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## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Expert talks on defence and public order

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A 17th round of talks between experts on the British and Chinese sides of the Joint Liaison Group to discuss matters relating to Hong Kong's future defence and public order will be held in Hong Kong from March 21 to 23. The British team will be led by British Representative Mr Alan Paul. The Chinese team will be led by Chinese Representative Mr Chen Zuo'er. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

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Agreement on repatriation of ECVIIs welcomed

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A Government spokesman welcomed today (Monday) the agreement reached between the Hong Kong and Chinese Governments on the repatriation of all the Ex-China Vietnamese Illegal Immigrants (ECVIIs) still stranded in Hong Kong.

"Officials of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Guangxi and Guangdong and officials of the Hong Kong Immigration Department held an informal discussion on March 14 and 15 in Shenzhen to review the repatriation of ECVIIs since the last meeting in August 1993," the spokesman said.

"The meeting noted with satisfaction that over 2,100 ECVIIs have been returned to China smoothly through mutual understanding and co-operation.

"The meeting tackled the issue with great understanding, agreed that the repatriation process should be speeded up, and resolved a number of technical issues."

It was agreed that all remaining ECVIIs in Hong Kong will be repatriated to China very soon.

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Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in January 1995

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in January this year increased by 6% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing January 1995 with January 1994, a significant increase in the value of outstanding orders was recorded in the electronic products industry (+32%). Small increases in orders were also recorded in the wearing apparel industry (+3%) and the plastic products industry (+2%).

On the other hand, significant decreases in orders were registered in the fabricated metal products industry (-26%) and the textiles industry (-14%). Decreases in orders were also recorded in the electrical products industry (-8%) and the printing and publishing industry (-7%).

Compared with December 1994, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in January 1995 increased by 9%.

The monthly survey of orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production that remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month.

Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally.

However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman for the department pointed out that caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month.

Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at, he said.

The survey report for January 1995, at \$6 a copy, is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Section, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made of the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on telephone 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries:

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	December 1994 over December 1993 (Revised)	January 1995 over January 1994 (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+9	+6
Wearing apparel	-7	+3
Textiles	+4	-14
Electronic products	+33	+32
Electrical products	+16	-8
Fabricated metal products	-21	-26
Plastic products	+26	+2
Printing and publishing	-12	-7

End/Monday, March 20, 1995

Port expansion essential for economic growth

\* \* \* \* \*

The implementation of Hong Kong's port development plans will greatly benefit the economies of both Hong Kong and China, Legislative Council members were told today (Monday).

Briefing Legco's Trade and Industry Panel, the Secretary of the Port Development Board, Mr Tony Clark, said by expanding Hong Kong's port according to the strategic development plan, Hong Kong and its community stood to make substantial economic gains. Despite the expansion of Chinese ports there was no viable alternative to expanding Hong Kong's as well.

Hong Kong is the world's busiest container port and last year handled more than 11 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

Mr Clark said: "Handling those containers alone added \$215 billion to the economy in 1994. Handling that cargo is essential to our economy.

"The port and related businesses provide jobs for some 350,000 people, or one in eight of our workforce. The port generates about 20 per cent of our GDP and supports some 20 per cent of all business establishments in Hong Kong.

"In terms of container growth, forecast demand on the port is such that throughput can be expected to treble by the year 2011. The great majority of this growth will be sourced from or destined for southern China.

"This forecast takes into account port development in China."

Mr Clark told Legco members: "If the facilities are not in place to meet demand, not only will there be congestion in Hong Kong's port, and its road approaches, but also the knock-on effect will result in similar congestion in Chinese ports.

"That will seriously delay the development of both Hong Kong's and China's economies and will hurt those service industries whose growth we seek."

He stressed that great emphasis had been placed on environmental measures in planning the port and a number of major design modifications had been made to minimise environmental impact.

Mr Clark added: "An environmental impact assessment (EIA) on Terminals 10 and 11 was considered by the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) on February 20, having been preceded by very lengthy deliberations on the matter by the ACE Committee on Environmental Impact Assessment. The council endorsed the project."

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#### Recruitment of teachers for TOC teams

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The Education Department is increasing the input of experienced teachers into the development and teacher training of the Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) by adding more teachers to its teams on the school-based preparatory programmes and design of teaching materials.

A circular is being sent to government and aided primary schools inviting serving Certificated Masters/Mistresses and Assistant Masters/Mistresses in the subjects of Chinese, English and Mathematics to take up temporary posts as tutors at the department's TOC Teacher Education Unit and members of the TOC Resource Development Team in the 1995-96 school year. Induction training will be provided to these teachers.

The recruits will be seconded to the Education Department for a year after which they will return to their own schools. A supply teacher will be employed for one year to fill the post vacated by the teacher who is on secondment to the Education Department.

A spokesman for the Education Department pointed out that the Advisory Committee on Implementation of TOC had recommended the appointment of experienced teachers to be tutors to assist in running a School-based Preparatory Programme to help schools better prepare for the implementation of TOC in the 1996-97 school year.

"These teachers will return to their schools at the end of their secondment with an enhanced understanding of TOC and of in-school teacher development. They can then play a major role in school-based staff development for TOC in their own schools," the spokesman said.

Since 1992, a total of 47 teachers have been seconded from various government and aided schools to serve as members of the TOC Resource Development Team in the TOC Development Unit to help develop resource materials, such as exemplar learning and assessment tasks, for teachers' reference and use.

