



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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New rule to control sales of listed drugs

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board today (Saturday) announced that with effect from January 1, 1996, all dispensaries selling any poisons included in Part I of the Poisons List of the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations are required by law to record in the poisons book the identity card number of the purchaser.

A spokesman for the Board said this was an addition to the present requirements which required the sellers to record the purchaser's full name and address. He urged the public to comply with the statutory requirements.

"Failure to comply with such requirements may render the seller liable to criminal prosecution," he stressed.

He pointed out that the new legislative control will serve as an additional deterrent against the improper sale and misuse of drugs.

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Against Substance Abuse Scheme launched

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has launched a pilot scheme this (October) month to offer counselling and assistance to young substance abusers.

The Against Substance Abuse Scheme, operated by a team of six specially trained social workers, is set up in accordance with a pledge announced by the Governor in the Summit Meeting on Drugs in March this year.

"The scheme is a community-based programme to steer young people who are occasional or experimental drug abusers from further substance abuse," a spokesman for the department said today (Saturday).

"Substance abuse is often an indication that the youth is experiencing some growth difficulty," the spokesman said.

The project is targeted at experimental or occasional substance abusers who are under 21 years old and exhibit no physical dependence on illicit drugs, chronic psychological or mental problems.

Potential clients for the project may be referred by school social workers, outreaching social workers, youth workers, teachers, caseworkers in family services centres and probation officers.

"Through a series of group work programmes plus timely counselling services, social workers of the team will co-operate with schools and parents to help the young substance abusers develop alternate healthy life styles to steer them away from continued substance abuse.

"The programmes include explorations on one's own reasons for substance abuse, awareness of effects of drugs, training on life skills including communication skills, stress management, assertive skills and relapse prevention skills," he said.

Sharing sessions and training on parental skills will be conducted for the parents of the substance abusers. Volunteers will also be recruited and trained to befriend these young people and help them build a more constructive social supportive network.

Special training, including overseas attachment programme in the United States, Australia and the Philippines, has been provided to the social workers of the team.

Meanwhile, SWD is producing a new video targeted at parents on the handling of drug problems among their children.

Production of the video is expected to be completed in December and it will be distributed to schools, drug rehabilitation centres, welfare agencies rendering services to youth and concerned government departments.

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Career quiz for students

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Over 135,000 students from 296 secondary schools in Hong Kong will be tested next week to see how much they know about different careers and education opportunities.

"The 14th Careers Quiz, an annual event organised by the Labour Department's Careers Advisory Service, aims at arousing students' awareness of the importance of choosing a suitable career as well as encouraging them to get updated information on careers and education," Senior Labour Officer, Mrs Ada Leung, said today (Saturday).

The quiz, to be held from October 30 to November 6, requires students from Secondary 3 to Secondary 5 to answer 50 multiple choice questions in 30 minutes.

Participants will be asked questions on the courses offered by tertiary educational institutes, the job nature and requirements of different occupations, labour legislation relating to employees' rights, as well as services offered by the Labour Department.

A total of about 1,000 prizes, sponsored by Pentax Camera and Rodenstock Spectacles Frame, will be awarded to winning schools and students. The answer sheets of the quiz will be computer-marked by the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD).

Mrs Leung expressed appreciation of the generous donations by the sponsor and the tremendous technical support by ITSD.

"The Career Quiz is an associated activity of the sixth Education and Careers Expo scheduled for February 8 to 11, 1996. The quiz questions will be displayed at the Expo and members of the public are welcome to try the questions there," she said.

End/Saturday, October 28, 1995

Bargains at Correctional Services Autumn Fair

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The Correctional Services Department (CSD) will hold its 43rd Autumn Fair on Saturday (November 4) at the Stanley football field near Stanley Prison. Admission is free and all are welcome.

It will be the last CSD Autumn Fair to be held at this venue.

"This fair is especially memorable because the Stanley football field will soon be converted into a medium security prison," a spokesman for CSD said.

A variety of products, including arts and handicraft items, stuffed toys, rattan and wooden furniture, will be on sale at some 30 stalls.

