



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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INTERNATIONAL REGATTA AT SHING MUN RIVER
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THE SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN WILL BECOME THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CLASS ROWING COURSE IN HONG KONG WHEN AN INTERNATIONAL REGATTA IS TO BE HELD ON THE COMING SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (MAY 1 AND 2).

THE 1982 HONG KONG ROWING COMPETITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION, THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WILL BE HELD AT A STRETCH OF 1 500 METRES WATER COURSE OF THE SHING MUN RIVER NEXT TO THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

THE INTERNATIONAL REGATTA HAS ATTRACTED ENTRIES FROM 85 VISITING OARSMEN OF 11 OVERSEAS ROWING CLUBS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA AND BURMA. FORTY LOCAL ROWING ENTHUSIASTS FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE ROWING CLUB, ISLAND SCHOOL ROWING CLUB AND SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOL ROWING CLUB WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE CONTEST.

THE COMPETITION WILL CONSIST OF 11 EVENTS INCLUDING COXED FOUR, COXLESS PAIR AND SINGLE SCULL FOR THE OPEN GROUP- COXED FOUR, COXED PAIR AND SINGLE SCULL FOR SENIOR GROUP- COXED FOUR AND SINGLE SCULL FOR JUNIOR GROUP- SINGLE SCULL FOR VETERAN- AND COXED FOUR AND SINGLE SCULL FOR LADIES GROUP.

HEATS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MORNING WHILE THE FINALS BETWEEN 1.30 PM AND 4 PM ON SUNDAY (MAY 2).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN WATCH THE RACES AT THE SITE OF THE ROWING CENTRE ADJACENT TO THE FLOATING RESTAURANT AT SHA TIN.

THE COMPETITION IS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE WATER SPORT, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ADDING THAT THE WELL-KNOWN EVENT WAS HELD ANNUALLY ON THE THAMES RIVER IN LONDON.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHA TIN NEW TOWN, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED A NEAR PERFECT ARENA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC STANDARD SIX-LANE AND 2 000-METRE ROWING COURSE AT THE LOWER FOUR KILOMETRES OF THE SHING MUN RIVER.

THE WATER COURSE OF THE RIVER IS STRAIGHT AND THE STRETCH OF THE COURSE IS LONG AND WIDE ENOUGH WHILE THE SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS ARE EXTREMELY GOOD FOR ROWING ACTIVITIES, SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

A SITE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROWING CENTRE HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ROWING ASSOCIATION AND THE BUILDING OF A CLUB HOUSE IS UNDERWAY.

/EXPLAINING HOW

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EXPLAINING HOW THE SPORT IS PLAYED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EACH OARSMAN ON THE 'ROWING BOAT' HAS ONE OAR TO HANDLE WHILE THE SCULLER ON THE 'SCULLING BOAT' HANDLES TWO OARS.

UNLIKE A CANOE OR DRAGON BOAT WHICH USES SHORT PADDLES AND ARM AND BODY POWER ONLY, THE OARSMAN IS EQUIPPED WITH AN OAR WHICH IS ABOUT 3.7 METRES LONG AND WHICH IS PIVOTED OUTSIDE THE BOAT ON AN OUTRIGGER.

IN ADDITION, THE SEAT UPON WHICH THE OARSMAN SITS SLIDES BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS, ALLOWING THE OARSMAN TO UTILISE THE POWER OF HIS LEGS IN PROPELLING THE BOAT.

+BY THESE MEANS A LARGE AMOUNT OF LEVERAGE CAN BE APPLIED TO THE OAR, ENABLING AN EIGHT-OAR BOAT TO TRAVEL AT ABOUT 24 KILOMETRES PER HOUR - ABOUT THE SAME SPEED AS A WORLD CLASS MIDDLE DISTANCE RUNNER, AND ABOUT TWICE THE SPEED OF A DRAGON BOAT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND A COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR THE 1982 HONG KONG ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB AT KELLET ISLAND ON THURSDAY (APRIL 29) AT 6 PM. MR MIKE TANNER WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

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CURTAILMENT OF CHAI WAN - KWUN TONG FERRY SERVICES
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STARTING SATURDAY (MAY 1), FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CHAI WAN AND KWUN TONG WILL BE CURTAILED IN THE EVENINGS DUE TO LOW PATRONAGE.

THE LAST SAILINGS WILL BE AT 8 PM.

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CIVIL AID SERVICES : A FRIEND IN NEED

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HONG KONG'S CIVIL AID SERVICES, WHICH HAS PUT IN 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY WORK, IS NOW GEARED TO RESPOND EVEN MORE PROMPTLY TO CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE.

