



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NEW HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES COMPLEX OPENED

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TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY IN A HIGHLY-INDUSTRIALISED COMMUNITY LIKE HONG KONG REQUIRES ULTRA-MODERN METHODS OF FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE FIGHTING, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF NEW TERRITORIES FIRE COMMAND, MR FRED JACKSON SAID THIS MORNING (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING BEFORE A LARGE GATHERING AT THE OPENING OF THE HONG KONG, ISLANDS AND MARINE FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND SHEUNG WAN DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, MR JACKSON SAID THE NEW COMPLEX WAS PART OF THE FIRE SERVICES' OVERALL MODERNISATION POLICY TO MEET THE DEMANDS NOT ONLY OF THE 1980'S AND 1990'S, BUT WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

+ITS ENLARGED AND UP-TO-DATE FACILITIES WILL ENSURE THAT THE CORRECT TYPE OF INSTRUCTION BOTH TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL CAN BE GIVEN IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE A HIGHLY-TRAINED PROFESSIONAL BODY OF OFFICERS AND MEN READY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE TO DEAL WITH ANY EMERGENCY.

+I AM AWARE THAT FOR MANY YEARS AHEAD THE DEPARTMENT'S PERSONNEL WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE FIRE DEFENCES OF HONG KONG AS HAVE THEIR PREDECESSORS FOR OVER 100 YEARS,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW \$10-MILLION COMPLEX REPLACES THE CENTRAL FIRE BRIGADE STATION BUILT ALMOST 56 YEARS AGO.

IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS, THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER OF HONG KONG FIRE COMMAND, MR M. KINGDOM SAID THAT THE SHEUNG WAN FIRE STATION WAS COMMISSIONED AND HAS BEEN FULLY OPERATIONAL SINCE NOVEMBER.

+SHEUNG WAN FIRE STATION TOGETHER WITH ITS SISTER STATION AT GARDEN ROAD HAS NOW ASSUMED THE ROLE OF FIRE DEFENCE AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONTINGENCIES FOR THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREA, WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY UNDERTAKEN BY CENTRAL FIRE STATION,+ MR KINGDOM SAID.

+IT WOULD BE REMISS OF ME TO ONLY BRIEFLY MENTION CENTRAL FIRE STATION, FOR WHEREAS IT NO LONGER HOUSES FIRE APPLIANCES, IT IS AT PRESENT UTILISED AS THE AMBULANCE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND AS AN AMBULANCE DEPOT.

+IN SOME 56 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THIS NOW GRAND OLD LADY OF FIRE ESTABLISHMENTS HAS SERVED THE COMMUNITY WELL WITH COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF INCIDENTS HAVING BEEN RESPONDED TO BY THE PERSONNEL AND THE APPLIANCES SHE HAS HOUSED OVER THAT PERIOD.

+I SPEAK FOR MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES WHEN I SAY WE SHALL BE SOMEWHAT SADDENED WHEN SHE EVENTUALLY FALLS VICTIM TO THE DEMOLISHER'S HAMMER.+

LATER, MR JACKSON ACCOMPANIED BY MR KINGDOM AND THE DISTRICT COMMANDER OF CENTRAL DISTRICT, ACTING SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER JACK MORAN, UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW COMPLEX.

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MARCH RETAIL SALES VALUE

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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE ENTIRE RETAIL SECTOR IN MARCH 1982 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 133 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS PROVIDED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AT 122, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR MARCH 1982 ROSE BY 12 POINTS OR 11 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1981 AND BY 18 POINTS OR 17 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR MARCH 1982 STOOD AT 104, BEING THREE POINTS OR THREE PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR MARCH 1981 AND 16 POINTS OR 18 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR FEBRUARY 1982.

ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES, THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES FOR MARCH 1982 SHOWED INCREASES OVER THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1982.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS FOUND IN CONSUMER GOODS WHERE THE RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX ROSE BY 26 POINTS OR 27 PER CENT AND THE VOLUME INDEX BY 23 POINTS OR 27 PER CENT.

