



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Saturday, February 11, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
New driving test centre for medium goods vehicles	1
Paper bouquet for the civic-minded	1
Winners of careers quiz announced	2
7,000 years' dedicated service to education recognised	3
Cloudy and warm January	4
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	7

Sunday, February 12, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Two more activity centres for overseas domestic helpers	8
Free postage of election ads must not be abused	9
Unregistered electricians liable to prosecution	9
Government House gardens open to public	10

New driving test centre for medium goods vehicles

* * * * *

The medium goods vehicle driving test centre at Tai Po Road has been relocated to a new site at Chak On Road with an area of 1,500 square metres.

A spokesman for the Transport Department said its facilities included a compound designed for the testing of basic manoeuvring skills such as reverse parking, three-point-turn on a narrow road, and stop and start on a slope.

It is the second off-street driving test centre set up by the department, the first is at Hawthorn Road in Happy Valley.

The spokesman said an off-street driving test centre not only provided a safer and better testing environment for the candidates but also reduced traffic congestion on public roads.

"Transport Department will continue to look for suitable sites for the setting up of such centres in the interest of the public," he added.

End/Saturday, February 11, 1995

Paper bouquet for the civic-minded

* * * * *

The Government has produced paper bouquets to promote the coming Municipal Councils elections which will fall on March 5.

The bouquet is made of good quality paper printed with the logos of the Urban Council and the Regional Council. It can be easily folded into a beautiful shape following the simple instructions given.

The bouquets are being distributed as souvenirs to members of the public participating in district events and activities organised by the Home Affairs Department.

They will make a special gift on the coming St Valentine's Day.

End/Saturday, February 11, 1995

Winners of careers quiz announced

* * * * *

The Labour Department today (Saturday) announced the winners of the 13th Careers Quiz participated by a record number of 140,512 students from 276 secondary schools.

Senior Labour Officer Mrs Ada Leung said the number of participants was very encouraging, showing that students were attaching more importance to career planning.

Kowloon True Light Middle School is the winner in both Secondary 3 and 4 sections. The winning school in Secondary 5 section is Yu Chun Keung Memorial College.

Trophies will be awarded to these winners and the two runners-up of each section at a prize-presentation ceremony on March 10.

The highest scoring students in the three sections are Ho Wing-ki of Kowloon True Light Middle School in the Secondary 3 Section, Wong Wai-ngan of Ho Dao College in the Secondary 4 Section, and Lai Siu-ho of Caritas Chan Chun Ha Prevocational School - Fanling in the Secondary 5 Section.

"Together with the three runners-up of each section, they will each be awarded a Pentax camera," Mrs Leung said.

She added that outstanding students in each section would also be presented with prizes and souvenirs sponsored by Pentax Camera.

The quiz, organised by the Careers Advisory Service of the Labour Department, is aimed at arousing students' awareness of the importance of choosing a suitable career and encouraging them to look for up-to-date information on careers and further training opportunities.

"It is a highlight of the 5th Education and Careers Expo which will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from February 23 to 26," Mrs Leung said.

Jointly organised by the Labour Department and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the expo will feature some 180 exhibitors from a wide range of trades, industries, government departments, professional bodies as well as local and overseas educational and training institutes.

"During the expo, the Careers Advisory Service will arrange a comprehensive programme of supporting activities including careers seminars by professionals, video shows and student group visits.

"Answers to all the questions of the quiz will also be displayed at the expo," Mrs Leung said.

End/Saturday, February 11, 1995

7,000 years' dedicated service to education recognised

* * * * *

The Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, today (Saturday) presented Long and Meritorious Service Certificates and retirement souvenirs to 555 members of the Education Department, whose combined service totalled more than 7,000 years.

Among them, 272 received Long and Meritorious Service Certificates for 30 and 20 years of service while 283 who retired in the past two years received souvenirs.

Of those receiving long service certificates, 162 had been in the Government for 30 years and 110 for 20 years.

Their posts range from workman II to acting Senior Assistant Director.

