



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Acting Governor's transcript	1
Acting Governor sees action on NT environmental black spots	1
Results of applications for students financial assistance	3
Secondary 6 admission procedure	4
Factory inspectors checked 1,502 sites	6
Red light camera proves effective	7
Grading of beach water quality	8
Letter collection service on holidays	12
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	12

Acting Governor's transcript

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Following is the transcript of the remarks (English) made to the media by the Acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, after inspecting environmental black spots in Yuen Long this (Thursday) afternoon:

Question: When will you officially quit your existing post to help the Chief Executive (Designate) to form the future SAR ...?

Mrs Chan: Can I say that there is no foundation to these rumours that I am about to quit my job to join this CE (Designate) and his team. I would only stress this: we have said on many occasions -- the Governor and myself and other senior officials have said that we will co-operate fully with the Chief Executive when this person has been selected. As to the mode of co-operation, it's something that Mr Lu Ping and I touched on when I saw him earlier in Beijing about two or three months ago. And we both agreed that this is a matter that should be discussed once the Chief Executive has been selected, we can then discuss exactly how the Government can co-operate. We will be prepared to provide all the human resources and any other practical help that we can give to the Chief Executive (Designate).

End

Acting Governor sees action on NT environmental black spots

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The Acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Thursday) inspected the latest work progress achieved by the Lands Department's Task Force Black Spots (TFB) in cleaning up environmental black spots in Yuen Long.

She was met on arrival at the TFB office in Sheung Shui by the Chairman of the Special Committee overseeing the TFB, Dr Samuel Wong; the Director of Lands, Mr Bob Pope; and the Government Land Agent (TFB), Mr Allan Hay.

Mrs Chan was told that since its formation in August 1994, the TFB had successfully cleared a total of 313 sites with a total area of 186,800 square metres of government land.

She was also briefed on the 10-year rolling programme which was being launched for the open storage action areas and container action areas in the north and north-west New Territories.

On her way to a vantage point in the Pat Heung Pilot Action Area, Mrs Chan was briefed by Dr Samuel Wong on the terms of reference and membership composition of the Special Committee and how the Committee operated and issues discussed so far.

On Kam Tin Road, Mrs Chan took a closer look at an existing car breaking yard. The site, on which there was a typical environmental nuisance generated by car-related activity, was undergoing in-situ environmental improvement works requested by the TFB.

Mrs Chan was then briefed on the findings of a general survey on all industrial undertaking in the Pat Heung Pilot Action Area. She also noted that the TFB had initiated a scheme for environmental improvement of Kam Tin Township aimed at enhancing the value of this historic rural town as a tourist attraction point in the New Territories.

After leaving Pat Heung and on her way to Lau Fau Shan, the Acting Governor went through a group of unauthorised container depots at San Wai to see the magnitude and extent of the container depot in Ha Tsuen and other depots along Ping Ha Road.

Mrs Chan was briefed on the distribution of and the reasons for concentration of container depots in the area and its relationship to the whole of Hong Kong in term of the holding capacity and impacts on traffic, drainage and environment. She also noted that the voluntary Code of Practice for container depots had proved to be successful in improving the environment.

The Acting Governor also went to Lau Fau Shan where she was met by the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shirley Lau, and was briefed on the drainage improvement project in the area and other projects being undertaken by the Rural Projects Improvement Strategy.

End

Results of applications for students financial assistance

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Some 4,500 tertiary students applying for financial assistance under the Local Student Finance Scheme (LSFS) for the next academic year have been informed of the results of their applications.

Application results of a further 7,000 to 8,000 students will be made known within the next few weeks, a spokesman for the Student Financial Assistance Agency announced today (Thursday).

The spokesman noted that tertiary institutions, in response to the request of the Joint Committee on Student Finance, have introduced measures to assist needy students who might have difficulties in paying tuition fees before the results of their applications were known.

Following is a summary of improved tuition fee collection arrangements introduced by tertiary institutions for new students in 1996-97:-

University of Hong Kong : A deposit of \$5,000 to be paid in September and the balance of the first semester tuition fee to be paid in October.

Chinese University of Hong Kong : An interest free bridging loan will be offered to new students who have difficulties in paying tuition fees.

Hong Kong Institute of Education : At the time of registration in September, students will be allowed to pay 50 per cent of the first semester tuition fee and to pay the balance in November.

Lingnan College : Needy new students, upon application at registration, will be allowed to pay only 50 per cent of the first semester tuition fee in the first instance and to pay the remaining 50 per cent in September.

Hong Kong Polytechnic University : Needy new students, upon application at registration, will be allowed to pay 1/4 of the first semester tuition fee and to pay the remaining 3/4 together with the second semester tuition fee in February.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology : Students will be required to pay \$5,000 as deposit in August and to pay the balance of the first semester tuition fee in October.

