

**HONG KONG  
GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION  
SERVICES**

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**DAILY  
INFORMATION  
BULLETIN**

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Monday, July 17, 1972

SHARP RISE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

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The General Consumer Price Index for the month of June rose by four points to 142.

The rise was brought about by a sharp increase in the index for food which jumped by seven points following the disastrous rainstorms in the middle of the month.

Increases of one point each were also recorded in the indexes for alcoholic drinks, durable goods and services. Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant.

Because of the adverse weather conditions there were considerable increases in the average retail price of fresh vegetables. Higher prices were also recorded for salt and fresh water fish, other fish, live poultry, and fresh fruit. On the other hand the retail price of beef fell.

The Modified Consumer Price Index also rose by four points to 146 at the end of June. This is 10 points higher than for the same month in 1971.

The General Consumer Price Index is based on the general price level operating between September 1963 and August 1964. The index for that period is taken as 100.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 2 -

INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON HONG KONG'S STERLING RESERVES END

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The present round of discussions with British officials on the future security of Hong Kong's sterling reserves were concluded this morning.

A Government spokesman said today that the problems created by the British Government's decision to float the pound had been examined in considerable detail and, as a result, both sides had a clear understanding of each other's position.

A further round of discussions is expected to take place shortly.

One of the officials, Mr. Christopher Fogarty of the U.K. Treasury flew to Singapore today. Mr. R.H. Turner of the Bank of England will return to London tomorrow evening.

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TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS TO LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS

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Mr. A.P. Richardson and Mr. C.J.G. Lowe have been appointed temporarily to the Legislative Council with effect from today (Monday) during the absence of Mr. D.R.W. Alexander and Mr. J. Canning.

The appointment of both members to the Council will continue until August 29 and September 1 respectively.

At the same time, Mr. Wilson T.S. Wang has been appointed provisionally an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council.

He will take over Sir Yuet-keung Kan's place until August 7.

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AWARDS FOR PEOPLE INVOLVED IN "JUMBO" FIRE RESCUE OPERATIONS

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Twenty-nine people will receive special commendations this week for their assistance in rescue operations during last October's fire on the "Jumbo" floating restaurant in Aberdeen.

The Director of Marine, Mr. A. Fletcher, will present his Certificates of Commendation in a ceremony on Thursday (July 20) at the Marine Department Examination Centre.

Receiving the certificates will be 12 members of the public and 17 members of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force and the Fire Services Department.

Monday, July 17, 1972

The Commission of Inquiry into the "Jumbo" fire acknowledged the courage of all those who voluntarily went to the rescue of workers stranded on the burning Restaurant and to whom some of the survivors owe their lives.

At the presentation ceremony, the Director of Marine will also mention other people involved in the rescue work whose names are not known.

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to attend the presentation ceremony which will start at 10 a.m. at the Marine Department Examination Centre, 10th floor, Rumsey Street Multi-storey Car Park, Hong Kong.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 4 -

MORE CHOLERA GERMS DISCOVERED

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During routine inspection of night soil in Government laboratories today, eight cholera-positive samples were discovered.

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, said the discovery did not mean that there was now a case of cholera in Hong Kong.

"The cholera germs may well have come from a carrier who can do no harm provided there is no contamination of water or food," Dr. Choa said.

The samples of night soil containing the germs were collected on Saturday night from the Shau Kei Wan area. Three weeks ago, another cholera-positive sample was discovered in the same area. Routine inspection showed no further positive samples until early this morning.

Dr. Choa emphasised that discovery of cholera germs in night soil could well continue from time to time during the summer season.

"I would like to make clear that discovery of the germs in this way does not mean that a case of cholera has occurred, but does emphasise the need for taking precautions," he said.

Dr. Choa repeated his warning about the necessity for personal hygiene during the summer months, particularly the washing of hands after visits to the toilet, and the preservation of food and water from the likelihood of contamination.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 5 -

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT LOTTERY TO MARK 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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A special lottery to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Government lotteries is now on sale until September 22 and will be drawn the following day.

Announcing this at a press conference today, the Chairman of the Government Lotteries Management Committee, Mr. Alex S.C. Wu, said that the prizes for the lottery would be quite considerable.

Tickets at \$2 each will be sold for over two months.

There will be seven prizes. The first prize will amount to 40 per cent of the total proceeds and the second prize 10 per cent. The other five prizes will each amount to 2 per cent.

Mr. Wu said the anniversary lottery was organised to further the purpose of holding Government lotteries, which provide funds for social welfare purposes, as well as to promote community spirit towards a worthwhile cause.

It will be drawn on the same day as the 55th Government lottery, at the City Hall Concert Hall.

"The special lottery is not intended to replace the usual issue of lotteries. It is only one more way to raise more money for the Lotteries Fund," Mr. Wu said.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 6 -

Meanwhile tickets for the 51st lottery, the fifth this year, are now on sale.

Winning numbers for this lottery will be drawn at 10 a.m. on Saturday (July 29) at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club race course at Happy Valley.