The majority are teaching staff at government schools, some of whom began their career as early as in 1954.

Two acting Senior Assistant Directors -- Mr Kwan Ting-fai and Mr Tsui Seeming -- were awarded the 30-year Long and Meritorious Service Certificates.

Both Mr Kwan and Mr Tsui said they were very happy to receive the certificates as it was a recognition of their long service and contribution to the department.

Mr Kwan said: "I feel honoured by the award which is a token of my service.

"I have always enjoyed my work and hope that my service in the last three decades has been helpful to improving the quality of education in Hong Kong," he said.

Mr Tsui, who also received the 30-year certificate, said he was very pleased to receive the award and to become one of the longest-serving officers in the department.

"School administration and education services have been on my mind for the last 30 years and I will continue to do my best to upgrade them," he said.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Mr Lam paid tribute to the recipients for their dedication to the department and the Government.

End/Saturday, February 11, 1995

Cloudy and warm January

* * * * *

January 1995 was cloudier and slightly warmer than normal, a monthly weather report released today (Saturday) by the Royal Observatory said. The total duration of bright sunshine in the month was 117.9 hours which was 34.5 hours below normal.

The mean temperature was 16.1 degrees, 0.3 of a degree above normal. There were only two days with minimum temperatures below 10 degrees. The monthly rainfall amounted to 21.1 millimetres, 10 per cent below the normal of 23.4 millimetres.

The first two days of the month were mild and windy offshore. A cool northerly airstream brought disturbed weather with rain to the territory on January 3. The first thunderstorm of the year was reported that afternoon.

Rain eased off and clouds started to break early on January 4 as a dry winter monsoon reached Hong Kong. Under the continual influence of this monsoon, the weather was fine, dry and cold for the next three days.

Temperatures rose rapidly on January 8 as the monsoon subsided. It was fine and hazy the next day. As winds turned to the east on January 10, the weather became cloudy with mist reported inside Victoria Harbour that evening.

A cold front over Guangdong advanced southwards on January 11 and reached the south China coast early on January 12 with the local daily minimum temperatures falling by about three degrees. It remained cool and generally fine from January 13 to 17.

Milder weather prevailed in the next five days. The month's highest temperature of 23.0 degrees was reached on the sunny afternoon of January 22. However, a cold front traversed the coast of Guangdong on January 23 bringing cloudy and cool conditions to the territory from January 24 to 26.

With strengthening winter monsoon, the weather turned cold and rainy until the end of the month. The month's lowest temperature of 9.2 degrees was recorded on the early morning of January 31.

There was only one tropical cyclone over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in January.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of January are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in January 1995

Warnings/Signals	Effective date and time
Thunderstorm Warning	3 Jan 1230 - 3 Jan 1430
Strong Monsoon Signals	31 Dec 2315 - 1 Jan 0800 1 Jan 2345 - 2 Jan 0730 4 Jan 2130 - 5 Jan 0810 25 Jan 2300 - 26 Jan 0500
Fire Danger Warnings	
Yellow	1 Jan 0615 - 2 Jan 2300
Red	4 Jan 1800 - 8 Jan 0600
Yellow	8 Jan 0600 - 8 Jan 2300
Yellow	13 Jan 0600 - 15 Jan 2330
Yellow	24 Jan 0600 - 24 Jan 1130
Yellow	29 Jan 0630 - 29 Jan 1800
Gas Heater Alerts	4 Jan 1630 - 7 Jan 1645 12 Jan 1630 - 13 Jan 1630 27 Jan 1630 - 7 Feb 1630

