



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1980

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1980

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GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND LOANS
TO UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS
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THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND LOANS TO UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF ANY INCREASE IN TUITION FEES.

THIS ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN WHO SAID STUDENTS SUFFERING GENUINE HARDSHIP COULD APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME.

COMMENTING ON REPORTS ABOUT PROPOSED FEE REVISIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO ASSUME CERTAIN FEE LEVELS IN ITS CALCULATION OF GRANTS FOR THE 1981 - 84 TRIENNIUM AND TO NOTIFY HONG KONG UNIVERSITY, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC OF THESE ASSUMPTIONS.

HE CONFIRMED THAT FOR GRANT CALCULATION PURPOSES THE FEES TO BE CHARGED BY THE UNIVERSITIES FOR NEW STUDENTS WOULD BE ASSUMED TO BE : \$2 500 PER ANNUM FOR 1981/82, \$2 800 PER ANNUM FOR 1982/83 AND \$3 100 FOR 1983/84.

SIMILARLY FEES TO BE CHARGED AT THE POLYTECHNIC FOR NEW STUDENTS WOULD BE ASSUMED TO BE : \$1 600 PER ANNUM FOR 1981/82, \$1 900 PER ANNUM FOR 1982/83 AND \$2 200 PER ANNUM FOR 1983/84.

FEES WERE NORMALLY REVIEWED PRIOR TO THE START OF A TRIENNIUM AND THE FEE LEVELS WHICH THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ASSUME WOULD NOT BE FURTHER REVISED UNTIL 1984/85.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO GIVE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUDGET CAREFULLY FOR TERTIARY LEVEL COURSES, IT WAS PROPOSED IN FUTURE TO DECLARE ANNUALLY THE LEVEL OF FEES TO BE CHARGED IN THE FOLLOWING FOUR YEARS.

+STUDENTS WOULD THEN BE AWARE OF THE FEES WHICH WOULD BE PAYABLE, IN MOST CASES FROM THE DATE OF ENROLMENT UP TO THE DATE OF GRADUATION.+

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE REVISED FEES WOULD CONSTITUTE ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON TERTIARY EDUCATION.

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PUBLICITY DRIVE TO PREVENT HILL FIRES
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WITH THE ADVENT OF THE DRY SEASON AND THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, THE GOVERNMENT IS LAUNCHING A TERRITORY-WIDE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF FIRES IN COUNTRY PARKS AND PLANTATION AREAS.

THE CAMPAIGN IS THE FIRST FULL-SCALE DRIVE EVER ORGANISED SPECIFICALLY TO WARN OF THE HIGH FIRE RISK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND REFLECTS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO REDUCE THE SERIOUS MENACE OF HILL FIRE.

ANNOUNCING THIS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY): +DURING THE LAST CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL, THERE WERE 145 FIRES OVER THE THREE-DAY PERIOD. THIS GAVE RISE TO GRAVE CONCERN AND WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO PREVENT SUCH A RECURRENCE.+

DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING JUNE THIS YEAR, THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 935 COUNTRYSIDE FIRES, RESULTING IN THE DESTRUCTION OF LARGE AREAS OF GRASSLAND AND OVER 580 000 TREES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM AREAS TO WHICH SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID. THESE INCLUDE FIRES CAUSED BY GRAVE WORSHIPPING, BARBECUE AND THE BURNING OFF OF VEGETATION.

AS PART OF THE UNITED ALL-OUT EFFORT BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, WARNING THE PUBLIC OF THE DANGER OF COUNTRYSIDE FIRES. PUBLICITY ON TV AND RADIO WILL ALSO BE STEPPED UP. OTHER PUBLICITY MEASURES WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- * MORE METAL POSTERS WOULD BE PUT UP WHERE GRAVES ARE CONCENTRATED TO GIVE ON-THE-SPOT WARNINGS-
- * THE CIVILIAN INFORMATION TEAM OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION WILL STAGE SPECIAL FIRE PREVENTION FILM SHOWS DURING THEIR VISITS TO VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES-
- * THE MOBILE FILM UNIT OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL SHOW SIMILAR FILMS IN THE URBAN AREAS IN ADDITION TO MOUNTING SPECIAL BROADCASTS AT BUS AND RAILWAY TERMINALS TO GIVE FIRE PREVENTION ADVICE TO PICNICKERS AND +GRAVE SWEEPERS+.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, PREVENTIVE MEASURES WILL ALSO BE TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL IMPROVE FIRE FIGHTING ACCESS ROUTES BY CLEARING VEGETATION FROM FOOTPATHS AND BUILDING NEW PATHS INTO INACCESSIBLE AREAS.

/FIRE SERVICES

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AS WELL AS COUNTRY PARKS FIRE FIGHTING STAFF WILL BE ON SPECIAL ALERT TWO WEEKS BEFORE AND AFTER THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL AND DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE CIVIL AID SERVICES WILL PATROL THE COUNTRY PARK AREAS TO OVERSEE GRAVE WORSHIPPING.

