



Sunday, January 11, 1976

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FLOATING CLINICS PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED SERVICE TO VILLAGERS

Kat O, Tap Mun, Po Toi Island, So Kwu Wan - these are but a few of the isolated islands in Hong Kong served by the Medical and Health Department's two floating clinics.

The two floating clinics, 'Chee Wan' and 'Chee Hong', have been in service for 16 and 17 years respectively and are still going strong.

Their patients come from some 20 different places, mainly islands which are not easily accessible. The main area of operation for 'Chee Wan' is the cluster of islands round Tolo Harbour while 'Chee Hong' looks after residents on islands scattered throughout other parts of Hong Kong waters.

For five and a half days a week, rain or shine, the two vessels set sail early in the morning to these remote islands to attend to the sick. It is only during public holidays or when storm signal no. 3 or above is up that they are forced to take a break.

On arrival at an island, the vessel will pull a hooter to notify people. However, the signal has now become more of a formality than a necessity.

"After all these years, the clinical visit is being regarded as a personal call from a friend," a doctor serving on the 'Chee Hong' said.

At some of the sparsely populated islands which have no berthing facilities, people have to row out to the clinics in their own sampans.

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Despite their relatively small size, the floating clinics are sufficiently equipped to cope with the treatment for most of the common sicknesses, such as influenza and skin and eye diseases. Normally, attendance is higher in the summer months.

For the more serious cases requiring hospital care, the floating clinic will take the patients to town. The doctor on board will make use of the wireless installations on the vessel to get an ambulance ready on shore to take the patients to hospital.

During the past two years, there has been a significant increase in attendance at the two floating clinics. In 1973, the attendance was 7,784 and this increased to 17,066 in 1974, showing that the floating clinics are providing a much-needed service to the population in outlying areas. Attendance in the first three quarters of 1975 reached 14,709.

Both 'Chee Wan' and 'Chee Hong' are docked for maintenance for a fortnight twice every year. During this period, ships from the Marine Department will stand in to ensure that normal services of the floating clinics will not be interrupted.

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SEVEN NEW RECORDS SET
IN PWD SPORTS DAY

Joyce Yuen and R.H. Lloyd today established themselves as the best athletes in the Public Works Department in an exciting sports meet which saw seven new records set.

For Lloyd, an engineer with the Civil Engineering Office, it was the second successive win of the best athlete cup. This year he ran away with three gold medals and two bronze to retain the title.

In the process he smashed the longstanding record of 11.80 sec. for the men's 100 m race -- held since 1971 by Chiang Kwok-kwan of the Buildings Ordinance Office -- by completing the distance in a creditable 11.58 sec.

Joyce Yuen of the Electrical and Mechanical Office also won three golds and set new times for the ladies' 100 m sprint (15.28 sec.) and for the ladies' 60 m dash (9.11 sec.).

Other records were set by Ning Ming-tak of the Architectural Office who cleared 1.61 m in high jump; Chan Kam-to of the Electrical and Mechanical Office who bettered his own 1970 record in hurdles with 16.52 sec.; Mok Tit-keung of Architectural Office who improved on his 1972 record in shot put with a final 11.57 m; and Shum Shee-tak of Highways Office who completed the 80mm race for men over 40 years in 10.81 sec.

The sports day, held at the South China Athletic Association Stadium, was the eighth organised by the department. Its main objective is to promote sportsmanship and physical recreation among PWD staff.

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This year's meet was the brightest and best attended with some 400 competitors taking part in the 27 events which included races, hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot put, javelin, relays, tug-of-war, cricket ball throw and walk races, as well as special events for children.

All eleven offices of the department were represented but the glory of the day went to the Electrical and Mechanical Office which swept the best office cup for track and field for the fifth successive year. Runners up were the Architectural Office and Highways Office.

In a brief closing address, the Director of Public Works, Mr. David McDonald, congratulated the competitors and noted that the sports day was one of the few occasions when all staff could get together in an informal way and compete in friendly rivalry where rank and seniority meant nothing and where sheer skill and physical ability were the only keys to success.

He also thanked those organisations and associations which had assisted in making the occasion such success.

Mrs. McDonald presented the trophies to the winners.

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REOPENING OF ARGYLE STREET

Work is nearing completion on Argyle Street where a burst watermain in December closed sections of the road and flyover.

The westbound section of Argyle Street between house no. 250 and the Kowloon City roundabout will reopen to traffic tomorrow (January 12) when buses will also revert to the bus-stops opposite the Prince Hotel.

The section of the flyover between Kai Tak Road and no. 250 Argyle Street will reopen to traffic on January 16.

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