Well-known broadcasters from Radio Hong Kong -- Miss Kimmy Got, Miss Stella Chan, Miss Katherina Tsang and Miss Monita Miu -- will assist in publicity work and draw the winning numbers.

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#### HONG KONG'S PRINTING INDUSTRY ON DISPLAY

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An exhibition showing the various types of books produced by the local printing industry is now being held at the City Hall Library as part of the 10th anniversary celebration of the City Hall.

On display are some 350 titles in English and Chinese selected from over 6,000 books registered and deposited with the Urban Services Department over the past 10 years.

A Government spokesman said the growth of Hong Kong as a high quality book production centre during the past few years had been little short of spectacular.

"The development of the publishing and printing industry is such that it is fast becoming a sector of some significance to the economy of Hong Kong," he said.

The exhibition will close on Monday, July 31, 1972. On that day, Mr. A. de O. Sales, member of the Cultural Affairs Select Committee of the Urban Council, will present prizes for the best produced books at a brief ceremony.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 7 -

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO OPEN ADDITIONAL OFFICES

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The Immigration Department has plans to open another four branch offices in various parts of Hong Kong to provide proper facilities and to deal with problems and enquiries without delay.

This was disclosed by the Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, at the opening ceremony today of the Mong Kok Branch Office in Fa Yuen Street.

The new offices will be located in Shau Kei Wan and Western district on Hong Kong Island, at Kwun Tong in Kowloon and at Yuen Long in the New Territories.

The Department is also looking for larger premises to replace its office in Sham Shui Po which closed last Saturday.

Mr. Collard said the new Mong Kok office would be able to deal with all normal types of immigration work for the residents of north-west Kowloon.

The Chairman of the Mongkok Kaifong Association, Mr. Cho Shiu Chung, performed the opening ceremony.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 8 -

DESIRABILITY OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AS A FORM OF EDUCATION

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The Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Thomas C.Y. Lee, today urged industrialists and community leaders to help spread the notion among youth that education in vocational training should be regarded as desirable.

He was speaking at a graduation ceremony of the Practical Training Centre of the Churches.

Mr. Lee said trainees should appreciate the value of their work, and it was wrong to dismiss "blue collar" careers as affording little prospect for the future.

He recalled the words of the Governor at the opening of the recent Vocational Training Exhibition that practical training, as a form of education, was "highly desirable in itself, and not a second best."

The Deputy Director praised the Centre for offering courses in automobile maintenance, electrical trades, refrigeration and air-conditioning, in addition to lessons in Chinese, English, mathematics, Biblical knowledge, physical training and general knowledge.

In his view, graduates should be proud of the Centre's success in placing trained students in appropriate jobs -- 100 per cent in the motor-car industry, 100 per cent in refrigeration and air-conditioning, and 93 per cent in the electrical trades.

Mr. Lee asked graduates to take with them into their careers the precepts taught at the Centre, and to contribute positively to the community of which they formed a part.

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full Chinese text of Mr. Lee's speech are distributed separately in the Press boxes, Government Information Services, later this evening.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 9 -

COURSES ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

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The number of industrial accidents can only be reduced by the communication of industrial safety knowledge.

This was said by Mr. A.H. Carter, the Industrial Safety Training Officer of the Labour Department, during the presentation of certificates to 32 foremen and supervisors at the conclusion of the first of a series of 14 courses on basic and advanced industrial safety.

He said that all industrial accidents, whether they caused injury or not, were costly due to damages to machinery, equipment, finished and semi-finished products, raw materials, and disruption or stoppage of production.

"It is hoped that you will pass on the benefit of this knowledge to your fellow workers on the one hand and to the management on the other," he said.

Mr. Carter commended the employers, who had sent their staff to attend the course, for their awareness of the need for industrial safety training and their interest in promoting safe working practices and accident prevention techniques.

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Monday, July 17, 1972

- 10 -

20,000 TO ATTEND WONG TAI SIN SHOWS

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More than 20,000 school children in the Wong Tai Sin area will attend two variety shows in the Morse Park open-air theatre on July 20 and 21 as part of the Social Welfare Department's summer recreational programme.

The shows, called respectively "Children's Night," and "Youths Night," have been organised by the Cultural and Recreational Committee of the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre.

The auditorium of the theatre seats 10,000, and applications make plain that every seat will be taken up.

The programme on both evenings will last two and a half hours, beginning at 8 o'clock, and will comprise ten items -- including folk songs, instrumental music, drama, Chinese boxing, folk dancing and a lion dance.

Mr. Li Yiu-bor, Committee President, will attend on "Children's Night," deliver a short address, and present souvenirs to performers. Mr. Kwok Ka-chi, Principal Social Welfare Officer, Group and Community Work Division, will officiate on the other night.

Since it was set up in 1968, the Committee -- consisting of representatives from more than 80 primary and secondary schools in the area -- has been actively engaged in promoting cultural and recreational occasions for young people in Wong Tai Sin.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the two shows covered.

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.