AS FOR THE OTHER SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS LIKE SUPERMARKETS, AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, THEY ALSO INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 20 PER CENT AND 24 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES FOR BOTH TRADES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 21 PER CENT.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1981, THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS IN MARCH 1982 WENT DOWN BY 11 POINTS OR 11 PER CENT AND SIX POINTS OR SIX PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE FOR THE OTHER MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES SHOWED INCREASES. THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR FUELS REGISTERED THE HIGHEST INCREASE OF 15 POINTS OR 14 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY SUPERMARKETS, 11 POINTS OR 10 PER CENT, AND CONSUMER DURABLES, 10 POINTS OR 10 PER CENT.

TABLES 1 AND 2 (BEING TRANSMITTED TO YOU BY FACSIMILE NETWORK AND BOXED SEPARATELY) PRESENT THE REVISED AND PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES, AND THE RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY SELECTED TRADES AND MAJOR TRADE GROUPS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1982, WITH THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 TAKEN AS 100.

A COMPARISON OF THE MARCH RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1981 IS ALSO SHOWN.

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BILL TO ALLOW ACTION AGAINST SHIPS WITH DRUGS

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THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL, WHICH ENABLES MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST OWNERS OF SHIPS IN WHICH +EXCESSIVE QUANTITIES+ OF DANGEROUS DRUGS HAVE BEEN FOUND ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS WITHIN 18 MONTHS, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

UNDER THE BILL, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, WITH THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, HAS THE POWER TO SEIZE AND DETAIN FOR 48 HOURS, ANY SHIPS REASONABLY SUSPECTED TO HAVE CARRIED ON TWO OCCASIONS WITHIN 18 MONTHS MORE THAN 3 000 GRAMS OF OPIUM OR CANNABIS OR 500 GRAMS OF ANY OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERS A MAGISTRATE, ON APPLICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, TO CONTINUE THE DETENTION OF A SHIP ALREADY SEIZED AND DETAINED, OR TO ORDER THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF A SHIP. THE MAGISTRATE WILL THEN ORDER THAT THE PROCEEDINGS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE HIGH COURT.

THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT WILL GIVE NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE AT WHICH THE HIGH COURT WILL HEAR AN APPLICATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF FINANCIAL PENALTY ON THE OWNER NOT EXCEEDING \$5 000 000. HOWEVER, THE OWNER OR MASTER CAN APPLY TO A JUDGE TO ADMIT THE SHIP TO BAIL OR BOND IN AN AMOUNT OF NOT LESS THAN \$5 000 000.

WHERE THE HIGH COURT IS SATISFIED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT THAT A SHIP HAS CARRIED AN EXCESSIVE QUANTITY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED, IT MAY ORDER THE OWNER TO PAY A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000 000. THIS PENALTY MAY BE RECOVERED FROM ANY BAIL OR BOND PAID OR GIVEN. HOWEVER, IF NO SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PENALTY ARE MADE, THE SHIP MAY BE FORFEITED TO THE CROWN.

HOWEVER, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT NO FINANCIAL PENALTY SHALL BE IMPOSED IF THE OWNER AND THE MASTER PROVE THAT, IN RESPECT OF THE SECOND OCCASION ON WHICH DRUGS WERE CARRIED, THEY HAD TAKEN ALL REASONABLE AND PRACTICABLE STEPS TO PREVENT THE CARRIAGE.

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MOVE TO RECOGNISE SOLICITORS' EXPERIENCE FOR SUPREME COURT POSTS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO RECOGNISE THE EXPERIENCE OF CERTAIN SOLICITORS IN QUALIFYING THEM FOR APPOINTMENT AS SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT SOLICITORS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH APPOINTMENT AT PRESENT BECAUSE THE PERSON APPOINTED MUST BE QUALIFIED TO PRACTISE AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS IN ANY PART OF THE COMMONWEALTH OR IRELAND.

IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER, SOME SOLICITORS DO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING SOLICITORS WHO ARE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, AND SOLICITORS IN THE SERVICE OF THE CROWN WHO PRACTISE AS ADVOCATES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES.

