



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JLG expert talks on Hong Kong's sewage disposal scheme

A fourth round of talks between experts of the British and Chinese sides of the Joint Liaison Group on matters relating to Hong Kong's strategic sewage disposal scheme will be held in Hong Kong on Wednesday, December 20.

The British team will be led by the Hong Kong Government Secretary for Works, Mr H S Kwong. The Chinese team will be led by Chinese Representative, Mr Chen Zuo'er. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

End

Appointment of new Director of Legal Aid announced

The Government today (Tuesday) announced that a Principal Crown Counsel of the Legal Department, Mr Chan Shu-ying, will be promoted to Director of Legal Aid in June 1996. Mr Chan will succeed Lady Cheung upon her retirement.

Following is a brief biographical note of Mr Chan -

Mr Chan, aged 48, joined the Civil Service in 1965. He was admitted as a Solicitor in Hong Kong in 1977, and in the same year he was appointed Assistant Crown Counsel in the Legal Department. He rose to the rank of Crown Counsel in October 1979 and was promoted to Senior Crown Counsel in February 1982. In July 1986 he was further promoted to Deputy Principal Crown Counsel and in December 1991 to his present rank of Principal Crown Counsel. Mr Chan's 18-year post-qualification experience covers a broad spectrum of government legal work, including prosecution; civil advisory and litigation; conveyancing; commercial; and lands and works advisory fields.

End

AG welcomes appointment of new Director of Legal Aid

The Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, today (Tuesday) welcomed the announcement of the promotion of Mr Chan Shu-ying to the post of Director of Legal Aid.

He noted that Mr Chan was taking up a post in which he would face many challenges, but he had no doubt that Mr Chan would be more than equal to them. He wished Mr Chan every success in his new appointment.

Mr Chan joined the Civil Service in 1965. He is currently the Deputy Crown Solicitor heading the Civil Litigation Unit of the Civil Division. Mr Chan was admitted as a Solicitor in Hong Kong in 1977 and in the same year he was appointed Assistant Crown Counsel in the Legal Department. His 18-year post-qualification experience covers a broad spectrum of Government legal work, including prosecution; civil advisory and litigation; conveyancing; commercial; and lands and works advisory fields.

End

Two lots sold for \$1,051 million

Two lots of Government land were sold for a total of \$1,051 million at a public auction held by the Lands Department this (Tuesday) afternoon.

The first lot, located in Stubbs Road, was bought by AP City Limited at \$860 million, with bidding opening at \$550 million.

With an area of 3,045 square metres, the lot is designated for private residential use.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 9,135 square metres on or before December 31, 1999.

The second lot, located at 44 Jardine's Crescent, Causeway Bay, was sold to Star World Property Limited at \$191 million, with bidding opening at \$170 million.

It has an area of 550 square metres for non-industrial use, excluding godown.

The developer has to complete a gross floor area of not less than 4,950 square metres on or before December 31, 1999.

Held at the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, the auction was conducted by Government Land Agent, Mr Timothy Mills.

End

ACAN discusses Beat Drugs Fund

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Members of the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) at a meeting today (Tuesday) discussed the proposed administration and management of a \$350 million Beat Drugs Fund, which is expected to be established in April next year subject to the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

According to the proposal discussed at the meeting, the ambit of the fund will include the furtherance of drug preventive education and publicity, research, training, law enforcement and treatment and rehabilitation.

Projects to be funded would be of a capital or short-term recurrent nature lasting not more than three years. Only income generated from the fund, estimated to be about \$19 million in the first year, will be utilised so as to preserve the capital base of the fund.

ACAN's advice will be sought on the support-worthiness of applications having regard to the need, the scale of the project, the implementation plan and the budget; and on the relative priority of projects and the level of grants. ACAN will also monitor the progress of implementation of approved applications.

Applications to the fund will be invited twice each year, in April and October. They will be processed by the Narcotics Division which will consider the merits of each application and formulate recommendations in consultation with relevant branches and departments before submitting to ACAN for consideration.

As a general rule, approved projects will be expected to start within nine months after approval.

It is proposed that the Director of Accounting Services be responsible for the investment of monies in the fund, the payment of grants and the compilation of statements of accounts of the fund. The annual statement of accounts will be audited by the Director of Audit.

The proposal to set up the fund was among the 92 proposals put forward by participants at the Governor's Summit Meeting on Drugs in March this year. The fund is to provide additional resources for non-government agencies and government departments working in the drug-related field and to tackle the growing problem of drug abuse among young people.

At the meeting today, ACAN members also discussed the figures of young drug abusers in the third quarter of 1995 which continued to decline following the previous two quarters.

The number of drug abusers aged under 21 reported to the Government's Central Registry of Drug Abuse (CRDA) decreased by 9.1 per cent to 1,372 in the third quarter this year, as compared to 1,510 in the corresponding period last year.

Of them, 496 were reported to CRDA for the first time, representing a drop of 23.2 per cent from 646 in the third quarter last year. An increase of 1.4 per cent was however noted for previously reported young drug abusers, from 864 in the third quarter last year to 876 in the same period this year.

As for drug abusers of all ages, the third quarter of this year registered a decrease of 11.1 per cent to 7,191 from 8,088 in the same period of 1994. The numbers of newly reported persons and previously reported persons were down by 14.8 per cent (from 1,219 to 1,039) and 10.4 per cent (from 6,869 to 6,152) respectively.

Members noted that the percentage of female drug abusers of all ages increased from 9.4 per cent (762) to 10.6 per cent (763). For those under 21, an increase of 1.6 percentage points from 20 per cent (302) to 21.6 per cent (296) was noted.

On the treatment front, a total of 3,820 persons were admitted to the three main government-funded treatment programmes as compared with the same period last year, of which 993 (or 26.0 per cent) were first-time admissions.

