



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, January 7, 1974

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Release time: 7.15 p.m.

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TRAFFIC-FREE SHOPPING AREAS TO BE INTRODUCED

Under Urban Renewal Pilot Scheme

Hong Kong will soon benefit from a new concept in modern city planning -- Pedestrian Shopping Precincts.

The idea is to pedestrianise the streets and turn them into shopping precincts where no vehicular movement will be permitted.

Such precincts will become the most significant feature in the 12.8 acres of land which is now undergoing a face-lift programme under the Urban Renewal Pilot Scheme.

When the entire district - partly located in Central and partly in Western - is properly re-developed in accordance with the planned layout of the scheme, all but two streets in the area will be pedestrianised.

The two streets, Lower Lascar Row and Possession Street, will be widened and altered in such a manner that vehicles will have adequate access to all shops in the area.

Mr. H.C. Tam, the Senior Estate Surveyor of the Public Works Department responsible for the Pilot Scheme, noted that segregating pedestrians from vehicles would make it safer for people on the roads.

"All people will need to worry about is bumping into each other when they concentrate on the items displayed in the show windows. Children will be able to walk and run freely around and across the streets without fear of being hit by speeding cars," he said.

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Unlike the present pedestrian precinct in Chater Road, which operates only during weekends and holidays, the pedestrian shopping precincts within the pilot scheme will be a permanent feature.

Mr. Tam said Lower Lascar Row and Possession Street would be retained for vehicular traffic, linking Hollywood Road and Queen's Road Central, and would be renamed Lascar Road.

The two vehicular routes will be substantially realigned and widened, and routed one-way to provide convenient access to shops and premises in the area.

In addition, adequate loading and unloading bays will be provided for lorries so that goods can easily be delivered to all shops.

Another "safety" feature, Mr. Tam said, would be the construction of pedestrian bridges over these two streets.

He pointed out that the changes and new arrangements were so designed to ensure smooth traffic flow both inside and outside the area.

Commenting on the progress of the urban renewal scheme which started in 1971, Mr. Tam said the government had so far acquired about two-thirds of the properties in the district and demolition of these old buildings is well in progress.

When the acquisition and demolition of the remaining properties has been completed, two new schools and a new public open space at the eastern end of the area will be constructed.

/In addition,

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In addition, the existing Possession Point Playground will be re-developed incorporating an underground car park capable of accommodating over 200 cars.

There will also be a large hawker bazaar site at the western end of the area and public baths and latrines are also to be provided.

The remaining cleared sites will be amalgamated into larger sites and will be offered for sale to the public for commercial and residential development.

Special conditions will be imposed on the developers to ensure that future development will be in accordance with the planned layout and completed within a stipulated period.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing the affected area are boxed for collection together with a picture of the model.

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NEW CHAIRMAN FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The Governor has appointed Mr. Peter P.K. Ng to be the new Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for three years as from January 1, 1974.

Mr. Ng succeeds Mr. Wilson T.S. Wang, who has been Chairman since 1968. Both of them have been associated with the scheme for many years, and Mr. Ng has been an active member of the Award Committee since 1965.

Mr. Wang's association with the scheme goes back to 1961, when it was first introduced in Hong Kong. During this time, he has played a significant part in the setting up of new operating authorities, providing leadership, and showing keen interest in promoting youth activities.

The scheme was initiated by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 as a means by which young people can test their ability and show their skill in various directions.

The scheme for boys was introduced to Hong Kong in March 1961 and that for girls in August 1963. Five years later, the two were merged to form a joint scheme.

In Hong Kong, an Award Committee appointed by the Governor administers the scheme and is concerned basically with policy-making, financing and staffing. It also licenses operating authorities of which there are now ten, with over 8,000 participants.

Besides the Chairman, there are 12 members on the committee. They are: Mr. Alex Wu, Mr. Michael S.H. Chan, Mrs. J. Gibson, Mrs. D.B. Leitch, Mr. F.K. Wu, Mr. H.C. Ma, Mrs. L.W. Gordon, Mrs. Sally Leung and the representatives of the Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, the Director of Education, the Commissioner of Labour, and the Director of Social Welfare.

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WARNING AGAINST BOGUS LABOUR OFFICERS

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mr. David Lin today warned factory proprietors to be on their guard against bogus Labour Department officials who solicit money for advertisements in departmental publications.

He emphasised that no Labour Department publications carried advertisement and that no departmental staff was authorised to solicit money for any purpose whatsoever. "However," he said, "despite my repeated appeals there are still cases in which proprietors are deceived by such impersonators."

Mr. Lin said he was very concerned about the considerable increase in the number of such illegal practices recently. He urged proprietors who were approached by persons purporting to be Labour Department staff to immediately report the case to the Police or to the Senior Labour Officer of the Labour Department at Tel. No. 3-688842.

"It is only with the co-operation of factory proprietors that these illegal practices can be eliminated," he stressed. "Records show that the police succeeded in some cases to arrest the impersonators because of the proprietors' prompt action."

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

The Building Authority today declared two partially-occupied stone buildings in the abandoned quarry behind the Shaukiwan Police Station liable to become dangerous.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that during assessments being made in connection with phase one of the landslide study, the consultants observed that the rock face above these two buildings was in a highly dangerous condition.

