



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Saturday, February 18, 1995

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Secretary for Recreation and Culture visits London

The Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr James So, will depart for London this (Saturday) evening on a 10-day visit sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

During his stay there, Mr So will call on the Home Office (Broadcasting), the Radio Authority and the Broadcasting Standards Council to discuss regulatory matters on radio broadcasting as well as matters relating to the setting and monitoring of standards for broadcasting.

He will also visit the BBC World Service TV to familiarise himself with its plans for development especially in Asia; tour the Arts Council of England and meet with the cultural sectors.

Mr So will be returning to Hong Kong on March 1.

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Smithfield Extension - the link contract awarded

The contract for the construction of the Smithfield Extension has been awarded by the Highways Department to Paul Y Construction Co Ltd, a spokesman for the Highways Department said today (Saturday).

The \$284-million contract is for the construction of a 760-metre long district distributor road to carry two-way traffic from the existing Smithfield to Pok Fu Lam Road, the spokesman said.

The existing Pok Fu Lam Road Playground will be occupied in two stages to facilitate the works, and it will be reprovisioned by the Government at no cost to Urban Council, he said.

Works will start soon and are expected to complete in mid-1997.

"On completion of the works, in conjunction with the Belcher Bay Link and Rock Hill Street Extension, an additional road corridor will be provided for traffic from Central and Western District to the Southern District," the spokesman said.

The works have been designed and construction will be supervised by Pypun Engineering Consultants Ltd for Hong Kong Region of the Highways Department.

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Prosecution stepped up against labour law offenders last year

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The Labour Department achieved 7,745 convicted cases against labour law offenders last year, resulting in a total fine of more than \$30 million.

While the number of convictions in 1994 remained stable when compared with that in 1993, total fines imposed by the court last year increased by 33 per cent over the previous year.

Senior Labour Officer (Prosecutions) Mr John Sung said today (Saturday) that the department would continue to protect the interests of workers by prosecuting labour law offenders.

"Employers who do not abide by labour law will have to pay for their malpractices. They will have to take the safety and welfare of workers more seriously, otherwise they will be prosecuted," he added.

Mr Sung said about 34.5 per cent of the convicted cases last year were related to industrial safety.

Of these, 2,518 involved the breaching of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and its subsidiary regulations. Fines totalling \$22.4 million represented a 32 per cent increase over the previous year.

As regards the nature of these offences, Mr Sung said 517 out of the 2,518 cases were against employers who failed to guard dangerous parts of machinery effectively.

Cases related to failure to maintain exit doorways free from obstruction totalled 320. Another 253 were about failure to provide guard rails or coverings to dangerous places to prevent the fall of persons.

Apart from industrial safety offences, there were 5,043 convictions involving the violation of the Women and Young Persons (Industry) and Employment of Children Regulations, as well as the Employment, Labour Relations and Employees' Compensation Ordinances. Fines imposed totalled \$7.3 million.

Of the 5,043 convictions, 1,074 were related to the employment of women and young persons to work overtime or on rest days and 1,974 involved the failure of employers to take out insurance policies for employees or give them statutory holiday pay.

Another 68 cases were related to the failure of employers to pay their employees wages on the due date or upon termination of their service.

There were also 28 cases relating to the failure of employers to keep or produce employees' records for inspection by labour inspectors as required by the Immigration Ordinance.

Of the remaining conviction cases last year, 156 involved the breaching of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Ordinance.

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Revised topographic maps published

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The Survey and Mapping Office (SMO) of the Lands Department has revised and published the series of 1:50,000 topographic maps.

The series comprises two sheets to cover the whole territory of Hong Kong. The first edition was produced in March 1975 based on the bilingual imperial series HK1. Since then, it has been updated biennially and is now in its 10th edition.

The map is printed in eight colours with hill shading and layer tinting to enhance the visual impact in the relief presentation, in addition to the 50-metre interval contour lines. The map also shows submarine contours in metres.

Major developments now in progress, such as the new airport reclamation, proposed Route 3, North Lantau Expressway and West Kowloon Reclamation, are also shown on the map.

Details across the border in Shenzhen are depicted in a generalised form in light brown colour.

The map series has been very popular among map users since its first publication and is very suitable for use as a wall map.

In line with the practice of most mapping agencies around the world, the SMO intends to produce all new mapping on the World Geodetic System (WGS 84) datum and use the WGS 84 Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Grid.

The WGS 84 datum used in this map series regards the earth as a spheroid with the centre of mass of the earth as the origin. This datum replaces the previous Local Geodetic Datum and gives slight differences of -5.5 seconds in latitude and +8.9 seconds in longitude in the geographical co-ordinates of Hong Kong.

