DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session
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The following is a transcript of what the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said to the media after attending the Newspaper Society Annual Press Contest Awards Presentation Ceremony today (Tuesday):

Question: Today, there is the announcement of the JLG plenary in London.. We would like to know ...do you think the progress will be better then last time?

Governor: I hope that before and during and after the JLG plenary meeting next week, we can see more progress and more signs of co-operation on the ground. I think that Chinese officials recognise as we do there's a lot of work to do and we've got to get on with it. People in Hong Kong expect that and they want to see results and that's what I hope will be able to start achieving.

Question: Governor, you said you hoped for a pack of reasonable and mature co-operation arrangements with the CE designate. What is it in you mind?

Governor: That's something that we'll want to discuss first of all with Chinese officials over the coming months. I'm sure for example that there will be the sort of subject which the new British Foreign Secretary will want to discuss with Mr Qian Qichen when they meet in the autumn. And, it's also a subject of course which I'll want to discuss myself with the Chief Executive Designate when she or he is appointed. We want to co-operate with the preparatory committee. We want to co-operate with the Chief Executive Designate and his or her team. Obviously that will be a more intense form of co- operation. We'll be that much nearer the actual transition in 97. Obviously, the appointment of that team is going to be an extremely significant event in Hong Kong.

Question: There is still two years to go before the change of sovereignty, what is your comment on that? Because Mr Qian said that Hong Kong depends much on the civil servants. Is that a good sign...

Governor: I thought Mr Qian Qichen's speech at the weekend was a very encouraging one and a reassuring one for Hong Kong's civil servants and we'll look forward to seeing more words and more deeds of reassurance in the coming months I hope.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

New franchise for CMB for three years

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The Governor-in-Council today (Tuesday) approved the terms of a new franchise for the China Motor Bus Company Ltd (CMB) which conferred upon the company the right to operate a public bus service for three years from September 1, 1995.

A Government spokesman said the terms of the new franchise would remove a total of 14 routes from CMB's network and would require the bus company to provide more financial and operational information.

He stressed that it was in the overall interests of the travelling public to offer a new franchise to CMB.

"We believe that the reduced network will be more compatible with CMB's management capability and we aim to improve bus services by increasing competition gradually," he said.

The spokesman pointed out that a number of changes and several new provisions were included in the new franchise.

"New requirements for more information on CMB's bus services such as the number of additional journeys operated, the number of drivers allocated to each route and the working hours of drivers.

"There are also provisions requiring CMB to provide information on its procurement policies, its accounting principles and practices and transactions between CMB and any other members of the group comprising CMB," he said.

He emphasised that the new requirements would enable the Administration to obtain more information from CMB and monitor its services more effectively.

The 14 routes to be excised from CMB's network will be operated by Citybus from September 1 this year.

The spokesman explained that because of time constraints, it was not possible to conduct a public tender exercise.

"We are confident that Citybus will have the necessary buses and drivers to take on the additional routes which are mostly in the Southern District," he said.

The 14 routes are Nos 182, 103, 511,11, 73, 71, 592, 99, 260, 40M, 40, 7, 37 and 85.

Commenting on the effect of the reduced network on CMB's staff, the spokesman said: "We understand CMB still has a number of vacancies and we do not expect many CMB staff to be made redundant.

"As a fallback, we have asked Citybus to offer jobs to those CMB staff who may be affected."

The spokesman said since this was a major franchise straddling 1997, the Chinese side would be consulted.

The spokesman added the Governor-in-Council also approved in principle CMB's corporate restructuring on the understanding that a formal submission would be made to the Executive Council after detailed discussions between the Administration and CMB had been completed.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Two TV regulations to be repealed

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The Governor-in-Council has repealed Regulation 4 of the Television (Programmes) Regulations and Regulation 6 of the Commercial Television (Advertising) Regulations to make them more consistent with the Bill of Rights Ordinance.

The amendments also form part of Government's commitment to identify legislative provisions that might infringe press freedom and the right to freedom of expression.

A spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Tuesday) that under Regulation 4 of the Television (Programmes) Regulations, the programmes broadcast by the commercial and subscription television licensees should exclude material which is likely to offend against good taste and decency, mislead or alarm, encourage and incite crime, discredit the law or to serve the interest of any foreign political party.

However, the Television Ordinance already contains a similar requirement for the licensees not to broadcast certain material and the Telecommunication Ordinance also provides similar provisions to regulate sound broadcasting.

"There is therefore little justification in retaining the regulation on broadcasting policy grounds," the spokesman said.