+WITH OUR 3 000 ADULTS AND 2 400 CADETS, WE'RE A MUCH MORE STREAMLINED OUTFIT THAN DURING OUR PEAK 'PAPER STRENGTH' OF 10 000 IN EARLIER YEARS,+ SAID ITS CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR JOHN FORTUNE.

MADE UP ALMOST ENTIRELY OF VOLUNTEERS, THE CAS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER IMPROVING ITS CAPABILITIES BY READJUSTING ITS STRUCTURE AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS AND BY STEPPING UP ITS RECRUITMENT DRIVE.

HAVING CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS FROM A CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATION TO ONE TRAINED MAINLY TO DEAL WITH CIVIL EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND OTHER PEACE-TIME COUNTER-DISASTER REQUIREMENTS, THE CAS WILL RESTRUCTURE ITS RESCUE UNITS TO ENABLE THEM TO REACT MORE QUICKLY TO SITUATIONS, AND TO CALL OUT MORE SPECIALIST PERSONNEL WHO HAVE TRAINED TOGETHER.

THE RESTRUCTURED RESCUE OPERATIONS WILL BE MADE UP OF AN OPERATIONS WING, A TACTICAL FORCE AND AN EMERGENCY UNIT WHICH WILL HAVE GREATER OPERATIONAL MOBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY.

+IT IS INTENDED TO CELEBRATE OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY BY OFFERING TO THE COMMUNITY AN EVEN HIGHER STANDARD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL BEAUTY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, ASSISTING TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON LAND AND SEA SAFETY AND TO FULLY UTILIZE OUR OPERATIONAL SKILLS FOR RESCUE WORK IN DISASTER SITUATIONS,+ MR FORTUNE SAID.

TO IMPROVE ITS INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND THE COORDINATION OF ITS THREE REGIONS — HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND NEW TERRITORIES — THE CAS WILL REARRANGE THEM INTO REGION, DISTRICT AND GROUP LEVELS OF CONTROL.

COINCIDING WITH THE REORGANISATION PROCESS, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR, THE CAS IS OFFERING AN EVER GREATER VARIETY OF GENERAL TRAINING AND SPECIALIST COURSES FOR ITS ADULT MEMBERS.

THE 81 COURSES BEING OFFERED FOR THE TRAINING YEAR 1982/83 INCLUDE JOINT EXERCISES WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ON ANTI-OIL POLLUTION, WITH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON FIRE FIGHTING AND PREVENTION, VEHICLE DRIVING, SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES, OUTDOORSMAN SKILLS AND CAMP LIFE INSTRUCTIONS AND MANY OTHER VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES THAT COULD BE USEFUL IN CIVILIAN LIFE.

/THE CAS

THE CAS AIMS TO TAKE IN 500 TO 600 ADULT RECRUITS THIS YEAR. BUT IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT 300 OTHERS WILL LEAVE THE SERVICE DUE TO NORMAL ATTRITION FACTORS, SUCH AS INCREASED FAMILY AND OCCUPATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

MR FORTUNE SAID : +CAS MEMBERS ARE RECRUITED FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND MOST JOIN WITH A GENUINE DESIRE TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY DURING ANY EMERGENCY OR DISASTER AND TO ASSIST WITH IMPORTANT CIVIC FUNCTIONS.+

ALL RECRUITS MUST UNDERGO 56 HOURS OF BASIC TRAINING COVERING CAS ORGANISATION, FOOTDRILL, TYPHOON DUTY AND EMERGENCY CALL-OUT, COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT, FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE FIGHTING, ESCAPE AND RESCUE FROM DANGEROUS BUILDINGS, AND FIRST AID THEORY AND PRACTICE.

AFTER GRADUATION, RECRUITS ARE POSTED TO DIFFERENT UNITS WHERE THEY RECEIVE MORE BASIC TRAINING AND LIGHT RESCUE EXERCISE. COURSES ON LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATIONS AND CASUALTY HANDLING ARE LATER ADDED ON TO BROADEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

AN EQUALLY VARIED AND CHALLENGING PROGRAMME OF TRAINING IS ALSO OFFERED TO CADETS AGED FROM 12 TO 18.

A FULL-TIME COURSE FOR CADETS INCLUDES CANOE BUILDING, EXPEDITION, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, WATER SPORTS, FIRST AID, ROCK CLIMBING, LIFE SAVING, AND ELEMENTARY LESSONS IN MECHANICAL, AUTOMOTIVE AND ELECTRICAL STUDIES.