Table 1.2 Figures and departures from normal - January 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	117.9 hours ; 34.5 hours below normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	9.14 MJ/SQ M; 2.49 MJ/SQ M below normal
Total Rainfall	21.1 mm ; 2.3 mm below normal
Mean Cloud Amount	67% ; 9% above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	75% ; 4% above normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	18.1 degrees Celsius; 0.5 degree Celsius below normal
Mean Air Temperature	16.1 degrees Celsius; 0.3 degree Celsius above normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	14.3 degrees Celsius; 0.7 degree Celsius above normal
Mean Dew Point	11.5 degrees Celsius; 1.3 degrees Celsius above normal
Total Evaporation	59.5 mm; 38.0 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End/Saturday, February 11, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time</u> <u>(hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>change</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,548	09:30	+1,300
Closing balance in the account	1,540	10:00	+1,300
Change attributable to:		11:00	+1,300
Money market activity	+1,300	11:30	+1,300
LAF today	-1,308	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.2 *+0.0* 11.2.95

End/Saturday, February 11, 1995

Two more activity centres for overseas domestic helpers

* * * * *

Two more activity centres for overseas domestic helpers to spend their rest day were opened today (Sunday).

Located at the Ho Tung Technical School for Girls in Causeway Bay and Jockey Club Government Secondary Technical School in Kowloon Tong, they can accommodate about 200 and 300 people respectively.

A spokesman for the Home Affairs Department said there are now three overseas domestic helper centres (ODHC) in operation.

The spokesman said the department would continue to look for additional venues for such centres to meet the demand of this target group.

The Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust, which is responsible for the financing of the entire ODHC scheme and the management of all the centres, has raised a total of \$8 million, including a donation of \$1 million from the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The spokesman reiterated that all centres would be closely monitored by a Steering Committee comprising, among others, relevant District Board members and representatives from the Government departments concerned, including the Urban Services Department, the Police, the Transport Department and the Education Department.

As to the first activity centre at the Clementi Secondary School, he said so far no problem had arisen since its opening last December.

"This has demonstrated that with proper management, a centre for overseas domestic helpers can operate in an orderly manner with no nuisance caused to residents in the neighbourhood," he said.

Initial assessment showed that the scheme was well received by the helpers and the centre has already been booked through until June by various overseas domestic helper associations, he added.

End/Sunday, February 12, 1995

Free postage of election ads must not be abused

The Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, has issued a letter to all the candidates of the Municipal Council elections, the Legislative Council by-election and district board by-elections, reminding them that the free postage of election advertisements cannot be used for other purposes.

"The free postage, which is the candidate's own privilege, cannot and should not be used for any other purpose or in respect of any other person or any other election," the chairman said in the letter.

He added that the Government reserved the right to charge a candidate postage if the free postage arrangements were abused in any way.

A candidate may post free of postage one letter to each elector in the constituency for which he is nominated. The purpose of the free postage is to enable the candidate to mail to electors in the constituency election advertisements in relation to himself and to that election.

End/Sunday, February 12, 1995

Unregistered electricians liable to prosecution

Any person who undertakes electrical work without prior registration with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department as an electrical worker is liable to prosecution, a spokesman for the department reiterated today (Sunday).

"The registration is required under the Electricity Ordinance to ensure that the fixed electrical installations are properly designed, installed and maintained, and are in compliance with safety requirements so as to avoid accidents," he noted.

The advice followed the conviction at the Kwun Tong Magistracy last month of a 28-year-old man for carrying out electrical work without registering as an electrical worker under the ordinance.

The defendant pleaded guilty to breaching the Electricity Ordinance and was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to two months' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months.

The offence carries a maximum fine of \$50,000 on first conviction, and \$100,000 on a subsequent conviction for the same offence, in addition to imprisonment for six months, the spokesman added.

End/Sunday, February 12, 1995

Government House gardens open to public

Residents will have the opportunity to enjoy the azaleas in full bloom in the gardens of Government House from 10 am to 5 pm on February 19 (Sunday).

The open day has been an annual event since 1968.

Those wishing to visit Government House during the opening hours should enter by the east gate, which is located on Upper Albert Road facing the American Consulate.

They can leave by the main gate on Upper Albert Road or the west gate on Albert Path.

As a large number of people are expected to turn up, visitors are advised not to travel by private car or taxi.

If they do come by car or taxi, they are advised not to alight on Upper Albert Road.

End/Sunday, February 12, 1995