UNDER THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1982 PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY), SOLICITORS IN CROWN SERVICE WITH 10 YEARS' RELEVANT EXPERIENCE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT AS SUPREME COURT JUDGES PROVIDED THEY HAVE BEEN IN CROWN SERVICE FOR THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS AND HAVE HAD A TOTAL OF FIVE YEARS' CROWN SERVICE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL MAKES TWO FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

IT RESTRICTS ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT AS A COMMISSIONER OF THE HIGH COURT TO PERSONS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT. IT ALSO ALLOWS THE SUPREME COURT, AS A MATTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE, TO USE ANY SEAL AS DIRECTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

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MAJOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR TUEN MUN
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MAJOR BEACH-BASED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR TUEN MUN NEW TOWN AS A RESULT OF A LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR THE DESIGN OF THE BUTTERFLY BEACH RECREATION AREA.

SITUATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NEW TOWN, THE RECREATION AREA COMPRISES THE EXISTING POPULAR BEACH AND ABOUT NINE HECTARES OF OPEN SPACE IMMEDIATELY INLAND.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY MR KWEI SEE-KAN, PROJECT MANAGER OF THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, BRIAN CLOUSTON AND PARTNERS.

+THE SITE WILL HAVE PEDESTRIAN LINKS TO THE PROPOSED BUTTERFLY ESTATE, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR MORE THAN 50 000 PEOPLE, AND THE FUTURE FERRY PIERS AND TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE,+ MR KWEI SAID.

THE POPULATION OF TUEN MUN IS EXPECTED TO GROW TO ABOUT 550 000.

+THE DESIGN OF THE PROJECT WILL AIM TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE EXISTING BEACH, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES TO MAXIMISE THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE BEACH AND FULLY INTEGRATE THE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPEN-SPACE HINTERLAND NEXT TO THE BEACH,+ HE ADDED.

IN THE BEACH AREA THERE WILL BE SWIMMING AND BOATING FACILITIES, BEACH BUILDINGS, REFRESHMENT FACILITIES, A BROADWALK PEDESTRIAN SYSTEM, AND A SMALL PIER JUTTING OUT INTO THE SEA.

THERE WILL ALSO BE SITTING AREAS, BARBECUE AND PICNIC FACILITIES AND A PAVED AREA FOR OPEN-AIR SHOWS.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A CAR PARK, BUS TERMINUS, TAXI STAND, STORE ROOMS, LIFEGUARD OFFICE, TOILETS AND LIGHTING.

+FOR THE ACTIVE-MINDED THERE WILL BE A MINI-SOCCER PITCH, BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS AND A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA. A SITE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA WILL ALSO BE RESERVED FOR AN INDOOR GAMES HALL,+ MR KWEI SAID.

DESIGN WORK WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AND SITE WORK IS EXPECTED TO START IN EARLY SUMMER OF 1983, AND BE COMPLETED IN STAGES FROM THE NEXT SUMMER ONWARDS.

THE WORKS WILL BE PLANNED TO ALLOW CONTINUING PUBLIC USE OF AT LEAST PART OF THE BEACH.

PUBLIC ADVISED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS
AGAINST TROPICAL CYCLONES

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, MR. JOHN PEACOCK, REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TODAY THAT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IS THE KEY FACTOR FOR MINIMIZING DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, INJURIES AND LOSS OF LIFE BUT THAT OVERREACTION TO THE THREAT OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE CAN CAUSE UNNECESSARY DISRUPTION.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND CONTRACTORS SHOULD ENSURE THAT SCAFFOLDING IS SECURED AGAINST DAMAGE FROM HIGH WINDS AND THAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ARE TAKEN AT SITE WORKS, ESPECIALLY THOSE NEAR HILL SLOPES, AGAINST DAMAGE BY HEAVY RAIN, FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS.

