



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, December 12, 1972

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DUAL CARRIAGEWAY TO LINK TSUEN WAN AND CASTLE PEAK

Work Expected To Start In August Next Year

Site investigation and preliminary design work are being carried out for the construction of a dual three-lane carriageway linking the satellite towns of Tsuen Wan and Castle Peak.

The nine-and-a-half mile road will be built in two stages. When completed, it will stretch from the junction with the existing two-way road west of Tsuen Wan to a point near the Dragon Inn in Castle Peak, where it will tie in with the proposed road network for Castle Peak New Town.

The first stage of the project involves the construction of a 33-foot wide carriageway for the whole length of the road, together with the needed interchanges.

This carriageway will be temporarily used as a two-way road until the entire project is completed. It will accommodate traffic speed of up to 40 m.p.h., with a suitable gradient chosen to provide a high-capacity link between the two towns.

To ensure the smooth flow of traffic, access to the road will be limited to only four interchanges at Tsuen Wan, Sham Tseng, Tai Lam Chung and Castle Peak.

In order to avoid future construction difficulties and undue interference with traffic, certain lengths of the second carriageway will be constructed under Stage I of the scheme. This will particularly include such locations as the interchanges at Sham Tseng and Tai Lam Chung.

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On completion of the entire project, the final road will be of motorway standard with all interchanges grade-separated and hard shoulders provided for each carriageway to accommodate breakdowns and other emergency stoppages.

The total project cost for Stage I is estimated at \$204 million.

The consultant engineers recommended that work for the first stage of the project be opened to international tenders and let as one large contract. Construction is expected to begin in August 1973 and to be completed in 1976.

The precise timing of Stage II of the project, the construction of the complete second carriageway, has not yet been decided, and will depend on the results of a current traffic study being carried out to predict traffic growth.

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TAI HOM VILLAGE FIRE VICTIMS TO BE RESETTLED

2,800 Registered

About 2,800 people have been registered by the Resettlement Department for resettlement in Lam Tin Estate following last week's squatter fire in Tai Hom Village.

The first group of squatters have already gone to the estate to make final arrangements for moving in.

However, after careful screening, it was discovered that about 150 people were not victims of the fire.

A spokesman for the Resettlement Department said that these 150 people were outsiders and had never lived in Tai Hom Village.

They hoped that by jumping into the queue they would get into a resettlement estate.

The spokesman said that many of these impostors came from as far as Chai Wan.

He said the department's staff would continue to scrutinize all claims in order that genuine victims would not lose out to these unscrupulous impostors.

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MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS ENCOURAGED

Industrialists in Hong Kong are continually encouraged by the Labour Department to set up medical care facilities for their employees.

A spokesman of the Labour Department said; "Several of the larger and more progressive industrial undertakings have provided staff clinics on their premises. Many more provide the service of a medical practitioner".

Under the Industrial Employment (Holidays with Pay and Sickness Allowance) Ordinance, employers can apply for their clinics to be recognised by the Director of Medical and Health Services.

To safeguard workers' health, the Labour Department has requested the St. John Ambulance Association to undertake the instruction and examination of industrial workers in first aid.

The spokesman said; "The Industrial Health Division, whose principal functions are to prevent occupational diseases and to promote industrial health, has officers attached to the medical boards at Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Kwong Wah, and Tang Shiu Kin Hospitals to assist in the assessment of occupational accidents."

In 1971, 38,306 occupational accidents were recorded. All cases were investigated by Health Visitors and Industrial Health Nurses. Of these, 27,192 were reportable under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. These included 379 fatalities, 137 of which were seamen recruited in Hong Kong and 53 occurred in the construction industry.

/The average

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The average number of occupational injuries reported monthly increased from 2,050 in 1970 to 2,266 in 1971.

In 1971, Industrial Health Officers assessed 250 injured people for permanent incapacity under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, five less compared with the previous year.

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EXTENSION OF PIER FOR CONVENIENCE OF FISHING FOLK

Government will soon extend the existing pier at Sam Mun Tsai New Village, Shuen Wan Typhoon Shelter, to meet the increasing demand of its use by the fishing population.