The products are made by inmates at their leisure time during their detention in various penal institutions run by the department.

All proceeds from the sale will be donated to charitable organisations. Last year, a total of \$1.2 million was raised.

"The purpose of the fair is to motivate the inmates to adopt a positive attitude towards their future and to enhance their sense of contribution to society," the spokesman said.

He noted that the annual fair had become a popular event with members of the public and particularly bargain-hunters.

"Last year, our fair attracted thousands of visitors who were happy with the wide range of good-quality and low-price products," he added.

While touring the fair and making fruitful purchases, visitors will also enjoy a rich programme of entertainment performed by different organisations, including the Fringe Mime and Movement Laboratory, Hong Kong Parachute Club, Hong Kong Wushu Union, SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School, Wai Yee Dance Group, CSD's Dog Unit, Cape Collinson Band and Tai Lam Girl's Pipers and Marching Team.

There will also be snack stalls and game stalls for children.

The fair will be held from 11 am to 5 pm. Mrs Serena Mong, accompanied by the Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai Ming-kee, will be the guest of honour to officiate at the opening ceremony.

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Fresh water cut in Sai Kung

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Tai Mong Tsai, Sai Kung, will be temporarily suspended from 10 pm on Tuesday (October 31) to 6 am the following day to facilitate watermain works.

The suspension will affect some premises and villages along Tai Mong Tsai Road and Pak Tam Road including Pak Tam Chung, Tsak Yue Wu, Wong Keng Tei, Tsam Chuk Wan, Tai Mong Tsai, Yan Yee Road, Wong Mo Ying, Tam Wat, She Tau, Tai Po Tsai, Tit Kim Hang, Ping Tun, Shek Hang, Lady MacLehose Holiday Village and Po Leung Kuk Holiday Camp.

End/Saturday, October 28, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$ million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,539	09:30	-25
Closing balance in the account	1,614	10:00	-25
Change attributable to:		11:00	-25
Money market activity	-25	11:30	-25
LAF today	-900	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.0 *+0.1* 28.10.95

End/Saturday, October 28, 1995

Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at the airport on his return from London today (Sunday):

Governor: Thank you for coming out to the airport on a Sunday afternoon to welcome me back. I've had a good and very full visit to Britain. A number of useful meetings with the Prime Minister and other senior ministers. I made several speeches about Hong Kong and one about relationship between Hong Kong and Asia and Europe which I think have begun a debate. I've been able to talk to ministers about a number of issues of concern here in Hong Kong including the Bill of Rights. All together it was a visit which enabled me once again for example at the Trade Development Council dinner last Thursday to see how much support there is in Britain for what we are trying to do in Hong Kong as well as how much interest there is both at the business conference last Monday and at the TDC dinner, that interest in Hong Kong was apparent. People are very concerned about Hong Kong's position today and Hong Kong's future. I think by and large confident that Hong Kong will continue to be one of the great economic success stories of the world provided that we are able to hang on to our way of doing things and our way of life.

Question: ...some sorts of disappointment with the treatment that you received by the Chinese authorities. Why you take this ... personally? Are they attacking you personally or are they attacking the office of the Governor?

Governor: I was asked questions I've been asked before and made answers that I've given before. I think if you look around the world it's impossible to see any where else where people behave as some Chinese officials do. But we get on with life. We don't let it get us down.

Question: Can you try to comment on speculation by British MPs that you will be ... before 1997...?

Governor: I think everybody knows by now because I've given the answer to the same question, I should think a thousand times that it's my intention, God willing, which is the British Government's intention, God willing, that I should be here as Governor until June 30 1997 which point I will depart. Can I suggest that we, having said that once again, can I suggest that we do a deal together. The next person who ask me that question in the next 600 days makes a \$500 contribution to the Hong Kong Journalist Association Charity Fund. How about that as a deal. You know what the answer to the question is. I know what the question is. There's a story in one of our excellent newspapers this morning based on a Labour MP's intention of tabling a question, asking whether the Governor of Hong Kong can remain Governor of Hong Kong and fight a seat in the next British general election. You know, I know, the Labour MP who asked the question knows that the answer is no. The Governor of Hong Kong can't fight a Parliamentary seat in the next election. Nor does the Governor of Hong Kong wish to fight a seat in the next election because the Governor of Hong Kong is going to have quite enough to do until June 30, 1997. Now we've got that deal and the Hong Kong Journalist Association will be very grateful to the next person who asks the question.