THOSE LIVING IN HUTS ON HILL-SIDES ARE URGED TO BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF LANDSLIPS. THOSE LIVING IN LOW LYING AREAS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR FLOODING ARISING FROM VIOLENT RAINFALL AND STORM SURGES. EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW WHICH ARE THE NEAREST SHELTERS TO GO TO FOR SAFETY IF THEIR HOMES ARE THREATENED OR DAMAGED. INFORMATION REGARDING THE OPENING OF TEMPORARY SHELTERS DURING STORMS IS AVAILABLE AT THE NEAREST DISTRICT OFFICE, CITY DISTRICT OFFICE OR POLICE STATION AND WILL BE BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION WHEN THERE IS AN EMERGENCY.

OWNERS OF SMALL CRAFT SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR MOORINGS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AND THAT THE MOORING BITTS AND CLEATS ON THEIR VESSELS ARE STRONG AND SECURELY FIXED TO WITHSTAND TYPHOON CONDITIONS.

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BY NOW, THOSE WHO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES DURING STORMS SHOULD HAVE REVIEWED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS AND BROUGHT THEM UP-TO-DATE.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE MEANINGS OF TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS AND THESE ARE EXPLAINED IN A CARD WHICH IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HEADQUARTERS, THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT OFFICES. HOWEVER, THIS KNOWLEDGE ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THAT PRECAUTIONARY ACTION TAKEN DURING A TROPICAL CYCLONE WILL BE APPROPRIATE, AS THE SIGNAL SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED TO WARN SHIPS' CAPTAINS AND FISHERMEN OF WIND CONDITIONS AT SEA. THE SIGNALS DO NOT INDICATE IF IT IS SAFE FOR THOSE ON LAND TO BE WORKING OUTDOORS OR TO BE TRAVELLING BETWEEN THEIR HOMES AND PLACES OF WORK, ALTHOUGH WHENEVER A NO. 9 OR NO. 10 SIGNAL IS DISPLAYED, THE VIOLENCE OF THE WINDS ALWAYS MAKES IT DANGEROUS TO LEAVE A SAFE SHELTER.

DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF AN APPROACHING SLOW MOVING TROPICAL STORM IT MAY BE QUITE SAFE TO DELAY RETURNING HOME FROM WORK UNTIL SOME HOURS AFTER THE HOISTING OF A NO. 8 SIGNAL. SIMILARLY WHEN A TROPICAL STORM HAS ONLY SKIRTED HONG KONG AND IS MOVING AWAY, TRAVEL BY LAND TRANSPORT MAY INVOLVE NO DANGER IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT A NO. 8 SIGNAL REMAINS DISPLAYED TO INDICATE THAT GALES STILL PERSIST OVER EXPOSED WATERS IN THE TERRITORY. CONVERSELY, CONTINUOUS HEAVY RAIN AFTER THE PASSAGE OF A VIOLENT TYPHOON MAY CAUSE FLOODING AND LANDSLIPS, MAKING IT UNSAFE TO VENTURE OUT FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME AFTER ALL TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS HAVE BEEN LOWERED.

GENERAL ADVICE ON SUITABLE PRECAUTIONS AS WELL AS REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TROPICAL CYCLONE AND EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS IN HONG KONG ARE INCLUDED IN WEATHER BULLETINS BROADCAST OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION. ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE ALSO MADE ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FERRY, BUS, TRAM AND TRAIN SERVICES. MANAGERS OF SHOPS, OFFICES AND FACTORIES ARE ADVISED TO CONSIDER THE AVAILABILITY OF ALL THIS INFORMATION AND OTHER FACTORS RELEVANT TO THE SAFETY OF THEIR EMPLOYEES IN OBTAINING AGREEMENTS AS TO WHAT STAGE DURING A TROPICAL CYCLONE THREAT STAFF SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM WORK. SIMILAR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IS DESIRABLE IN DECIDING HOW SOON IT IS SAFE AND NECESSARY TO GO BACK TO WORK. THE AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT AS WELL AS EXISTING AND EXPECTED WEATHER-RELATED DANGERS AT THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT AND ON THE STREETS SHOULD ALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