City University of Hong Kong : New students may initially pay 10 per cent of the annual tuition fees. Forty per cent of the annual tuition fee has to be paid in October and the remaining 50 per cent will be paid in the second semester.

Hong Kong Baptist University : Students may pay \$5,000 as deposit at registration and to pay the balance of the first semester tuition fee in November. Deferred payment is allowed for students who might have financial problems.

The spokesman reminded new tertiary students who wish to apply for financial assistance under the LSFS to approach their respective institution upon enrolment.

End

Secondary 6 admission procedure

* * * * *

The Education Department today (Thursday) announced details of the five-stage Secondary 6 Admission Procedure to tie in with the release of the results of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) next Wednesday (August 7).

An acting senior education officer, Mr Tang Fat-yuen, said: "A total of about 24,060 places in government, aided or bought-place secondary school will be available in September 1996 for application.

"This year, the Education Department will continue to provide the media with a floppy diskette containing a list of schools with vacancies at Stage II (August 8) and Stage IV (August 12). Some newspapers have indicated that they will publish the lists on these two days.

"The list with S6 vacancies in Stage II and Stage IV will also be displayed at all District Education Offices throughout the territory as in previous years."

Students from the following types of schools are reminded to find out which schools they are linked to:

- * schools which do not operate S6 classes
- * schools which operated only one stream of S6
- * private schools
- * evening schools

A perforated S6 admission slip will be attached to the HKCEE results notice. It should be noted that once a student accepts the offer of an S6 place, the admission slip will be detached and retained by the admitting school as a record of admission. Therefore students should consider carefully before accepting an offer. No school will admit a student without the S6 admission slip.

Application for S6 places will begin on August 7. Students with at least 14 points from the best six subjects in one sitting of the HKCEE can apply to own or linked school (Stage I) or apply to other schools on August 8 (Stage II).

Students who satisfy minimum A-level entry requirements should apply to own or linked schools on August 9 (Stage III) or apply to other schools on August 12 (Stage IV).

The registration of all these students (Stage I - IV) will be done on the day they apply.

Students who still have not secured an S6 place after Stages I to IV can apply for central allocation at one of the following specified centres on August 13 (Stage V):

Kowloon

Kwun Tong Government Secondary Technical School
90 Kung Lok Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon.

Homantin Government Secondary School
8 Perth Street, Kowloon.

Kowloon Technical School
332 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon.

Hong Kong

Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Technical School
Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai.

New Territories

Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School
70 Hoi Pa Street, Tsuen Wan

Sha Tin Government Secondary School
11-17 Man Lai Road, Sha Tin.

NT Heung Yee Kuk Yuen Long District Secondary School
123 Kau Yuk Road, Yuen Long.

NT Heung Yee Kuk Tai Po District Secondary School
Tai Yuen Estate, Tai Po.

Results of central allocation will be displayed at specified centres and District Education Offices on August 17 from 9 am. Successful candidates should register with schools before 1 pm that day.

Details on the five stages will be available at the Education Department's 24-hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System on 2891 0088 one day before each stage.

Students are also welcome to contact officers of the District Education Offices for assistance.

A central hotline at enquiries telephone numbers 2782 7037 to 2782 7039 or 2782 7340 will be set up from August 7 to August 17 to help students seek advice or clarification about admission procedures, and handle any complaints. They will be operating from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm on weekdays and 9 am to noon on Saturdays.

End

Factory inspectors checked 1,502 sites

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The Labour Department's factory inspectors have checked 1,502 sites in their six-week long territory-wide special industrial safety operation.

The operation, which was completed yesterday (Wednesday), resulted in the issuing of a total of 482 summonses to building contractors for breaching industrial safety laws.

The special task force comprising 10 factory inspectors checked 63 sites in the last week of the operation and recommended the issuing of 30 summonses.

The breaches detected over the sixth week related mainly to failing to provide suitable working platforms or scaffolds; failing to provide proper fencing of dangerous places; failing to ensure the use of personal protective equipment by workers and failing to provide adequate safety measures in the use of lifting appliances. These were similar to the first five weeks' findings.

Commenting on the results of the operation, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Labour (Occupational Safety and Health), Mr Mak Sai-yiu, said today (Thursday) that the overall safety situation in construction sites inspected was under control.

"Factory inspectors in various districts will maintain regular inspections to construction sites despite the completion of the recent special inspection operation," said Mr Mak.

He added that factory inspectors have been told to keep a close watch on the industrial safety situation in work sites, especially those with unsatisfactory safety records.

"They would not tolerate building contractors who fail to provide safety measures as this may result in serious or fatal accidents," said Mr Mak.

He also urged construction workers to be more mindful of the hazards and dangers at work.

"To protect their own lives, all employees should fully co-operate with their employers by taking safety measures as required by law," Mr Mak added.