Question: ... a report in the Fortune Magazine that Hong Kong slips from first to sixth place in the world...?

Governor: I just wonder whether Fortune magazine are now trying to, retrospectively, find some justifications for the front page story they ran a few weeks ago. It's very funny, isn't it, that last year Fortune Magazine had us first in the list as the most business friendly economy in the world. Shortly after that, they decided that we were about to drop dead. In between times, the World Economic Forum shifted us up one place in the world competitiveness league from fourth to third. Now Fortune Magazine have had another piece seeming to justify their front page story. One can't help but wonder what's going on. I thought the World Economic Forum piece was a good deal more objective and I also ... the Heritage Foundation, the distinguished American think tank which is I believe about to say that we are once again the freest economy in the world. The most important thing for us to do though is to go on trying to retain our competitiveness by investing in our people, in their skills and in their knowledge, by investing in our infrastructure and by trying to keep our costs down as much as we can so that we remain a competitive economy and judging by our export performance that's exactly what we are.

Question: Chinese officials said yesterday that finally they're going to talk about Hong Kong's major law changes. Do you think the Chinese... side have tried to interfere with Hong Kong's internal affairs like law change in Hong Kong...?

Governor: No, I think the question of the laws which change from time to time in Hong Kong to take account of our evolution as a community, I think that issue has been discussed under any other business in the Joint Liaison group before. In order to confirm that you have to ask one of the Ambassadors in the JLG. What we certainly intend to raise in the JLG at the next meeting and I am sure that Chinese officials will welcome this is the recent proposals, ill-advised proposals by the PWC legal subgroup to gut the Bill of Rights. We will certainly be raising that in the JLG and I very much hope that Chinese officials will have listened carefully to the views expressed by the community here in Hong Kong over the last week or so.

Question: What stage are we at now with the proposition of giving the right of abode to ... passports issued in Britain? Have you made any headway, seems to be a controversial issue with Chinese here...?

Governor: I think as you know the position of the British Government and the position of the official Opposition on right of abode remains exactly as it was which I suspect hasn't surprised people here very much judging by a poll I saw the other day. There are related issues which we are still arguing about including the position of the war widows, the ethnic minorities and shortly we will have to begin discussions on the question of visa free access because I hope that we will soon be able to reach agreement on the SAR passport itself. There are still one or two matters that are unresolved on that issue. I hope we will be able to get them sorted out soon. I've obviously raised the issue with ministers but I don't think they'll focus on it collectively until all the outstanding questions on the passport have been dealt with.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

EMSD wins ozone layer protection award

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The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has won international recognition for its continuous efforts in protecting the ozone layer.

The department is one of the organisations from 14 countries which have been presented with the 1995 Environmental Protection Agency Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award for Corporation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for their exceptional contributions to global environmental protection.

Receiving the award last Tuesday (October 24) on behalf of EMSD at the 1995 International Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and Halon Alternatives Conference in Washington, the department's Senior Building Services Engineer, Mr Lau Kwok-fan, said EMSD had been implementing a comprehensive programme for phasing out ozone depleting substances from government buildings since April 1993.

He noted that the five-year \$310-million CFC phasing out programme involving strategies of containment, retrofitting or replacement.

"So far, all CFC-11 chillers were installed with containment systems to minimise CFC leakage.

"Twenty-six number of chillers or refrigeration systems within Hong Kong Government buildings have been replaced or retrofitted and 18,500 kilograms of CFCs recovered," Mr Lau said.

On halons, EMSD began a four-year \$121-million halon phasing out programme in April 1994, said Mr Lau.

"Up to now, EMSD has replaced 108 number of halon total flooding fire extinguishing systems within Hong Kong Government buildings and 7,500 kilograms of halons have been recovered," he said.