Regulation 6 of the Commercial Television (Advertising) Regulations stipulates that no advertisement for any medical preparations shall be broadcast without the prior approval in writing of the Director of Health.

"There was also criticism that Regulation 6 was too broad as it did not define the scope of the Director of Health's discretion," the spokesman said.

"Both the Secretary for Health and Welfare and the Director of Health have agreed to the repeal of this regulation," he added.

The two amendment regulations will be submitted to the Legislative Council on July 19, in the form of a motion, for approval.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Jan-Mar 95 quarterly report on household survey on sale

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The report on the General Household Survey for January - March 1995 is now available.

It contains statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment for the quarter.

It also contains detailed analysis of the characteristics of members of the labour force, including their age and sex structure, educational attainment, activity status, occupation, industry, hours worked per week, monthly employment earnings as well as reason for unemployment and duration of unemployment for the unemployed.

Copies of the report at $32 each can be obtained from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Government is committed to press freedom

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A free press is vital to a free society, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said today (Tuesday).

Speaking at the Newspaper Society Annual Press Contest Awards Presentation Ceremony, the Governor said press freedom enabled the free exchange of ideas and information that nurtured business and the arts. It also strengthens the bonds of a community by shared discussion and increase of understanding.

Mr Patten said a free press was also one of the great interpreters between the people and their government.

He pointed out that the Government had demonstrated its commitment to a free press by gazetting a Bill last Friday (June 23) to amend the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance to provide better safeguards for journalistic material.

The promise for press freedom had also been made in the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, Mr Patten added.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Focus discussion on compulsory education

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Over 160 principals and teachers of primary and secondary schools will participate in a focus discussion session on the nine-year free and compulsory education on Saturday (July 1).

The discussion is organised by the Board of Education Sub-committee on Review of School Education which was set up to study the educational system with a view to identify areas of concern and to make recommendations to the Board on measures to further enhance the system.

At the discussion session, participants are encouraged to exchange views on the following areas:

* Aims, objectives and targets of nine-year free and compulsory education;
* Effectiveness of the existing system in achieving the aims, objectives and targets;
* Enforcement of nine-year compulsory education;
* Streaming at junior secondary level;
* Academic Aptitude tests and its synchronisation with the development of Target Oriented Curriculum; and
* Primary One admission and allocation of Secondary One places.

Free and compulsory education began in 1971 for children up to Primary Six and was extended to Secondary Three in 1979.

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Attention News Editors:

You are invited to send representatives to cover The focus discussion session to be held at the Lecture Theatre, Grantham Campus I, Hong Kong Institute of Education, Gascoigne Road, Kowloon from 2.30 pm to 5 pm on Saturday.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

JLG meeting to take place in London next month

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The thirty-third meeting of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group on Hong Kong will take place in London on July 4, 5 and 7. The British team will be led by the Senior Representative, Mr Hugh Davies.

The other members of the British team will be Mr Nicholas Ng (Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Hong Kong Government), Mr Alan Paul (Counsellor, Office of the British Senior Representative, Sino-British Joint Liaison Group), Mr Robert Peirce (Political Adviser, Hong Kong) and Mr Sherard Cowper-Coles (Head of Hong Kong Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Parade marks 75th anniversary of Royal Corps of Signals

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Over 140 men of the Queen's Gurkha Signals will mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals with a parade at Prince of Wales Barracks tomorrow (Wednesday) at which Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Major General Bryan Dutton, will be the inspecting officer.

The occasion will be a double celebration as the Queen's Gurkha Signals will also mark the Princess Royal Day. The Princess Royal was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps in 1977.

The anniversary parade is to be split into three parts. During the first, the ceremony of Kasam Khane will take place at which 12 new recruits to the Queen's Gurkha Signals will swear allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, Country and Regiment.

It will be followed by the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to nine recipients - three Royal Navy, five Queen's Gurkha Signals and one Hong Kong Military service Corps personnel.

Finally, Major General Bryan Dutton will present a United Nations medal and a commendation from the Joint Commander of Operation Hamden to Lance Corporal Tulasiraj Rai. LCpl Tulasi served in Bosnia on Operation Hamden as a Driver Lineman with the British 30th Signal Regiment.

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Attention News Editors:

You are invited to send representatives to cover the parade which starts at 7.15 am tomorrow. The parade is expected to last about 40 minutes.

Members of the press should arrive at the main gate of Prince of Wales Barracks in Central no later than 7 am where they will be met by JSPRS representatives and escorted to the parade arena.