MEANWHILE, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT STAFF WILL CONTINUE TO VISIT ALL VILLAGES INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS TO GIVE ADVICE ON FIRE PREVENTION AND TO ASSIST FARMERS IN BURNING OFF WEED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN ALSO URGED THE PUBLIC TO HEED THE FOLLOWING ADVICE:

- * USE DESIGNATED BARBECUE SITES OR, BETTER STILL, BRING PRE-COOKED FOOD DURING THEIR VISITS TO COUNTRY PARKS-
- * MAKE SURE THAT CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES ARE PROPERLY EXTINGUISHED BEFORE DISPOSAL-
- * DON'T LEAVE LIGHTED CANDLES, JOSS-STICKS AND JOSS-PAPERS UNATTENDED AND PUT THEM OUT BEFORE LEAVING A GRAVE SITE-
- * DON'T BURN OFF VEGETATION NEAR STRUCTURES AND DURING EXTREMELY WINDY AND DRY SPELLS. SEEK ADVICE FROM AN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT OFFICER IF NECESSARY.

HE WARNED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CAUSING A FIRE IN A DESIGNATED COUNTRY PARK IS A FINE OF \$5 000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT AND FOR A SIMILAR OFFENCE OUTSIDE THE PARK AREAS IT IS \$2 000 FINE AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

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GO-KART RACING IN TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL * * * *

GO-KART RACING WILL BE STAGED IN TSUEN WAN AS A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE DISTRICT'S SECOND SPORTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER.

RACES WILL TAKE PLACE AT SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND, TSUEN WAN, ON THE FIRST AND SECOND DAYS OF THE FESTIVAL (NOVEMBER 1 AND 2).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FESTIVAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SAID DETAILS OF THE RACES WERE STILL BEING FINALISED, ALTHOUGH BASICALLY THEY WOULD RESEMBLE THOSE HELD ANNUALLY AT VICTORIA PARK.

HE SAID THE COURSE, ALTHOUGH SHORTER THAN THAT AT VICTORIA PARK, WOULD HAVE MORE CORNERS REQUIRING GREATER SKILL BY DRIVERS.

/BESIDES GO-KART

BESIDES GO-KART RACING, OTHER NEW ITEMS IN THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME INCLUDE GAMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED, SQUASH COMPETITIONS AND CANOE-POLO MATCHES.

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD WILL PROVIDE \$150 000 FOR THE FESTIVAL AND ANOTHER \$50 000 IS EXPECTED TO BE RAISED FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS.

ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT VENUES IN TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG PROVIDED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ONE OF THE ORGANISERS OF THE FESTIVAL.

OTHER ORGANISERS ARE THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND TSUEN WAN SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEWLY COMPLETED INDOOR GAMES HALL AT KWAI CHUNG. THIS HAS A MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF 800 PEOPLE AND WILL BE THE MAIN VENUE FOR INDOOR ACTIVITIES.

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD OVER A THREE-WEEK PERIOD, COMPARED WITH TWO WEEKS LAST YEAR WHEN IT WAS INTRODUCED.

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MORE COMMUNITY AND WELFARE FACILITIES IN PIPELINE

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES FOR COMMUNITY WORK AND WELFARE SERVICES BY MORE THAN DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF ITS EXISTING COMMUNITY HALLS AND CENTRES BY MID-1980'S.

PLANS ARE IN THE PIPELINE TO BUILD 16 NEW COMMUNITY HALLS, 11 COMMUNITY CENTRES AND EIGHT ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THE DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT OPERATES 11 COMMUNITY HALLS, EIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRES AND NINE ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES. THEY ALL SERVE AS FOCAL POINTS FOR VARIOUS WELFARE SERVICES, AS WELL AS RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE OF ALL AGE GROUPS.

THE LATEST ADDITION IS THE \$3 MILLION TAI WO HAU ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN KWAI CHUNG WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION THIS MONTH.

APART FROM RECREATION FACILITIES, THE SIX-STOREY CENTRE ACCOMMODATES TWO SOCIAL CENTRES, ONE EACH FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY, A CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE, A CHILD CARE CENTRE, A LIBRARY AND STUDY ROOMS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE INCREASE IN PROVISION WAS PLANNED IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM OF BUILDING A COMMUNITY IN WHICH THERE WAS MUTUAL CARE, RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO PROVIDE ONE COMMUNITY HALL FOR EACH PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE WITH 20 000 TO 50 000 PEOPLE, ONE ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR EACH ESTATE WITH OVER 50 000 RESIDENTS, AND ONE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR OVER 100 000 PEOPLE IN AREAS NOT SERVED BY COMMUNITY HALLS OR ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE SAID COMMUNITY CENTRES OR ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRES ARE FOR MULTI-WELFARE SERVICES, WHILE COMMUNITY HALLS PROVIDE FACILITIES TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

EACH COMMUNITY HALL, HE SAID, HAS AN ASSEMBLY HALL AND A STAGE FOR INDOOR GROUP PROGRAMMES, EXHIBITIONS AND RECREATION AND THEY CAN BE ON LOAN TO YOUTH GROUPS, SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

+THROUGH THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS AND STAFF OF COMMUNITY HALLS AND CENTRES, RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART IN ORGANISED ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY THE EVENING PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

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ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN OPENING CEREMONY

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SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES, CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, WILL OPEN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN A CEREMONY AT EDINBURGH PLACE AT 3 PM THIS SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20).

THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD LAST SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 14), BUT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR PETER LEE, CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR A.R. CLARK AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL ALSO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY.

A TWO-HOUR VARIETY SHOW FEATURING TV ARTISTS AND LOCAL PERFORMERS WILL BE HELD AFTER THE CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN OPENING CEREMONY AND THE VARIETY SHOW AT EDINBURGH PLACE AT 3 PM ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FIRE OFFICER RETIRES

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THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR FREDERICK WATSON, WILL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) PRESENT A SILVER SALVER TO DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MR LEUNG SHUN-YIU WHO IS RETIRING AFTER MORE THAN 33 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMON ROOM OF THE FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS IN JAVA ROAD, NORTH POINT AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE EVENT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

CAS CADETS TO RECEIVE AWARDS

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THE CIVIL AID SERVICES CADET CORPS WILL HOLD A PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 19) TO PRESENT SILVER AND BRONZE AWARDS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS SCHEME TO CADET RECIPIENTS.

THE CEREMONY, WHICH INCLUDES A PARADE AND A BAND PERFORMANCE, WILL BE OFFICIATED BY UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON ALLEN LEE, THE CADET COMMANDANT AND HIS DEPUTIES. MR ALLEN LEE WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE PARADE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 8 PM AT THE CAS KOWLOON TRAINING CENTRE, 204 ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON.

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IMPORTANCE OF EYE CARE FOR STUDENTS STRESSED

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TEACHERS ARE URGED TO BE ON THE CONSTANT ALERT TO DETECT PUPILS WHO HAVE VISION TROUBLE.

SPEAKING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EYE CARE AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SLIGHT VISION DEFECTS SHOULD BE DETECTED EARLY IN ITS COURSE AND NECESSARY CORRECTIONS MADE.+

IF TELEVISION SETS MALFUNCTION DURING CLASS THEY SHOULD BE TURNED OFF TO AVOID UNDUE EYE STRAIN, HE SAID.

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IN THE CASE OF TEXTBOOKS, TEACHERS CAN REFER TO A LEAFLET PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER SHOWING THE VARIOUS TYPES AND SIZES OF PRINT RECOMMENDED FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT AGE-GROUPS.

+CARE MUST ALSO BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT EYE ACCIDENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TEACHERS OF SCIENCE AND PRACTICAL SUBJECTS SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID ERRONEOUS HANDLING OF DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS, EQUIPMENT AND CHEMICALS BY STUDENTS, HE SAID.

+OBJECTS WITH SHARP EDGES OR POINTS SHOULD BE KEPT PROPERLY AND OUT OF REACH OF SMALL CHILDREN,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ADEQUATE WARNINGS SHOULD BE GIVEN BY THE TEACHERS BEFORE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS PHYSICAL EXERCISES SUCH AS HOCKEY AND FENCING SO AS TO EDUCATE THE PUPILS AND PREPARE THEM TO TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONS.

PERSONAL HYGIENE IS ALSO IMPORTANT IN THE PREVENTION OF EYE INFECTION, AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID ALL PUPILS SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO AVOID USING OTHER PEOPLE'S HANDKERCHIEFS, TOWELS OR WASHING UTENSILS.

PUPILS' ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE DRAWN TO THE DANGER INHERENT IN STUDYING IN POOR LIGHTING.

+THEY SHOULD ALSO BE TAUGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING AN UPRIGHT POSTURE AND APPROPRIATE READING DISTANCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND ALSO AT HOME,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TRACK WORK TO DISRUPT TRAM SERVICES

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TRAM SERVICES WEST OF WAN CHAI WILL BE SUSPENDED ABOUT 11.30 PM THIS SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 20) FOR TRACK REALIGNMENT WORK IN CENTRAL DISTRICT.

THE WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT OVERNIGHT, FROM 11.30 PM THAT DAY TO 6.30 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, ON THE EASTBOUND TRAM TRACKS ON DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL BETWEEN DOUGLAS STREET AND ICE HOUSE STREET. NORMAL SERVICES WILL RESUME AT 6.30 AM ON SUNDAY.

THE LAST WESTBOUND TRAMS WILL LEAVE THEIR TERMINI BETWEEN 10.30 PM AND 10.53 PM, WHILE THE EASTBOUND ONES WILL DEPART BETWEEN 11.04 PM AND 11.20 PM.

TRAM SERVICE BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND HAPPY VALLEY WILL NOT BE AFFECTED AND WILL OPERATE AT A HIGHER FREQUENCY OF EVERY FOUR MINUTES AFTER 10.35 PM FROM SHAU KEI WAN.

IN ADDITION, TRAMS WILL OPERATE AT FIVE MINUTES INTERVALS AFTER 10.35 PM BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN AND WAN CHAI CHURCH (JOHNSTON ROAD).

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