Mr Lau also pointed out that by March 1998, EMSD would phase out all CFCs and halons from all government and government-funded buildings under EMSD's maintenance.

"A total of 72,000 kilograms of CFC and 62,000 kilograms of halons will be recovered from this phasing out programme.

"These chemicals which could have ended up in the Earth's stratosphere are being safely stored and will be destroyed in a safe and environmental-friendly manner," he added.

EMSD is one of the 61 individuals and organisations from 14 countries to receive this honour in recognition of their exemplary efforts to protect the ozone layer.

Other countries winning the award this year include Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore and the United States.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

Government determined to combat drug abuse

The Government is concerned about the problem of drug abuse by young people and will keep up the momentum of the "Beat Drugs" campaign through law enforcement, preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation and research, the Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai, said today (Sunday).

Speaking at the Founders' Day annual parade of the Boys' Brigade Hong Kong, Mr Lai said there had been a growing trend in drug abuse by young people in recent years.

"Surveys had found that some young people had turned to drugs when they encountered problems in their families or schools or with their friends, while others took drugs out of curiosity," he said.

Mr Lai reiterated the slogan "together we can beat drugs" and urged people from all walks of life to join hands and work towards this end.

He also commended the Boys' Brigade Hong Kong for organising healthy and meaningful activities for young people.

"This coincides with the aim of the Government's education and publicity programme to combat drug abuse.

"One of the themes of the programme is to encourage young people to live a full and healthy life so that they will say no to drugs," he added.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

Fun Day to promote equal opportunities

About a thousand people took part in the "Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination Fun Day" organised by the Wong Tai Sin District Board's Community Building and Social Services Committee at Lok Fu Shopping Centre this (Sunday) afternoon.

Chairman of the Committee, Mr Choi Luk-sing, said the activity aimed to give support to the 1995 International Year of Women and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education's campaign to promote equal opportunities and anti-discrimination.

He wished that through the specially designed games, drama, exhibition and quizzes, people would realise the importance of equal opportunities between the sexes as well as to treat women, the disabled and people of all races equally.

It was also hoped that the new generation would learn early in life how to get along with other people with the right attitude, he added.

The Fun Day was organised with the Wong Tai Sin District Office's assistance and the District Board's sponsorship.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

Subscription service gives traders faster access to data

The Trade Department today (Sunday) invited traders to make good use of its regular subscription service to keep themselves abreast with the latest trade policies and other commercial information of Hong Kong's overseas markets.

"The subscription service gives faster access to the Commercial Information Circulars issued by the department every now and then," said a spokesman for the department.

He said these circulars provided information on trade policies concerning textiles and non-textiles matters, as well as regulations and tariffs relating to Hong Kong's overseas markets.

"They are issued in both English and Chinese whenever necessary. Last year, the department published a total of 154 issues which covered a wide range of products and countries," he said.

The spokesman said under the regular subscription service, the Commercial Information Circulars were sent to subscribers either by mail or by fax.

Subscription is \$192 a year. Interested parties may approach the Trade Department Collection Office at Room 813, 8th floor, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon. Enquiries about the application of the subscription service can be directed to 2398 5337.

Complimentary copies of the Commercial Information Circulars are currently sent to trade and industrial associations. Members of the public may obtain individual copies of circulars free of charge by calling in person at the enquiry counter on the ground floor of Trade Department Tower.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

New geological maps published

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The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department has published two new 1:5,000 geological maps on Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi.

"Entitled 'Sheets 6-SE-D (Tsuen Wan)' and '10-NE-B, D (Tsing Yi)', the maps are the latest in the Hong Kong Geological Survey's series of maps which cover areas of new infrastructural development in the territory," a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

"A geological report on Tsing Yi, known as Sheet Report No 3 'Geology of Tsing Yi' is also published," he said.

The maps and report cover the entire island of Tsing Yi and the surrounding offshore area as far as the Sham Tseng-Tsuen Wan coastline.

"They include the landfall of the Tsing Ma Bridge and the Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi sections of Route 3, part of the highway network linking the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and urban Kowloon. In the south, they cover the site of the proposed Container Terminal 9," he said.