The new extension will also enable smaller police launches to berth alongside the pier.

The works consist of the provision of a proper pier head with sufficient depth of water alongside to allow fishing junks to berth at most states of the tide.

Construction work is expected to begin next month, taking about four months to complete.

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RE-ENTRY PERMIT APPLICANTS URGED TO APPLY NOW

To Avoid Lunar New Year Rush

The Director of Immigration, Mr. W.E. Collard, today advised people requiring Hong Kong re-entry permits for travel to China or Macao over the Lunar New Year holidays to apply now, while business is relatively quiet, rather than to wait until January or early February and face the inevitable delays and long queues at Immigration Department offices.

He pointed out that over 250,000 local residents travelled to Macao and China during the holidays last year - and the figure may well be much higher in 1973.

A single journey re-entry permit costing only \$2 is valid for one journey to Macao or China and return to Hong Kong within six months of the date of issue.

A multiple journey permit costing \$10 is valid for any number of journeys within five years from the date of issue.

There is therefore no need for anyone to wait until just before Lunar New Year before applying.

Re-entry permits can be obtained now from the Immigration offices in Central District (near the Macao Ferry Terminal), Causeway Bay, Tsimshatsui, Mongkok, Kowloon City, Tsuen Wan and Sheung Shui - and from the mobile Immigration Office which calls daily at remoter parts of the New Territories.

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RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS TO AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The recent agricultural show at Shek Kong was visited by a record quarter of a million people.

That is more than twice the number that attended the previous show, which was held in 1969 in conjunction with the Festival of Hong Kong.

The perfect weather on all four days resulted in large crowds every day. All previous attendance records were, however, broken on Sunday when just over half of the total number of visitors were counted entering the show ground.

Many visitors to the show on Sunday afternoon were, unfortunately, delayed for long periods in traffic jams, as the roads were not able to cope with the great number of vehicles.

Forty challenge cups and other trophies were presented on Sunday afternoon by His Excellency the Commander British Forces, Lt. General Sir Richard Ward, to the winners of the different categories of exhibits.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department today (Tuesday) thanked the army and paid tribute to many army units for the valuable help and cooperation received.

Large numbers of prize-winning live stock and crops were on display, and visitors were also able to see a full programme of free entertainment in the show ring and on the stage.

~~The~~ commercial

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The commercial stalls at this agricultural show were particularly attractive and well designed. Favourable comments were received from the exhibitors, who were happy at having been able to display their products to such large crowds.

Many leading members of the farming communities said that they had enjoyed the show, and that they intended to follow up new ideas seen on display.

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FOUR PRE-WAR BUILDINGS CONDEMNED

The Building Authority condemned four pre-war buildings on both sides of the harbour today (Tuesday).

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that two four-storey buildings at Nos. 234 and 236 Reclamation Street had been under observation for a number of years.

Recent inspections showed that there was further deterioration in the party walls with several new fractures developing.

No. 236 was considered to have reached a condition where there was a danger of collapse, and the condition of the party wall between the two buildings rendered No. 234 liable to failure during or after the demolition of No. 236.

As a result, No. 236 was declared dangerous and No. 234 liable to become dangerous, he said.

On Hong Kong Island, No. 60 Connaught Road Central had been declared dangerous under similar circumstances, and the adjacent building at No. 59 liable to become dangerous.

Investigations showed that the rear and cross walls of No. 60 were extensively fractured and the roof had decayed to a dangerous degree. He said the extent of these defects indicated a risk of collapse.

The front verandah of No. 59, together with the front main wall was weak, and there was risk of failure during or after the demolition to No. 60.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Kowloon and Victoria District Courts on January 11 and 12 respectively were posted today.

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LAST MONTH'S WEATHER WARMER BUT LESS SUNNY THAN NORMAL

Fifth November On Record To Be Hit By Typhoon

November 1972 was warmer but less sunny than usual, with rainfall well above normal, the Royal Observatory says.

The month was also notable as it was the fifth November since records began in which a tropical cyclone seriously affected Hong Kong.

The month began with the south China coast under the influence of a ridge of high pressure. Temperatures were well above normal, and the highest temperature of the month, 30.5°C, was recorded on November 3.

