



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, December 18, 1972

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KCR TO HAVE MORE CARRIAGES

Double-Tracking Project In Planning Stage

The Kowloon-Canton Railway is buying 40 passenger carriages to cope with the continuously increasing volume of passenger traffic.

Mr. P.H. Lam, General Manager of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, said today that international tenders for the supply of the carriages had been invited through the Crown Agents in London and a number of overseas tenders were received before the end of September, 1972.

Each carriage will cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000, compared with about \$400,000 paid for the last purchase in 1961.

Twenty-eight new carriages will replace part of the old rolling stock, and the other 12 will be used for lengthening the existing trains or forming an additional train to improve the service.

These 40 carriages are expected to arrive at the end of 1973 in batches.

The Kowloon-Canton Railway will also be considering to buy a new locomotive from either the United States or Australia next year, Mr. Lam disclosed.

The Kowloon-Canton Railway has now nine locomotives and 70 carriages with a total capacity of about 6,340 passengers.

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The number of passengers carried by the Kowloon-Canton Railway has nearly doubled in the past ten-years -- from 6.8 million in 1961 to just over 10 million in 1971.

At present, the trains carry some 25,000 passengers daily in weekdays, and up to 63,000 on a holiday.

It is expected that the passengers traffic will rise by five to ten per cent each year over the next three-year period.

Mr. Lam also disclosed that the project for double-tracking the railway line between the Hung Hom new terminus and Sha Tin had been in the planning stage since August this year, and it was hoped that funds would be allocated next year.

The project, when completed, will make possible a more efficient schedule of services to be arranged and more frequent shuttle trains between Hung Hom and Sha Tin.

Building a second line to Sha Tin and remodelling the Mongkok and Sha Tin stations will cause approximately \$16 million. However, the single line through the Beacon Hill Tunnel will not be doubled for the time being.

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OVER 200 LABOUR PROBLEMS SETTLED IN NOVEMBER

With Help Of Labour Relations Service

The Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department helped employers and employees settle 248 labour problems in November.

As a result of agreements reached, 531 employees received a total of \$588,541.

Of this total, 15% were paid by employers as outstanding wages, payment in lieu of notice, statutory holiday pay and bonuses of a contractual nature under either the Employment Ordinance or the Industrial Employment (Holidays with Pay and Sickness Allowance) Ordinance.

The remaining 85% or \$497,399 were paid, apart from legal entitlements, as severance pay and other ex gratia payments to employees.

This amount includes a sum of \$399,900 paid as ex gratia severance pay to 98 redundant workers formerly employed by two contractors of a godown company.

Fresh nominal claims made by employees in the same month amounted to \$1,342,108.

Officers of various district branches of the Labour Relations Service also handled 1,564 consultations and enquiries about labour laws, industrial relations and personnel management.

They visited twenty-five establishments to help employers introduce joint consultative machinery to strengthen communication between labour and management.

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HALF A MILLION VISITORS TO GOVERNMENT PAVILION

More Are Expected

More than half a million people have visited the Government pavilion at the Chinese Manufacturers' Association Exhibition since it opened on December 7. Up till last night (December 17), a total of 504,000 visitors had already been to the pavilion and it is estimated that there will be more than one million visitors this year.

Viewers show a marked interest in displayed models of future housing projects which illustrate the Government's major plans in this field over the next ten years.

Another big attraction, especially to children, is the permanent cinema in the centre of the pavilion showing films of general interest about Hong Kong.

The pavilion is manned at all times by government officers who are available to answer questions from the public.

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RESETTLEMENT COMMISSIONER SENDS CONDOLENCES

To Families Of Workers Killed In Fall

The Commissioner for Resettlement, Mr. John Walden, today on behalf of the Resettlement Select Committee of the Urban Council expressed his sympathy and condolences to the families of the two workers who died in a fall while dismantling illegal flower pot racks in Lam Tin Estate yesterday.

The Commissioner said it was a "distressing and tragic occurrence," especially when tenants are being so co-operative in helping the Department remove these dangerous obstructions.

He added that so many had already been removed without any incidents.

Staff of the Resettlement Department have gone to see the families of these two men with a view to helping them to obtain the assistance of the Social Welfare Department if needed.

A spokesman for the Department advised tenants or contractors who are engaged in dismantling these illegal racks to exercise the utmost care and to take adequate precautions before removing them.

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PLUNKETT'S ROAD TO BE RE-OPENED

A road in the Peak area which has been closed as a result of the June rainstorms will be re-opened to traffic on Wednesday (December 20).

It is the section of Plunkett's Road between Plantation Road and the access road to Government Quarters at No. 30.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Transport Department said that the former one-way routing downhill will be retained.

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NEW ADDRESS FOR SMALL INDUSTRY BRANCH

The Commerce and Industry Department's Loans for Small Industry Branch has moved to the Fire Brigade Building, 4th Floor, Connaught Road Central.

The Branch will be operating there with effect from today.

The new telephone number of the Branch is 5-247316.

The Branch was formerly located in Tung Ying Building, Kowloon.