These represented a decrease in total admissions by 14.7 per cent and a decrease in new admissions by 16.6 per cent.

For those under 21, the decrease in new admissions was the highest in the Methadone Treatment Programme, by 22.3 per cent, followed by the voluntary treatment programme run by the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers, by 10.9 per cent.

End

Study on fisheries resources and fishing operations

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department has commissioned a consultancy study on fisheries resources and fishing operations in Hong Kong waters.

The consultancy agreement was signed today (Tuesday) by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, with representatives of the consultancy firm.

The study will assess the current fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters; identify sites of special ecological importance to fisheries, particularly spawning and nursery grounds; assess the cumulative impacts of development works on fisheries resources; and draw up guidelines for minimising the impact of development projects on these resources.

The data obtained from the study will also enable the Government to review the basis for assessing ex-gratia allowances for fishermen affected by development works.

The study, which costs \$15 million, will commence next month and is expected to be completed in mid-1997.

It will pave the way for the formulation of a long-term fisheries management plan for the conservation, development and sustainable use of fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters.

End

Parking fee increases for government car parks

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Parking fees for 14 government public car parks will be increased with effect from January 1 next year.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said an average 7.3 per cent increase was approved by the Government. The two contractors managing the car parks had applied for an increase of 18.7 per cent.

In real terms, the increase ranges from \$1 for hourly rates and \$100 to \$400 for monthly tickets.

The spokesman said in considering the increase rates, the department had taken into account the charges of the nearby private sector car parks; inflation since the last increase on January 1, 1995; the utilisation of the government car parks as well as the fee increases in Housing Authority car parks.

"The new charges are still lower than those in private sector car parks nearby," he said.

Monthly passes for January 1996 will be on sale at the new rates tomorrow (Wednesday) for the five car parks managed by Wilson Parking (Garden Road, Rumsey Street, Yau Ma Tei, Tsuen Wan Station and Tin Hau) and on Sunday (December 24) for another two car parks (Shaukeiwan and Sheung Fung Street).

The seven car parks managed by Metropark Ltd (Star Ferry, City Hall, Murray Road, Aberdeen, Middle Road, Kwai Fong and Tsuen Wan Transport Complex) will start selling monthly passes on Saturday (December 23).

End

TAC endorses NLB fare increase recommendation

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At its meeting held this afternoon (Tuesday), the Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) endorsed the Administration's recommendation of a 10.4 per cent fare increase for New Lantao Bus (NLB) to take effect in February 1996.

The recommendation will be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration.

The recommended fare increase would mean that about half of NLB's passengers would pay 50 to 80 cents more per trip and a quarter of the passengers would pay only 10 to 40 cents more per trip. Passengers aged 65 or above will continue to enjoy half fare.

TAC noted that NLB last increased its fares by 10.5 per cent on September 13, 1993. Without a fare increase, NLB would suffer a loss in 1996 because of rising operating costs over the last two years.

The proposed increase of 10.4 per cent is well below the forecast inflation rate of 22 per cent between the last increase and February 1996, when the new fares are to take effect.

TAC was satisfied that NLB has been providing a proper and efficient service.

End

71 pollution convictions in November

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A total of 71 convictions were made in the courts last month (November) for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 15 were convictions made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO), 17 under the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO), another 17 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO), 20 under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) and two under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (OLPO).

The fines ranged from \$1,000 to \$82,000. Willy Fine Ltd was fined \$82,000 for failing to comply with the requirements of a noise abatement notice.

End

Blankets distributed to street-sleepers

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A total of 59 blankets were distributed to 33 street-sleepers in the New Territories by Social Welfare Department (SWD) staff last (Monday) night.

Among the blankets distributed, 36 were given to street-sleepers in New Territories East and 23 in New Territories West.

"It is a normal practice for the SWD to distribute blankets to street sleepers when the temperature falls near or below 10 degrees Celsius," a spokesman for the department said.

End

Christmas holiday clinic service

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Eight general out-patient clinics will remain open between 9 am and 1 pm on December 24 (Sunday) and 26 (Tuesday), which are Christmas Eve and the first weekday after Christmas Day, the Department of Health announced today (Tuesday).

They are - the Violet Peel Health Centre and Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island; the Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre, Robert Black Health Centre and Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic in Kowloon; the Lady Trench Polyclinic, Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic and Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre in the New Territories.

There will be no holiday clinic service on December 25 (Monday).

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	19 Dec 95	19 Dec 95
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q551	H580
Issue date	20 Dec 95	20 Dec 95
Maturity date	20 Mar 96	19 Jun 96
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$3,410 MN	HK\$2,288 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.73 PCT	5.69 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.74 PCT	5.70 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 75 PCT	About 20 PCT
Average tender yield	5.75 PCT	5.70 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning December 25, 1995

Tender date	27 Dec 95	27 Dec 95
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q552	Y597
Issue date	28 Dec 95	28 Dec 95
Maturity date	27 Mar 96	27 Dec 96
Tenor	90 days	365 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN	HK\$500+150 MN
End		

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	\$ million -----	Time (hours) -----	Cumulative change (\$million) -----
Opening balance in the account	2,381	0930	-954
Closing balance in the account	2,014	1000	-953
Change attributable to :		1100	-957
Money market activity	-964	1200	-957
LAF today	+597	1500	-957
		1600	-964

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.4 *-0.1* 19.12.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.85	2 years	2711	5.60	99.83	5.77
1 month	5.84	3 years	3810	6.15	100.51	6.04
3 months	5.73	5 years	5009	6.38	99.57	6.59
6 months	5.69	7 years	7211	6.82	99.99	6.94
12 months	5.64	5 years	M502	7.30	102.06	6.91

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,507 million

Closed December 19, 1995

End