On November 4, a tropical depression formed east of the Philippines. It soon intensified to a typhoon, named "Pamela" and moved westwards, entering the South China Sea on November 6.

The Stand By Signal, No. 1, was hoisted at 4.00 p.m. on November 7 when "Pamela" was about 390 miles south-southwest of Hong Kong and was moving northwest towards Hainan Island.

The Strong Wind Signal, No. 3, was hoisted at 8.10 p.m. on the same day.

On November 8 "Pamela" started to move north, and after passing over the eastern coastal areas of Hainan, started to move north-northeast. The Northeast Gale or Storm Signal, No. 7, was hoisted at 3.15 p.m., followed at 10 p.m. by No. 8, warning gale force winds from the southeast.

"Pamela" crossed the coast about 180 miles west-southwest of Hong Kong and all signals were lowered at 7.05 a.m. on November 9.

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On November 8 and 9, "Pamela" brought a total of 73.8 mm of rainfall, measured at the Royal Observatory.

Gusts to over 50 knots were recorded at all stations, the maximum being 83 knots at Tate's Cairn. Ten aircraft were diverted from Kai Tak on November 8.

A cold front moved south through the Colony late on November 9, and the next day was fine with low humidities and almost continuous sunshine.

However, on November 11 winds became easterly, and for the next 12 days the Colony remained under the influence of a moist easterly airstream. There was little sunshine and intermittent rain.

Late on November 16 a cold front passed through Hong Kong, causing the temperature to fall from a maximum of 27.7°C on that day to a minimum of 20.1°C the next morning.

Continuous Rain

The unpleasant weather reached a climax on November 23 with overcast skies and almost continuous rain, resulting in 15.8 mm of rainfall at the Royal Observatory. The minimum temperature of the month, 14.5°C, also occurred on the same day.

Another cold front moved south, crossing the south China coast late on November 23. The next day was brilliantly fine with a mean relative humidity of 58%, compared with 90% the day before.

For the rest of the month Hong Kong remained in a dry airstream associated with the continental anticyclone over China and the weather was fine with low humidities and long periods of sunshine.

On November 30, the anticyclone over China intensified. As strong winds were expected overnight, the Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted at 7.45 p.m.

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No thunderstorm or heavy rain warnings were issued during the month.

Fire danger warnings were issued as follows:-

Nov. 10 - 11	Yellow
Nov. 16 - 17	Yellow
Nov. 24 - 25	Red
Nov. 25 - 26	Yellow
Nov. 26 - 27	Red
Nov. 27 - 28	Yellow
Nov. 30	Yellow
Nov. 30	Red

The month's figures and departures from normal were:-

Sunshine	134.5 hours; 53.4 hours below normal
Rainfall	109.0 mm ; 65.9 mm above normal
Cloudiness	62 % ; 9% above normal
Relative Humidity	76 % ; 7% above normal
Mean Maximum Temperature	25.1 °C ; 1.4 degrees above normal
Mean Temperature	22.4 °C ; 1.5 degrees above normal
Mean Minimum Temperature	20.5 °C ; 1.9 degrees above normal
Mean Dew Point	17.8 °C ; 2.7 degrees above normal
Total Evaporation	128.2 mm ; 21.8 mm below normal

Maximum Temperature of 30.5°C was recorded on November 3.

Minimum Temperature of 14.5°C was recorded on November 23.

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WATER CUT IN CENTRAL AND PEAK

Water supply to a number of premises in Central, Hong Kong, will be interrupted for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Thursday, December 14.

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area to be affected is bounded by Queen's Road Central from Garden Road to Pottinger Street and the southern side of Des Voeux Road Central to Ice House Street.

A number of premises in the Peak will also have their water supply interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, to 6 a.m. the following morning.

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a fresh water main connection at Plunketts Road.

The premises to be affected include all premises in Plantation Road, Mount Kellett Road, Gough Hill Road, Bluff Path, Pollocks Path, Plunketts Road and House Nos. 4, 6 & 7 Peel Rise, 74-116 & 71-99 Peak Road and 3, 26, 28, 30 & 36 Severn Road.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.