THIS YEAR THE MINIMUM ENROLMENT AGE FOR CADETS WAS LOWERED FROM 14 TO 12 TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS VULNERABLE AGE GROUP A HEALTHY OUTLET TO CHANNEL THEIR ENERGIES. BY APRIL 1, OVER 250 NEW CADETS HAD APPLIED FOR ENROLMENT INTO THE SERVICE.

MR FORTUNE EXPLAINED : +YOUTHS, HAVING JUST COMPLETED THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOLING, WILL HAVE TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO NEW SURROUNDINGS AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

+THEY USUALLY HAVE MORE TIME ON THEIR HANDS. IT WOULD BE A MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO ENROL THEM INTO WELL ORGANISED GROUPS SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE THEIR SPARE TIME GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BY TAKING PART IN POSITIVE AND CHALLENGING ACTIVITIES, ACQUIRING TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWHOW AND USEFUL SKILLS IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT WITH EXPERT GUIDANCE.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT OUR CADET CORPS TRAINING PROGRAMME CAN HELP COMBAT JUVENILE CRIME, ESPECIALLY IF WE CAN GET YOUTHS INTO THE CORPS AT 12 YEARS OF AGE BEFORE THEY ARE LED ASTRAY AND GET INTO BAD HABITS,+ HE SAID.

ESTABLISHED IN 1952 AS A SPECIALIST SUB-UNIT OF THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES CORPS TO HANDLE DIFFICULT CIVIL DEFENCE PROBLEMS, THE CAS QUICKLY PROVED ITS WORTH THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN 50 000 PEOPLE WERE MADE HOMELESS IN THE HUGE SHEK KIP MEI SQUATTER FIRE. CAS WARDENS WERE HEAVILY COMMITTED IN HELPING TO MANAGE THE DISASTER VICTIMS.

ITS HEROIC EXPLOITS IN LIFE AND PROPERTY-SAVING OPERATIONS WERE TO BE REPEATED IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS IN OTHER NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS.

RECRUITMENT INTO THE CAS WAS RAPID AND AS CONSCRIPTION WAS STILL IN FORCE IN THE EARLY YEARS, THE SERVICE QUICKLY ATTAINED A STRENGTH OF 10 000 PERSONS WHO COULD BE MOBILISED FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS IN DISASTERS AND FOR WAR-TIME OPERATIONS.

IN 1958, WITH THE TERMINATION OF COMPULSORY SERVICE, THE CAS BECAME A TRULY VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

THE FUTURE TASKS OF THE CAS WERE THEN BROADLY GROUPED INTO THREE MAIN FUNCTIONS : CIVIL DEFENCE IN WAR-TIME, AN EMERGENCY ORGANISATION DURING A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC UNREST BUT NOT ACCOMPANIED BY CIVIL DISTURBANCE, AND A COUNTER-DISASTER ORGANISATION IN PEACE-TIME. THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DEFENCE DIMINISHED UNTIL 1963 WHEN TRAINING FOR THIS ROLE WAS STOPPED ALTOGETHER.

IN RECENT YEARS, IN FACT, CAS PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED MOSTLY WITH MAINTAINING ORDER IN MASSIVE PUBLIC GATHERINGS, RESCUING PEOPLE IN DISTRESS, OFTEN AT CONSIDERABLE RISK TO THEMSELVES, AND SUPERVISING THE REGISTRATION AND FEEDING OF THE HOMELESS FROM DISASTERS, INCLUDING THE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN TRANSIT CAMPS.

AS THE GOVERNOR SUMMED UP HIS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE CAS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SILVER JUBILEE, +IN ALL THESE WAYS, THE CAS HELPS TO MAKE HONG KONG A BETTER AND SAFER PLACE TO LIVE.+

THE MOST RECENT REVIEW OF THE TASKS THAT THE CAS SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE WAS COMPLETED IN LATE 1975, RESULTING IN THE ISSUANCE OF OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.