This change of geographical co-ordinates, when projected onto the UTM Grid, results in a change of grid lines of about -170 metres in northing and +250 metres easting on ground. It does not mean that Hong Kong moves by that much but only the grid values change as the result of the use of WGS 84 datum.

The adoption of the new geodetic datum facilitates map users to identify their positions on the map by using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment.

With the GPS equipment becoming more affordable, it has become more popular for use in navigation, surveying, engineering projects and general position fixing.

SMO also provides many other map products and publications, including digital maps and aerial photographs.

Detailed information is contained in the Hong Kong Map Catalogue, which is obtainable free of charge from Map Publication Centres of Hong Kong or Kowloon or at District Survey Offices in New Territories.

The revised maps are now on sale at the centres and offices at \$40 per sheet.

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Youngsters exchange experience in volunteer work

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Some 400 civic-minded youngsters will attend a two-day youth camp at the Po Leung Kuk Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp in Sai Kung today (Saturday) to exchange their experience in volunteer work.

The youngsters are the winners selected among 2,700 contestants from 127 youth groups who have participated in the 1994/95 Opportunities for Youth Scheme.

"The scheme, launched by the Social Welfare Department since 1974, aims at offering funding support to youth groups to plan and implement community service projects which contribute to their personal and social development," a spokesman for the department said.

In 1994/95, funds amounting to \$800,000 have been allocated to the youth groups to help launch their service projects, providing services for 76,000 needy persons in the community.

The Chairman of the Commission on Youth Mr Eric Li and member Mr Cheung Yin-tung will hold a panel discussion at 4 pm this (Saturday) afternoon to share their views with the young people on how to better serve the community.

The Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, will officiate at a ceremony at 11 am tomorrow (Sunday) to present prizes to the best projects.

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Attention news editors:

You are invited to cover the prize-giving ceremony of the 1994/95 Opportunities for Youth Scheme to be held at 11 am tomorrow (Sunday) at the Po Leung Kuk Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp in Sai Kung.

Transport will be provided. Those interested are requested to assemble at the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre, 104 Ching Tak Street (near the Wong Tai Sin MTR Station), at 9.30 am.

Information officers of the department will be on hand to assist.

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Mail delivery to Kansai returns to normal

Delivery of mail, including Speedpost items, destined to Kansai, Japan, which was hit by earthquake, has now returned to normal, except where houses and buildings have been destroyed by the earthquake, the Postmaster General Mr Mike Pagliari announced.

Delivery of mail to Kansai has been subject to delay since the earthquake.

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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	2,884	09:30	+400
Closing balance in the account	1,264	10:00	+400
Change attributable to:		11:00	+400
Money market activity	+400	11:30	+400
LAF today	-2,020	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 120.6 *-0.1* 18.2.95

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SHA stresses importance of equal opportunities

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Mutual respect and equality between women and men in the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of life will enable the two sexes to realise their potential to the fullest extent, the Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Michael Suen, said this (Sunday) afternoon.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Civic Education Day organised by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education (CPCE), Mr Suen stressed that it was absolutely wrong and outdated to think that advocating equal rights would in any way deprive men of their rights.

He also asserted that to uphold equal opportunities, women should be given the same job opportunities. And, he added, to achieve this, gender stereotyping should be eliminated.

Acknowledging the achievements of the CPCE since its inception, Mr Suen strongly believed that on that basis and with the extra \$20 million over the next three years, the concept of human rights could reach "every corner of the community".

Sharing Mr Suen's view, CPCE Chairman Dr Daniel Tse said equal opportunities for women and men was important to everyone.

"Their promotion, therefore, is an essential part of the human rights education."

He said: "Today's Civic Education Day, which is aimed at arousing public awareness of gender equality, is a good beginning for this year's human rights promotional activities."

Noting that the promotion of representative government was also one of the work themes of the CPCE, Dr Tse took the opportunity to urge all eligible voters to cast their ballots in the forthcoming municipal council elections next month and the LegCo elections in September.

He appealed to the public to participate in the monitoring of the operation of the Government by exercising their voting rights to choose representatives of their choice.

Turning to the work of the committee in the year, Dr Tse said with the extra funding for human rights education, the CPCE would increase the sponsorship to be granted to voluntary agencies and community bodies under the Community Participation Scheme.

It will also enhance its media publicity programmes and increase the funding for research projects and the production of teaching kits, comic books, competitions and touring exhibitions.

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Dischargers urged to make licence applications early

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Existing dischargers of waste water from industrial, commercial and institutional activities in Phase I of the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone (VHWCZ) are reminded to obtain a licence for their discharges before July 1 this year.

A spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department said: "The said water control zone, which became effective on November 1 last year, covers Kwun Tong, Kwai Chung and the eastern part of Tsuen Wan.