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Summer Youth Programme to be launched

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The Summer Youth Programme (SYP) Committee will provide more than 12,300 activities for young people in Hong Kong to enjoy a meaningful and entertaining summer holiday.

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr Norman Lo, announcing details of this year's SYP at a press conference today (Tuesday), estimated that there would be over 1.23 million young people taking part in the programme.

Since SYP started in 1969, this is its 26th Anniversary.

This year, the SYP Committee and the District Co- ordinating committees will co-operate with participating government departments and organisations to provide a greater variety of programmes to young participants.

Mr Lo said the theme of this year's SYP was "Share the fun, Serve the community". The SYP Committee had encouraged participating organisations to organise social services activities to help young people serve the community through joining recreational activities.

"In order to attract more youngsters to take part in planning and promoting summer youth activities as voluntary workers, the Committee will continue to provide scholarships to those volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to these activities," Mr Lo said.

In the past 10 years, over 250 outstanding volunteers have been awarded this scholarship.

Mr Lo said: "The total expenditure of this year's Summer Youth Programme is $37.5 million. As for the sources of funding, apart from a limited revenue from nominal fees charged for taking part in activities, the bulk of our funds comes from the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, various government departments, district boards, and participating organisations."

To mark the opening of this year's programme, an opening ceremony cum variety show entitling "Swinging Summer" will be staged at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium on Saturday (July 1).

Some 3,500 participants will be invited to the opening ceremony which will be officiated by the acting Secretary for Home Affairs, Mrs Stella Hung.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Two lots of land up for auction

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The Lands Department will auction two lots of land on Hong Kong Island and in the New Territories tomorrow (Wednesday).

The public auction will begin at 2.30 pm in the Concert Hall of the City Hall.

The first lot, located in Shau Kei Wan Main Street East, Shau kei Wan, has an area of 1,296 square metres for non-industrial purposes.

Located in Area 30, Tai Po, the second lot has an area of 26,310 square metres for private residential use.

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Attention News Editors:

Your representatives are invited to cover the auction.

A press area will be designated. Photographers are advised to bring along telephoto lenses.

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Open forum for arts groups

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Members from the arts community wishing to have more information on the Guidelines for Representative Arts Organisations and for their nominees for membership of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC), which were issued on May 8, 1995 by the Recreation and Culture Branch, are welcome to attend an open forum to be held on Thursday (June 29).

The acting Deputy Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Ian Petersen, and the acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Raymond Tam, will be present to answer questions.

The forum will be held at 5 pm in the Conference Room of the Recreation and Culture Branch, 41st floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

As the venue can only accommodate about 30 people, those interested should contact Mr Benedict Wong at 2594 5622 to make reservations. Each organisation may only reserve up to two seats.

Note to Editors:

Media representatives covering the open forum are requested to send in their names to Ms Winnie Lo on 2810 3354 before Wednesday (June 28).

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

CS officiates at St John's topping off ceremony

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The acting Chief Secretary, Mr Michael Suen, today (Tuesday) officiated at the Topping Off Ceremony of the new Headquarters Building of the St John Council for Hong Kong.

Being one of the oldest voluntary agencies in Hong Kong, the St John Council for Hong Kong has served the local community by providing first aid and home nursing services during times of peace, civil unrest and war.

At present, St John has over 3,400 members and the number is growing.

Mr Suen said: "Through the Council's dedication and devotion, people in Hong Kong are able to enjoy a wide range of important services.

"The selfless devotion of all its members have earned St John the appreciation and respect of the community."

End/Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	27 JUN 95
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q526
Amount applied	HK$5,790 MN
Amount allotted	HK$1,500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.45 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.46 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 38 PCT
Average tender yield	5.47 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning JUL 3, 1995

Tender date	4 JUL 95	4 JUL 95
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q527	H568
Issue date	5 JUL 95	5 JUL 95
Maturity date	4 OCT 95	3 JAN 96
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK$1,500+300 MN	HK$800+160 MN

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change ($million)
Opening balance in the account	2,524	0930	+3
Closing balance in the account	2,049	1000	+3
Change attributable to :		1100	+3
Money market activity	Nil	1200	Nil
LAF today	-475	1500	Nil
		1600	Nil

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.3 *+0.0* 27.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

Terms	Yield
1 week	5.36
1 month	5.40
3 months	5.45
6 months	5.49
12 months	5.55

EF notes

Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
2 years	2705	6.40	101.15	5.83
3 years	3804	6.90	102.19	6.13
5 years	5006	6.60	99.66	6.79
5 years	M501	7.90	103.12	7.26

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - $10,713 million

Closed June 27, 1995

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