According to the 'Geology of Tsing Yi', the area is located in a structurally complex zone and at the intersection of three regional fault sets.

The rocks are composed mostly of granites and volcanic tuffs. The superficial deposits include slope debris on the higher steep slopes and alluvium near the coast and the offshore area comprises mainly marine silt and sand, with some patches of older alluvium and rock.

All published maps, memoirs and sheet reports of the Geological Survey are available from Government publications outlet and the map sales centres of the Lands Department.

Arrangements to obtain further information on specific areas by consulting unpublished maps and records of the Hong Kong Geological Survey can be made by contacting the head of the Geological Survey of GEO on 2762 5380.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

Employment agencies warned against unlicensed operation

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Operators of employment agencies are reminded today (Sunday) to observe the regulations governing the operation of employment agencies and fees chargeable to job-seekers.

A spokesman for the Labour Department said operators had to apply for a licence from the department at least one month before starting business.

Employment agencies with branch offices are also required to apply for a duplicate licence for each branch office. The licence fee is \$1,400 for a main office and \$280 for a branch office.

The licence and Part II of the Second Schedule issued by the Labour Department should be displayed in a conspicuous position at the place of business.

As regards fees chargeable to job-seekers, the spokesman said under the Employment Agency Regulations, an employment agency could only charge a successful job-seeker a commission of not more than 10 per cent of his first month's salary. Charging any other fee, such as registration fee, is strictly prohibited.

Operating an unlicensed employment agency or overcharging a job-seeker are offences under the Employment Ordinance. The maximum fine for each offence is \$25,000.

The spokesman said the Commissioner for Labour might refuse to issue or renew, and could revoke a licence if the person operating or intending to operate the employment agency had contravened any provision of Part XII of the Employment Ordinance or the Employment Agency Regulations.

An updated list of employment agencies in Hong Kong is available for public reference at the Employment Agencies Administration on 12th floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central.

Enquiries on the operation of employment agencies can be made on 2852 3535 or 2852 3540.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

Fund-raising Schedule for November

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Ten organisations have been granted permission to raise funds next (November) month, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

They will either sell flags, tokens or similar items, or place donation boxes in designated public places.

Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 in case of doubt.

Any organisation planning to hold activities involving collection of money or sale or exchange for donation of badges, tokens or similar articles in a public place for charitable purposes should apply for a public subscription permit from the Social Welfare Department.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request if the fund-raising is mobile," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and the times for selling and the collection points for bags.

"Organisers should inform the police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found," he added.

Permits are given to the following organisations for raising funds next month:

Flag Day

Event Date

Organisation

November 4

Hong Kong Aids Foundation Ltd

November 11

The Royal British Legion

November 18

Haven of Hope Hospital

November 25

Community Chest of Hong Kong

Public Subscription

Event Day

Organisation

November 3-5, 8-10 & 27-30

Keswick Foundation Ltd

November 4 & 25

Land of Virtue Centre Ltd

November 5, 12, 19 & 26

Jesus is Lord School of Ministry (HK) Ltd

November 5 - 11

Yan Chai Hospital

November 5

Hope of God Church, Hong Kong Ltd

November 5

Rosary Church - Kowloon

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

Cargo areas and ferry terminals remain open on holiday

The Marine Department today (Sunday) announced that all public cargo working areas will stay open from 7 am to 9 pm during the Chung Yeung Festival holiday on Wednesday (November 1).

The public cargo working areas administered by the department are at the Western District, Sheung Wan, Wan Chai, Chai Wan, Yau Ma Tei, Kwun Tong, Cha Kwo Ling, Tsuen Wan and Rambler Channel.

A spokesman for the department said: "The Tuen Mun and Western District Public Waterfronts will also be open from 7 am to 9 pm during the holiday."

Macau Ferry Terminal will remain open round-the-clock while the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui will be open as usual between 6 am and 10 pm on that day.

End/Sunday, October 29, 1995

No clinic service on Chung Yeung Festival

The Department of Health today (Sunday) announced that there will be no holiday out-patient clinic service on November 1 (Wednesday) which is the Chung Yeung Festival.

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