"It is considered that any deterioration could result in a large rock fall which would endanger the squatters living in the premises," he said.

Notices of intention to apply for closure orders of the two buildings were posted today. The application will be heard in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on February 1.

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PRINTING FACTORY PRAISED

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price today commended the management of a Kwai Chung factory for its initiative and efforts in training apprentices to help overcome the shortage of skilled manpower in industry.

"An adequate supply of skilled workers will enable Hong Kong to improve the quality of its products," he said during a visit to the Continental Printing Co. Ltd. The tour was part of a series of factory visits to enable him to obtain first-hand information on general working conditions in industry.

Accompanied by the Senior Training Officer (Apprenticeship) Mr. H.R. Knight, Mr. Price toured the shopfloor and spoke to some apprentices. He urged them to make full use of their four years' training with the company to improve their technical skill and theoretical knowledge.

The Continental Printing Co. Ltd. was among the first group of printing establishments to take advantage of the modern apprenticeship training scheme sponsored by the Labour Department. The factory engaged six apprentices in 1972 and another seven in 1973.

Apprentices in the factory have to undergo planned practical training and attend, on a day-release basis, complementary theoretical instruction at the Morrison Hill Technical Institute.

/"So far

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"So far about 170 industrial establishments have adopted the Labour Department's recommended training scheme and more than 3,000 apprentices are being trained to become technicians or craftsmen in the major industries," Mr. Price said.

"However more remains to be done and the government has very recently approved 13 new technical posts for a much expanded Industrial Training Branch of the Labour Department," he added.

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PASSING OFF PARADE

Note to Editors: The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) will be holding a passing off parade for more than 60 recruits tomorrow (Tuesday) evening. During the ceremony, the Secretary for Security, Mr. G.P. Lloyd, will inspect the parade and make a short speech.

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the event. A member of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment will be at the main gate at 6.30 p.m. to meet and assist your representative. Mr. Lloyd is due to arrive at 6.45 p.m. The Royal Hong Kong Regiment is in Sports Road, Happy Valley.

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FOUR-PRONGED ATTACK NEEDED AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

Real progress in reducing the problem of narcotics addiction in Hong Kong hinged on success in four inter-connected fields, the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, said today.

He told the inaugural meeting of the recently reconstituted Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN) that success was needed in:

- * Reducing the amount of opium grown in producing countries;
- * Interdicting shipments of opium and its derivatives smuggled into Hong Kong from these countries;
- * Interdicting distribution of these drugs in Hong Kong; and
- * Preventing and curing drug addiction in Hong Kong.

"We can do something in the first two fields, but clearly our main effort must be in the last two, which are within our jurisdiction," Sir Murray said.

"Nevertheless, all are inter-dependent. Success in interdiction will be shortlived and even might have serious social consequences if not coupled with adequate facilities for cure.

"Facilities for cure will not be much used if cheap and abundant supplies of drugs are available."

/Sir Murray

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Sir Murray said there was a need for a treatment and after-care programme that could be applied en masse with a minimum of confinement or hospitalisation.

"The (methadone) experiments now being conducted principally by the Medical and Health Department and the Discharged 'Prisoners' Aid Society appear crucial in this respect," he said.

Sir Murray said that under its new terms of reference, ACAN would be the sole channel of advice to the government on policies to combat drug abuse and on the allocation of resources to government and voluntary agencies implementing these policies.

ACAN also had been strengthened in two ways.

"Firstly, with the creation of a new narcotics division in the Department of Medical and Health, ACAN will have for the first time official technical advice.

"Secondly, it has a secretariat to give it administrative muscle and follow-up capacity."

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the meeting are boxed for collection.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Monday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Kwong Cha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew -- old crop	Good	1.64
.. new crop		1.72
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	-
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Good	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.00	3.00	3.50
Big-Eyes	Good	2.50	0.80	1.80
Squid	Normal	6.50	2.00	5.50
Hair-Tails	Normal	2.45	1.00	1.80
Lizard Fishes	Limited	3.10	1.00	2.60
Croakers	Good	2.60	0.50	1.90
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.80	2.20	2.50
Melon Coat	Limited	2.50	1.80	2.00
Breams	Normal	4.50	3.80	4.00
Yellow Belly	Good	2.30	0.75	1.80
Mackerels	Normal	3.50	2.80	3.00
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.90	0.60	1.60
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.60	1.10	1.40
Horse-Head	Normal	4.50	3.50	4.00
Melon Seed	Normal	3.20	1.50	2.80
Pomfrets	Limited	9.00	8.00	8.50
Groupas	Normal	7.00	5.00	6.50
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.6	1.0	1.8
White cabbage	Limited	1.6	0.5	1.0
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	1.0	0.2	0.6
Chinese Kale	Normal	1.6	0.5	1.0
Spring onion	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.5
Spinach	Normal	2.0	0.7	1.4
Water cress	Limited	1.6	0.5	1.0
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	1.4	0.5	1.0
Tomato	Limited	1.8	1.0	1.4

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	• 285

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