIVING THEIR NEW BILLS IN THE COMPUTERISED FORMAT TO CHECK, IN THEIR OWN INTEREST, THE CORRECTNESS OF THE 'NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS', AND THE 'SERVICE ADDRESS' AND TO QUOTE THE NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THEIR WATER BILLS.

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FERTILITY TRENDS IN HONG KONG

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DESPITE A LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THE MORE FERTILE AGE GROUP IN THE 1970S, THERE WAS STILL A GRADUAL DECLINE IN THE BIRTH RATE IN HONG KONG.

THIS OBSERVATION IS MADE IN A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON +RECENT TRENDS IN FERTILITY IN HONG KONG+ IN THE DECEMBER 1979 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

THE ARTICLE GIVES A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE TREND IN THE BIRTH RATE SINCE 1971 AND IDENTIFIES THE FACTORS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH ITS DECLINE.

THE DECLINE IN THE CRUDE BIRTH RATE, WHICH WAS VERY RAPID IN THE SIXTIES, BEGAN TO SLOW DOWN IN THE SEVENTIES. AS THE LARGE NUMBER OF BABIES BORN IN THE LATE FIFTIES AND EARLY SIXTIES MOVED UP THE AGE LADDER, THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THE MORE FERTILE AGE GROUP, 20-29, INCREASED TREMENDOUSLY IN THE SEVENTIES.

THE EFFECT OF THIS HAS BEEN TO INCREASE, INSTEAD OF LOWER, THE BIRTH RATE. HOWEVER, A GRADUAL DECLINE IN THE BIRTH RATE WAS STILL OBSERVED AS THIS INCREASE WAS MORE THAN COUNTERBALANCED BY THE DECLINE IN THE LEVEL OF FERTILITY WHICH HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE SIGNIFICANT SINCE 1971.

THE CONTINUED AND SUSTAINED DECLINE IN FERTILITY IS THE RESULT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES THAT HONG KONG HAS UNDERGONE DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES. RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION, IMPROVEMENT IN THE STATUS OF AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, BETTER EDUCATION AND OTHER REASONS ALL HELP TO DEVELOP THE GROWTH OF INDIVIDUAL ASPIRATIONS AND INDUCE THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS TO TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS SMALLER FAMILY SIZE.

THE DECEMBER 1979 ISSUE OF THE MONTHLY DIGEST IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE GPO BUILDING AT CONNAUGHT PLACE.

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COMMUNITY LEADERS JOIN ANTI-DRUG SEMINAR
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ABOUT 100 COMMUNITY LEADERS TODAY (SATURDAY) TOOK PART IN AN ANTI-DRUG SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AT THE SHEK KWU CHAU DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTRE.

THE SEMINAR IS AIMED AT GIVING COMMUNITY LEADERS AN INSIGHT INTO HOW THE GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE PUBLIC WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP HONG KONG DRUG-FREE, AND DISCUSSING WAYS AND MEANS TO FURTHER PROMOTE ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

MR PETER LEE, COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, AND MR BROOK BERNACCHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS (SARDA), OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR WERE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR BOWEN LEUNG- THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (NARCOTICS), DR K.F. CHAN AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES OF SARDA, MR JAMES CHIEN.

THE COMMUNITY LEADERS ATTENDING THE SEMINAR WERE FROM DISTRICTS WHERE INTENSIVE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGNS HAD BEEN HELD OVER THE PAST YEARS. THEY WERE FROM SHAM SHUI PO, WONG TAI SIN, WAN CHAI, MONG KOK AND TSUEN WAN.

THE PLANNING AND ORGANISING OF THE SEMINAR WAS ASSISTED BY SARDA AND THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SARDA.

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SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE OPENED AT CHEUNG CHING
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A SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE ON TSING YI WHICH PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WAS OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR THOMAS LEE TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE CENTRE, AT CHEUNG CHING ESTATE, IS OPERATED BY THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (Y.W.C.A.). ITS FITTING-OUT EXPENDITURE WAS MET BY THE LOTTERIES FUND.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON, MR LEE DESCRIBED THE CENTRE AS YET ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT BY THE ASSOCIATION IN ITS PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

HE SAID THE Y.W.C.A., WHICH COMMEMORATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR, HAS BEEN EXPANDING ITS SCOPE OF SERVICES IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO MEET CHANGING SOCIAL NEEDS.