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RESULTS OF CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The results of the Christmas card competition held by the five Junior Libraries of the Urban Council Public Libraries have been announced.

About 4,000 cards representing more than two hundred schools were received.

A spokesman for the Urban Services Department said the entries were judged primarily on their originality and secondly on the execution, and age within the group was also taken into consideration. "It was obvious that much work and thought had gone into the composition of the cards which were of a very high standard," he commented.

All the cards received will be on display in the five Junior Libraries for a period of two weeks commencing December 20, 1972. Parents and children are invited to visit the exhibitions.

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Note to Editors: Five Urban Councillors will present prizes to the winners in each area in the following libraries:-

<u>URBAN COUNCILLORS</u>	<u>LIBRARY</u>	<u>DATE & TIME OF CEREMONY</u>
Mr. Raymond Y.K. Kan	City Hall Junior Library	Dec. 20 at 11 a.m.
Mr. A. de O. Sales	Yau Ma Tei Branch Library	Dec. 20 at 3 p.m.
Mr. Henry H.L. Hu	Aberdeen-Pok Fu Lam Branch Library	Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.
Dr. Denny M.H. Huang	Waterloo Road Branch Library	Dec. 22 at 10 a.m.
Mr. Peter C.K. Chan	Ping Shek Branch Library	Dec. 22 at 4 p.m.

You are welcome to have the prize-giving ceremonies covered.

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DRY TAPS FOR MONG KOK AREAS

Water supply to two areas in Mong Kok will be interrupted on Wednesday (December 20) and Friday (December 22) respectively from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. to facilitate leakage tests in the areas.

The area affected on Wednesday is bounded by Prince Edward Road, Nathan Road, Mong Kok Road, Shanghai Street, Bute Street and Tong Mei Road.

The area affected on Friday is bounded by Fuk Tsuen Street, Anchor Street, Tai Kok Tsui Road and Ivy Street.

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CHRISTMAS EVE YOUTH DANCE

A "Christmas Eve Youth Dance", organised by the Urban Council and sponsored by the North Point Kaifong Welfare Advancement Association, will be held at the Madam Chan Wai Chow Memorial School Hall on Sunday (December 24) from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Two popular Hong Kong groups, "On Fire" and the "Wynners," will perform at the dance party.

The highlight of the party will be a lucky draw at the end of the party.

Tickets, at \$1.50 each, will be on sale at the Theatre Booking Office, Low Block Lobby of the City Hall and the North Point Kaifong Welfare Advancement Association, No. 82, Marble Road, North Point, Hong Kong from 10 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).

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VISIT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE TO MAJOR PROJECTS

Several Sites Covered In Tour

Four members of the Public Works Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee today visited the sites of several big development projects.

The party comprised Mr. Szeto Wai, Mr. Wilfred Wong, Mr. Wilson Wang and Mr. Oswald Cheung.

They were accompanied by the Deputy Director of Public Works, Mr. A.S. Robertson, the Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr. D.G. Jeaffreson, the Principal Assistant Colonial Secretary (Lands), Mr. J.W. Chambers, the Assistant Colonial Secretary (Lands), Mr. G. Barnes, the Director of Building Development, Mr. C.R.J. Donnithorne, the Director of Engineering Development, Mr. J.R. Whitaker, the Principal Government Civil Engineer, Mr. H.D. Stead, the Principal Government Highway Engineer, Mr. W.C. Bell.

The party was joined in Sha Tin by the District Commissioner, New Territories, Mr. D.C. Bray.

Each of the multi-million-dollar projects will benefit the whole community after they have been completed.

The party started their visit with a short walk on the reclaimed land for the Kai Tak Runway extension. The runway has been increased from 8,360 feet to almost 11,000 feet.

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Works at this site included the reclamation of some 2.6 million sq. ft. of land in Kowloon Bay, contained by 1.25 miles of seawalls which are nearly completed; the construction of nine acres of concrete pavement and 28 acres of asphalt pavements specially designed for use by supersonic airliners.

On their way to Sha Tin, the members viewed works on a series of grade-separated interchanges along Lung Cheung Road and the site formation for the proposed second dual-purpose Lion Rock Tunnel.

In Sha Tin, members of the sub-Committee inspected the site for the future Sha Tin New Town and a 23-acre reclamation for the Lek Yuen Government Low Cost Housing Estate, where 23,000 people will be accommodated.

Domestic Blocks

Piling work for the first two domestic blocks of the estate and a secondary school is now underway.

Reclamation for the second race course in a portion of the Tide Cove is also being carried out.

The party also inspected the permanent sewage treatment works for the future new town and the Shing Mun River Flood Control Scheme.

They later went to the Hung Hom Development site where they were briefed on a number of interchange improvements along Waterloo Road, and on the progress being made on the Ho Man Tin development project.

At the Hung Hom reclamation, the members found that the foundation works and track-laying for the new railway terminus complex were well in progress. They were informed by the chief engineer that the \$160 million project would be completed on schedule.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a map showing the location of
some of the sites included in today's visit are
distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes
this evening.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.