"Any discharger in these areas who does not have a licence or whose discharge does not meet the required standards after July 1 is liable to prosecution.

"The maximum fine for discharging polluting matter into the water control zone is \$200,000 for the first offence and \$400,000 for any subsequent offence. Offenders may also be liable to six months' imprisonment."

Among the 9,600 existing dischargers identified in Phase I of VHWCZ, only 1,200 of them have made licence applications, the spokesman said.

He called on remaining dischargers to make licence applications early so that they would have sufficient time to provide for or improve treatment of their discharges to meet the required standards.

"To help dischargers understand the requirements of the legislation, we have sent them letters and information booklets.

"Four seminars informing the public about the legislation have also been held in the past months," the spokesman said.

Dischargers can contact the department's Local Control Offices on 2755 3241 (for Kwun Tong area) and 2417 6150 (for Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung areas) for enquiries on licensing and controls.

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Applications to sponsor fireworks display invited

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The Recreation and Culture Branch today (Sunday) invited organisations wishing to sponsor the 1996 Lunar New Year fireworks display to submit expressions of interest to the Government before April 30 this year.

Since 1982, fireworks displays have been held over Victoria Harbour in the evening of the second day of the Lunar New Year to celebrate the spring festival.

"Over 500,000 spectators turned out to watch the 1995 display," a spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said.

The spokesman said applications should be sent at least nine months before the date proposed for the display.

Applications should be addressed to the Secretary for Recreation and Culture, 41st floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

Further enquiries can be made on telephone 2594 5657 during office hours.

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Residents urged to vote in district board by-election

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The Kwun Tong District Officer, Mr Wong Hon-ho, has appealed to residents in Lower Ngau Tau Kok to actively vote in the forthcoming District Board by-election on March 5.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Kwun Tong District Festival '95 this (Sunday) evening, Mr Wong believed that electors would want the seat to be filled by someone of their own choice - someone who would look after the interests of their community.

Mr Wong also took the opportunity to urge those living in the district to cast their ballots in the Urban Council elections.

"Your vote is crucial," he said.

The district festival, which features a host of activities, will last until next Sunday (February 26).

These will include an area committee fun night, a joint performance by artistic groups as well as a carnival finale.

A festooned double-decker also toured the district this morning to publicise the event.

The district festival is organised by the Kwun Tong District Board with assistance of the District Office.

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5th Education and Careers Expo

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Students and working adults in Hong Kong will have access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on education and careers opportunities at the 5th Education and Careers Expo.

The Expo, featuring some 180 exhibitors from various trades, government departments, professional bodies as well as local and overseas educational institutes, will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from February 23 to 26 (Thursday to Sunday).

It will consist of an education section organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and a careers section staged by the Labour Department.

Senior Labour Officer Mrs Ada Leung said today (Sunday) that the Labour Department had been trying to provide young people with the latest information on careers through various activities.

"The Expo is the highlight of such activities this year. We hope to help youngsters identify their long-term career goals as choosing a career best suited to one's interests, talents and abilities is of great importance to life," she added.

In the career aspect, visitors will be able to get first-hand information on a variety of jobs including their nature, entry requirements, application procedures, terms of employment, training opportunities and promotion prospects.

"A better understanding of the requirements and prospects of different careers certainly helps young people identify the right career for themselves. This in turn helps optimise our human resources for the continued growth of our economy," Mrs Leung said.

The department will present 15 seminars to be conducted by experienced personnel from various fields and a series of video shows during the Expo.

Mrs Leung said response to the seminars was overwhelming and more than 2,700 students had registered for participation. Nevertheless, there are still places for walk-in visitors.

To encourage secondary students to actively collect career information, the department has also made arrangements for some 10,300 students from 92 schools to visit the Expo in groups.

The Expo will open from 10.30 am to 7 pm on February 23, from 10 am to 7 pm on February 24 and 25, and from 10 am to 6 pm on February 26.

Admission is free.

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Chinese stamp album and folder

The Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Sunday) that the 1994 Annual Stamp Pack, the 1994 Prestige Annual Album and the Ding Hu Mountains Stamp Folder issued by the Chinese Post Office will be put on sale at seven philatelic offices from February 22.

The offices are at Beaconsfield House Post Office, General Post Office, Granville Road Post Office, Peak Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office and Tsuen Wan Post Office. The stamp pack and the prestige album contain one set each of the special stamps issued in 1994.

The Ding Hu Mountains Stamp Folder contains a set of four stamps on Ding Hu Mountains issued on February 18 this year.

The selling prices are:

- 1994 Annual Stamp Pack - \$100
- 1994 Prestige Annual Album - \$250
- Ding Hu Mountains Stamp Folder - \$60

Each customer queuing on February 22 is entitled to a maximum of two items per product.

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