THE CENTRE ON TSING YI, HE SAID, IS THE SEVENTH OF ITS KIND RUN BY THE ASSOCIATION, THE OTHER SIX BEING IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WONG TAI SIN, KOWLOON CITY AND NGAU TAU KOK IN KOWLOON, AND TSUEN WAN AND TUEN MUN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRES PROVIDE SUCH SERVICES AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK AND GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, AS WELL AS RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

+IT IS GRATIFYING TO LEARN THAT THE Y.W.C.A. PLANS TO OPERATE A SECOND CENTRE ON TSING YI PROVIDING CHILD CARE AND SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND CHILDREN,+ MR LEE SAID.

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EMPLOYERS URGED TO TRAIN THEIR INSTRUCTORS

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EMPLOYERS SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR INSTRUCTORS TO RECEIVE FORMAL TRAINING.

THIS IS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTORS TRAINING OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL IN ITS REPORT ON THE THIRD SURVEY OF INSTRUCTORS TO BE PUBLISHED.

THE REPORT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD RETAIN THEIR TRAINED INSTRUCTORS FOR TEACHING PURPOSES.

THE SURVEY, CONDUCTED IN JULY LAST YEAR, WAS AIMED AT DETERMINING THE DEMAND FOR INSTRUCTORS BY INDUSTRY, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND TO UPDATE THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE SECOND SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1977.

THE REPORT CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE NEEDS OF TRAINED INSTRUCTORS IN HONG KONG AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEASURES NECESSARY TO MEET THE NEEDS.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILL BE ON SALE FROM MONDAY (MARCH 17) AT \$6.50 EACH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

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SCHOOL QUIZ FINALS ON TV
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THE FINALS OF THE TELEVISION QUIZ SHOW +COMMUNITY YOUTH CHALLENGE+ WILL BE SCREENED ON TUESDAY (MARCH 18) AT 5.30 PM ON HK-TV Jade.

SCHOOLS TAKING PART IN THE FINALS ARE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS WONG FUNG LING COLLEGE, SHENG KUNG HUI LUI MING CHOI SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CHIU CHOW SCHOOL.

THE SHOW FEATURES HIGHLY COMPETITIVE TELEMATCH GAMES AND AN INDOOR QUIZ ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

THE COMPETITION IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION TELEVISION SECTION OF RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUBS FROM 21 SCHOOLS HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE CONTEST WHICH LASTED 10 WEEKS.

MR R. M. CAMERON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS)- MR STUART WILKINSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING- AND MR H LIANG OF LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO THE WINNERS.

MR THOMPSON CHAN, FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS REFEREE OF HONG KONG, WILL BE THE CHIEF ADJUDICATOR OF THE OUTDOOR TELEMATCH.

THE FINALS WILL ALSO BE SHOWN ON RTV 1 ON SUNDAY (MARCH 23) AT 6 PM.

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FIRING PRACTICE
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FIVE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF PRACTICE.

THE PRACTISING TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
MARCH 17 (MONDAY)	8 AM -- 5 PM
MARCH 18 (TUESDAY)	8 AM -- 5 PM
MARCH 19 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM -- 5 PM
MARCH 20 (THURSDAY)	8 AM -- 5 PM
MARCH 21 (FRIDAY)	8 AM -- 4 PM

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CAMERON LANE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY
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A SECTION OF CAMERON LANE BETWEEN HOUSE NO 10 AND CARNARVON ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 18) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHA TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 10 HOURS FROM 8 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 17) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY. WATER WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT DURING THAT PERIOD.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE SHA TIN OLD TOWN, LEK YUEN ESTATE, WO CHE ESTATE, PAI TAU ESTATE, SHEUNG HA WO CHE, FO TAN, ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, LOK LO HA VILLAGE IN HO TUNG LAU, SHA TIN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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