He said that all workers engaged in industrial work activities, especially construction workers, should make use of the 24-hour industrial safety hotline 2815 0678 when they encounter any dangerous situation or unsafe practice.

End

Red light camera proves effective

* * * * *

There has been a sharp drop in the number of motorists jumping red lights following the installation of red light cameras in different parts of Hong Kong. This was disclosed at the Road Safety Council meeting held at Police Headquarters yesterday (31 July).

According to site survey, an average of 43 per cent drop was recorded at those sites equipped with red light cameras.

The meeting, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr Peter Wong Tsan-kwong, was informed that there were plans to install nine additional red light cameras, bringing the total number of red light camera throughout the territory to 28 by September this year.

"This is a very encouraging enforcement action," a spokesman for the Council remarked.

The spokesman stressed that the Government would continue to develop the scheme which would deter motorists from the highly risky and sometimes fatal behaviour of red light jumping.

The meeting, however, expressed concern over the large number of incidence of red lights jumping in the LRT junctions, as recorded by the recently installed red light cameras.

There has been a total of 89 prosecutions of motorist jumping red lights in the LRT junctions since the implementation of red light cameras in these areas on June 6 and there are plans to install additional cameras in LRT areas, the spokesman said.

End

Grading of beach water quality

* * * * *

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced the latest gradings of Hong Kong's beaches, based on the bacteriological water quality, for the 1996 swimming season.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

The grading is based on the most recent E. coli data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme.

As with last year, the grading also includes an estimate of the risk of suffering some minor skin or gastrointestinal complaints as a result of swimming at a beach which has some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large body of statistical information gathered in Hong Kong in recent bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches may vary during the summer. This represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters in most cases, as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

However, the grades give a good general picture of the water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

"Bathers should avoid such beaches for two or three days after a storm, longer if the weather remains overcast or less if there is strong sunshine", Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Patrick Lei said.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows:

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E. coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E. coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E. coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E. coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present five gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Approach, Castle Peak, Rocky Bay and Ting Kau, are closed to swimmers, while Old Cafeteria is re-opened. The decision to open or close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1995. The public are advised not to swim at the closed beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below :

<u>Beach</u>	<u>Previous Grading (as at 18.7.96)</u>	<u>Present Grading (as at 1.8.96)</u>
<u>Hong Kong South</u>		
Big Wave Bay (S)	3	2
Chung Hom Kok (S)	1	1
Deep Water Bay (S)	1	1
Hairpin (S)	2	2
Middle Bay (S)	3	2
Repulse Bay (S)	1	1
Shek O (S)	2	2
South Bay (S)	1	1
St. Stephen's (S)	2	2
Turtle Cove (S)	2	2
Stanley Main (S)	2	2
Rocky Bay	X	X
<u>Tuen Mun District</u>		
Golden Beach	2	2
Old Cafeteria	3	3
New Cafeteria	2	2
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie (S)	3	3
Butterfly (S)	3	3
<u>Sai Kung District</u>		
Clear Water Bay 1st Beach (S)	2	2
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach (S)	2	2
Hap Mun Bay (S)	1	1
Kiu Tsui (S)	1	1
Silverstrand (S)	3	3
Trio (Hebe Haven) (S)	2	2

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	3	3
Discovery Bay*	2	2
Hung Shing Yeh	1	1
Kwun Yam Wan	1	1
Tong Fuk	1	2
Lo So Shing	1	1
Pui O	1	2
Silvermine Bay	3	3
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau (S)	1	1

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	X	X
Casam (S)	3	3
Gemini	4	4
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido (S)	4	4
Ting Kau	X	X
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note : "X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

* Non-gazetted beaches.

(S) The beach has a shark-prevention net installed.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

Big Wave Bay and Middle Bay from "3" to "2"; Tong Fuk and Pui O from "1" to "2".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

End

Letter collection service on holidays

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The acting Postmaster General, Mr P C Luk, announced today (Thursday) that with effect from August 4, one collection will be arranged for all street posting boxes on Sundays and public holidays except for those which are located on outlying islands and at remote areas.

The time of collection will be shown on the time-plate of each posting box.

Mr Luk said: "The introduction of the service on Sundays and public holidays, which serves to advance the processing of letters posted at street posting boxes, is one of our initiatives to improve quality of letter service to the public."

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,886	0930	+72
Closing balance in the account	1,918	1000	+72
Change attributable to :		1100	+72
Money market activity	+72	1200	+72
LAF today	-40	1500	+72
		1600	+72

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.8 *+0.0* 1.8.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.01	2 years	2805	6.30	100.13	6.31
1 month	5.06	3 years	3907	6.80	100.38	6.77
3 months	5.25	5 years	5106	7.23	99.96	7.37
6 months	5.45	7 years	7305	7.60	100.21	7.70
12 months	5.82	5 years	M502	7.30	99.68	7.52

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$6,615 million

Closed August 1, 1996

End