The spokesman noted that when these teachers returned to their schools, they brought with them valuable experience and insight in developing and producing resources for their pupils.

"The experience helps in the implementation of TOC back at my own school," said one teacher who had been seconded to the TOC Resource Development Team, Ms Lam.

"In particular, it helps me set specific teaching targets and objectives and in designing the scheme of work. I am also able to help colleagues in my school when they have problems and doubts about TOC."

Another teacher who has also worked on the TOC Resource Development Team, Ms Ng, said: "As a member of the resource development team, I have a lot of opportunities to share with other members their teaching experience and to discuss and design teaching activities for TOC together.

"Not only has this given me an in-depth understanding of the targets, objectives and principles of my subject, it also helps me to anticipate problems and assess effectiveness more systematically."

The Education Department spokesman urged school principals to circulate the invitation letter and its attachment to all teachers in their schools and to encourage them to apply for the secondment posts, adding that both the teachers and the respective schools would benefit from the arrangement.

Applications should be sent to the Target Oriented Curriculum Section of the Education Department at 24 Tin Kwong Road, Kowloon, on or before April 3 through school heads. Enquiries may be directed to the department on tel 2762 2210 or 2712 8404.

Successful applicants and their school heads will be informed by April 28.

End/Monday, March 20, 1995

DBs' work fully recognised: DHA

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government attaches great importance to the work of the district boards, the Director of Home Affairs, Mr Joseph Wong, said today (Monday).

Speaking at a reception for members of the 18 district boards, Mr Wong said the Chief Secretary had recently issued an internal document to various heads of government departments, encouraging them to co-operate with the boards and listen to the members' views.

The establishment of a new Home Affairs Department on December 1 last year, he pointed out, was to improve the co-operation as well as the communications between the administration, the district boards and local residents.

Mr Wong also hoped that the relationship between the Government and the district boards could be enhanced through mutual trust and a better liaison.

As to the work of the Home Affairs Department, Mr Wong said the department had recently published a handbook which provided useful information about its roles and services.

Meanwhile, Mr Wong said the district board elections last year was a milestone in the further development of district administration.

The introduction of the new nine functional constituencies in the September Legislative Council elections was an unprecedented move, he said, noting that this arrangement enabled each functional group in the territory to have a representative in the law-making body.

In this connection, Mr Wong urged the district board members to cast their ballots in the LegCo elections and to support the voter registration of the functional constituencies.

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### Navy diver decorated

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A formerly Hong Kong-based Royal Navy sailor will collect a Queen's Gallantry Medal from Buckingham Palace in London tomorrow (Tuesday) for his underwater search for a 15-year-old boy in an inverted and unstable hull of a junk in Victoria Harbour nearly two years ago.

The incident occurred on July 15, 1993 when Leading Radio Operator (LRO) Nigel Griffiths was undertaking continuation training as a part-time ship's diver with the naval Clearance Diving Unit at HMS Tamar on Stonecutters Island.

The Unit was alerted that the boy, Cheng Kin- shing, was trapped inside the hull of the upturned junk 'Ying Kee 3'.

Within 14 minutes of the call, the diving unit was on the scene and ready to dive.

Although only a ship's diver, and consequently not formally trained for this type of contingency, LRO Griffiths had no hesitation in volunteering to dive inside the junk.

In all he entered the unfamiliar wheelhouse and compartments of the stricken vessel a total of six times during the course of two half-hour dives.

Each entry became progressively more dangerous as the junk settled in the harbour's choppy waters and more debris was dislodged inside the hull, reducing the already limited visibility in the oily water to less than a foot.

This did not deter LRO Griffiths who persisted in his search having heard tapping from inside the hull. He eventually left the water, under orders, immediately prior to the boat sinking.

LRO Griffith's selfless bravery was recognised by the award of a Queen's Gallantry Medal in November last year.

LRO Griffiths, now 31, served in the British Forces headquarters from January 1992 to August 1994 during which time he was accepted as a potential officer candidate.

Since leaving Hong Kong he has successfully completed a communications yeomans course in Britain, and gained three academic examination passes towards those he needs for an officer's commission.

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Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 67.7 per cent of capacity or 396.961 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 396.668 million cubic metres of water, representing 67.7 per cent of capacity.

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Fresh water cut in Kowloon Tong

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Kowloon Tong will be suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (March 22) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises bounded by Waterloo Road, Prince Edward Road West, La Salle Road and Lancashire Road.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	20 Mar 95
Paper on offer	EF notes
Issue number	5003
Amount applied	HK\$1,310 million
Amount allotted	HK\$500 million
Average price (yield) accepted	100.61 (7.75 PCT)
Lowest price (yield) accepted	100.55 (7.76 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	About 41 PCT
Average tender price (yield)	100.42 (7.79 PCT)

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,579	0930	+1,073
Closing balance in the account	1,417	1000	+1,073
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,026
Money market activity	+1,026	1200	+1,026
LAF today	-1,188	1500	+1,026
		1600	+1,026

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.1 \*+0.0\* 20.3.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.90	14 months	2605	6.35	100.07	6.38
1 month	5.16	23 months	2702	7.50	101.39	6.83
3 months	5.57	28 months	3707	6.95	100.18	6.98
6 months	5.86	34 months	3801	8.00	102.30	7.22
12 months	6.22	57 months	5912	8.15	102.37	7.68

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$12,210 million

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