MR. PEACOCK SUGGESTED THAT WHILST ALL PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE THE DANGERS TO LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM TROPICAL CYCLONES, PRUDENT DECISIONS ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE UNNECESSARY DISRUPTION TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MANY PEOPLE ON LAND REACT TO SIGNAL CHANGES RATHER THAN OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, THESE SIGNAL CHANGES ARE MADE, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, AT TIMES WHICH WILL NOT BE INCONVENIENT FOR THEM. THERE WILL BE OCCASIONS WHEN THE SAFETY OF THOSE AT SEA REQUIRE THAT SIGNALS ARE HOISTED AND STAY HOISTED FOR LONG PERIODS EVEN THOUGH THIS MAY BE TROUBLESOME FOR THOSE ON LAND WHOSE TRAVEL AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS ARE DETERMINED SOLELY BY THE DISPLAY OF TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS.

PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY PROVISIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS NAMED
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THE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS ARE PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. BUILDING OF THE NEW ACADEMY IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN LATE AUGUST THIS YEAR, WITH THE INITIAL INTAKE OF STUDENTS PROJECTED FOR SEPTEMBER 1985.

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE ACADEMY'S FORMAL COUNCIL IS ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE, THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HON ALEX S.C. WU, WILL UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY INTERIM ACTIVITIES TO ENABLE THE ACADEMY TO OPEN AS SCHEDULED IN 1985.

THE COUNCIL COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING 14 MEMBERS:

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE. UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE THE HON W.C.L. BROWN, THE HON SELINA CHOW, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR NORMAN THOMPSON, DR PHILIP KWOK, MRS VALERIE FRY, MR HARRY WEINREBE, MR ANDREW WELCH AND MR YAO KANG.

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CLEARANCE OF ILLEGAL GRAVES IN FIRING RANGE
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THIRTY ILLEGAL GRAVES IN THE KWONG SHAN AREAS WITHIN THE CASTLE PEAK FIRING RANGE IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT WILL BE CLEARED BY GOVERNMENT STAFF AFTER MONDAY (JUNE 28).

WHERE RELATIVES CAN BE TRACED BEFORE EXHUMATION THEY HAVE BEEN APPROACHED AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE THE GRAVES THEMSELVES.

UNDER SECTION 118 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, BURIALS OUTSIDE AUTHORISED CEMETERIES ARE NOT PERMITTED AS THE PRACTICE IS CONTRARY TO THE PROPER DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND COULD CONSTITUTE A HEALTH HAZARD.

ILLEGAL GRAVES IN THE KWONG SHAN AREA ALSO CAUSE DANGER TO LIFE BECAUSE RELATIVES AND VISITORS PUT THEIR LIVES AT RISK BY ENTERING THE DANGER AREA OF THE FIRING RANGE.

EXHUMED REMAINS OF THESE BURIALS WILL BE RE-INTERRED IN SANDY RIDGE CEMETERY.

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FRONTIER CLOSED AREA SLIGHTLY EXTENDED

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THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA HAS BEEN EXTENDED SLIGHTLY IN THE WESTERN MAI PO MARSHES NEAR PAK HOK CHAU, SO THAT ROUGHLY, ITS LANDWARD BOUNDARY IS NOW THE SECURITY FENCE AND ITS SEAWARD BOUNDARY THE LOW-WATER MARK OF DEEP BAY.

THE ALIGNMENT OF THE AMENDED CLOSED AREA BOUNDARY IS DESCRIBED IN AN ORDER MADE BY THE GOVERNOR AND PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE EXTENDED CLOSED AREA IS MOSTLY MUD FLATS AND WILL NOT CAUSE INCONVENIENCE TO VILLAGERS.

THE USUAL RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT WITHIN THE CLOSED AREA WILL APPLY AND BIRD WATCHERS WHO WISH TO GO WITHIN THE EXTENDED AREA CAN APPLY FOR PERMITS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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KEEN COMPETITION IN TSING YI DRAGON BOAT RACES

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CHEERS AND EXCITEMENT FILLED THE AIR ON TSING YI THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING WHEN DRAGON BOAT PADDLES SPLASHED THROUGH THE WATER IN QUICK MOTION DURING THE TRADITIONAL RACES HELD NEAR THE ISLAND'S FERRY PIER.