UNDER THIS ORDER, THE CAS'S TASKS INCLUDE : CROWD AND TRAFFIC CONTROL AT PROCESSIONS AND PUBLIC FUNCTIONS WHICH ATTRACT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE- THE RESCUE OF PEOPLE TRAPPED IN COLLAPSED BUILDINGS, CRASHED VEHICLES OR BURIED IN LANDSLIDES- THE EVACUATION OF PEOPLE FROM DANGEROUS OR THREATENED BUILDINGS- THE RECOVERY OF CASUALTIES FROM DISASTER SITES AND THEIR TRANSPORTATION TO AMBULANCE LOADING POINTS- RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS AND CLEARANCE OF ROADWAYS- CORDONING OFF DISASTER AREAS AND ASSISTING IN THE DIVERSION AND CONTROL OF TRAFFIC AND THE REGISTRATION, CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF VICTIMS MADE HOMELESS BY DISASTERS. OTHER TASKS INCLUDE THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF- PREVENTION AND FIGHTING OF FOREST FIRES- ASSISTING WITH CONTAINMENT OF OIL POLLUTION AT SEA AND MANY OTHER SUPPORTIVE ROLES IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

SOME CAS UNITS, NOTABLY ITS MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT AND HEAVY RESCUE UNIT, CAN BE FULLY MOBILISED AT VERY SHORT NOTICE.

AND, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ELECTRONIC PAGING SYSTEM THIS YEAR, KEY PERSONNEL CAN NOW BE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED.

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THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT, IN SPITE OF ITS VOLUNTEER STATUS, IS THE ONLY PROFESSIONALLY-TRAINED BODY IN HONG KONG WHICH CAN PERFORM RESCUE MISSIONS IN REMOTE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS, UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND IN PITCH DARKNESS.

EVERY YEAR, DOZENS OF LIVES OF THE CARELESS OR UNLUCKY HANG IN PRECARIOUS BALANCE AS THE MOUNTAIN RESCUERS WEND THEIR WAY TO THEIR RESCUE.

LAST YEAR, THE UNIT WAS CALLED OUT 19 TIMES TO RESCUE OR LEAD 110 PERSONS TO SAFETY, A SHARP INCREASE FROM THE EIGHT CALL-OUTS INVOLVING 27 VICTIMS IN 1980.

A FEW MEMBERS OF THE UNIT ARE SENT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR TRAINING IN ADVANCED MOUNTAIN RESCUE EACH YEAR, WHILE THE BEST EXPERTS IN THE FIELD ARE INVITED TO MAKE REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF THE UNIT TO UPGRADE EQUIPMENT AND ADVISE ON OPERATIONS AND TECHNIQUES.

A NUMBER OF OTHER OFFICERS WILL BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA TO UNDERGO FOUR WEEKS OF COUNTER DISASTER TRAINING THIS YEAR. FOUR RECEIVED SUCH TRAINING IN 1981.

A MAJOR PART OF THE CAS EXPANSION PROGRAMME THIS YEAR WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF THREE NEW UNITS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE KWAI CHUNG UNIT WAS FORMALLY INAUGURATED IN KWAI CHUNG AND THE OTHER TWO UNITS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN FANLING AND SHEUNG SHUI.

CANDIDATES FOR ITS ADULT CORPS MUST BE AGED 18 AND ABOVE. THOSE AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 18 MAY ALSO APPLY, PROVIDED THEIR APPLICATIONS ARE ENDORSED BY THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR BOTH THE ADULT AND CADET CORPS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CAS HEADQUARTERS AT 100 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, HONG KONG AND ITS KOWLOON CENTRE AT 204 ARGYLE STREET.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING 5-763236.

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TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD
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THE SECTION OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NEAR TSANG TAI UK VILLAGE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 1 AM TO 5.30 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 27) FOR THE DEMOLITION OF A FOOTBRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES TRAVELLING BETWEEN SHA TIN AND KOWLOON SHOULD USE TAI PO ROAD.

HOWEVER, TRAFFIC THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO WORLDWIDE GARDENS AND KAK TUI VILLAGE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN LUNG CHEUNG ROAD
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THE TRAFFIC LANE ON EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD ABOUT 20 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SHATIN PASS ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 27) FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC TO CHOI HUNG AREA WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE ADJACENT LANE AND VEHICLES HEADING FOR NORTHBOUND PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD AND ITS INTERCHANGE MAY USE THE TEMPORARY ACCESS ROAD ABOUT 80 METRES EAST OF SHATIN PASS ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, A SECTION OF SOCIAL AVENUE NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WILL ALSO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.

HOWEVER, A TEMPORARY ACCESS ROAD LINKING EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD WITH SOCIAL AVENUE WILL BE AVAILABLE.

IN ADDITION, THE NORTHERN-MOST TRAFFIC LANE OF EASTBOUND LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH SHATIN PASS ROAD WILL BE EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED FOR VEHICLES TURNING LEFT INTO SHATIN PASS ROAD.

MOTORISTS GOING TO CHOI HUNG AND KWUN TONG ARE ADVISED TO USE SHATIN PASS ROAD, FUNG TAK ROAD AND PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD.

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