FIFTEEN TEAMS, REPRESENTING SEVERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, CONTESTED IN THE BOAT RACES WHICH COVERED A DISTANCE OF 700 METRES FROM MOON TSAI TONG TO TSING YI FERRY PIER.

THE SECRETARY FOR CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR IAN MACPHERSON; THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR HAMISH MACLEOD; AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, MR P.B. WILLIAMS, PRESENTED PRIZES TO THE WINNING TEAMS.

THE RACES WERE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSING YI RURAL COMMITTEE AND THE ISLAND'S TRADE AND SPORTS ASSOCIATION, AND PARTLY FINANCED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, TO CELEBRATE THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL WHICH, THIS YEAR, FALLS ON TOMORROW.

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AVIATION SECURITY CONFERENCE

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MR J.T. THORPE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, HAS LEFT HONG KONG FOR EUROPE ON LEAVE. HE WILL RETURN IN EARLY AUGUST.

DURING HIS ABSENCE, MR N. LATHAM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WILL ACT AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

BEFORE RETURNING, MR THORPE WILL PROCEED TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO ATTEND THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE U.S. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE, OPENING ON JULY 20, WILL BE ATTENDED BY OVER 150 AVIATION CHIEFS AND TOP OFFICIALS WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AVIATION SECURITY.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTH POINT AND ABERDEEN

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THE SECTION OF JAVA ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH HEALTHY STREET WEST IN NORTH POINT WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 PM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 26) TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BE REPEATED ON SUNDAY (JUNE 27).

DURING THE CLOSURE, EASTBOUND VEHICLES ALONG JAVA ROAD WILL HAVE TO TURN RIGHT INTO TIN CHIU STREET AND ENTER KING'S ROAD.

WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON JAVA ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HEALTHY STREET EAST AND KING'S ROAD.

IN ANOTHER PART OF NORTH POINT, VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE TRAFFIC LANES ON THE EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND TRAM TRACKS ON KING'S ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH JAVA ROAD 24 HOURS DAILY STARTING FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 28).

THIS ARRANGEMENT IS BEING MADE TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY IN THE AREA.

ALSO STARTING FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 28), VEHICLES FROM OLD MAIN STREET ABERDEEN WILL BE BANNED FROM TURNING RIGHT INTO ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WAN CHAI TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE WESTBOUND KERBSIDE LANE ON THE SECTION OF HENNESSY ROAD UNDER THE CANAL ROAD FLYOVER IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 7 AM ON SATURDAY TO 6 AM ON MONDAY (JUNE 28) FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES HEADING TOWARDS CANAL ROAD EAST WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TANG LUNG STREET, WHICH WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY.

BUS ROUTES 38, 108, 112, 116 AND 122 WILL USE PERCIVAL STREET, LEIGHTON ROAD AND CANAL ROAD WEST.

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ELECTRIC TRAINS TO SHORTEN SERVICE HOURS FOR WORKS

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ELECTRIC TRAINS PLYING BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND SHA TIN WILL SHORTEN THEIR HOURS OF SERVICE FOR SIX EVENINGS STARTING NEXT WEEK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THIS TEMPORARY MEASURE IS TO FACILITATE ENGINEERING WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE SHA TIN AREA IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTRIFICATION OF THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF THE RAILWAY.

HE SAID THE LAST SOUTHBOUND ELECTRIC TRAIN WILL LEAVE SHA TIN STATION AT 7.30 PM AND THE NORTHBOUND TRAIN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION AT 7.42 PM ON JUNE 28, 29 AND 30, AND AGAIN ON JULY 5, 7 AND 8.

HOWEVER, DIESEL PASSENGER TRAINS WILL OPERATE AS USUAL BETWEEN KOWLOON AND LO WU AND WILL STOP AT KOWLOON TONG STATION DURING THE SUSPENSION PERIOD FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF COMMUTERS USING THE INTERCHANGE FACILITIES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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