



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SHING MUN RIVER TO BE BOAT PARK  
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THE +DEAD+ SHING MUN RIVER IN SHA TIN WILL SPRING TO LIFE IN A FEW YEARS WHEN IT IS TURNED INTO A BOAT PARK.

THE RIVER IS AT PRESENT BEING DREDGED TO CLEAR IT OF ALL MUD AND RUBBISH TO GET IT FLOWING FREELY AGAIN.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE RIVER WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE A DEPTH OF 1.8 METRES, MAKING IT IDEAL FOR BOATING ACTIVITIES.

THE 4 000 METRE LONG RIVER, WHICH FLOWS THROUGH WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE CENTRE OF THE NEW TOWN, HAS AN OFFENSIVE SMELL AT PRESENT.

THIS IS CAUSED BY CHEMICALS BEING DUMPED INTO IT TOGETHER WITH REFUSE FROM PIGSTIES AND CHICKEN FARMS IN THE AREA.

A NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN SAID THE RIVER WAS REGARDED AS DEAD BECAUSE OF ITS PRESENT LOW WATER LEVEL.

HE SAID AFTER DREDGING AND CLEANING UP HAD BEEN COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, WORK WOULD START IMMEDIATELY ON PREPARING THE RIVER FOR ITS NEW ROLE.

A STRETCH OF THE RIVER BETWEEN CHE KUNG MIU AND THE NEW TOWN CENTRE AREA, ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES LONG AND 200 METRES WIDE, WILL ACCOMMODATE UP TO 2 000 PLEASURE BOATS FOR HIRE.

ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THIS SECTION, A BOATING CENTRE WILL BE BUILT WITH STORAGE FACILITIES.

OTHER STRETCHES WILL BE USED FOR ROWING COMPETITIONS AND SPORTS EVENTS, WHILE THE SIU LEK YUEN CHANNEL HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR CANOEING.

GRAND STANDS AND OTHER FACILITIES WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG THE BANKS OF THE REMAINING SECTION TO ALLOW FOR INTERNATIONAL RACES.

IT WAS HOPED THAT DRAGON BOAT COMPETITIONS WOULD BE HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SHA TIN IN 1982, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A WORKING PARTY ON THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERWAYS IN SHA TIN HAS BEEN SET UP TO EXAMINE HOW BEST THEY CAN BE USED.

LEGISLATION TO CONTROL THE USE OF THE RIVER IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PARTY WHICH CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ALONG THE RIVER BANKS WOULD BE TWO GREEN BELTS. THESE WOULD INCLUDE A MILE-LONG TOWN PARK ON THE NORTHERN BANK AND A FIVE MILE LONG TREE LINED PROMENADE STRETCHING FROM TAI WAI TO WU KAI SHA.

HE SAID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE RIVER CLEAR OF RUBBISH ONCE THE SPORTS CENTRE CAME INTO OPERATION.

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BETTER USE OF PRISON LABOUR

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THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT IS EXPANDING ITS WORKS UNIT TO HAVE A GROUP OF TECHNICAL STAFF TO OVERSEE MORE EXTENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF PRISON LABOUR IN CONSTRUCTION WORK.

THIS FOLLOWS THE RESULT OF A STUDY CARRIED OUT JOINTLY BY THE PRISONS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS WHICH INDICATED THAT MUCH OF THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORK AS WELL AS MINOR ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN THE PRISON INSTITUTIONS WERE SUITABLE FOR PRISON LABOUR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW APPROACH HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF GIVING REHABILITATIVE TRAINING TO THE PRISONERS AS WELL AS ACHIEVING GREATER SECURITY BY MINIMISING THE NEED FOR ADMITTING OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS INTO THE INSTITUTIONS.

HE ADDED: +IN FACT, THE USE OF PRISON LABOUR FOR SUCH WORK HAS BEEN A PRACTICE FOR MANY YEARS BUT HAS BEEN ON A MORE LIMITED SCALE THAN WE NOW ENVISAGE.+

THE TECHNICAL STAFF TAKEN ON INCLUDE A CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, TWO CLERKS OF WORKS AND FOUR ASSISTANT CLERKS OF WORKS WHO ARE ALL SECONDED FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

THE CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER, MR RODNEY ALLEN, HAS RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM BRITAIN TO TAKE UP HIS POST AS HEAD OF THE UNIT. HE WILL SHORTLY BE JOINED BY THE OTHERS.

MR ALLEN HAS WORKED FORMERLY WITH THE PWD ON ATTACHMENT FROM THE ROYAL ENGINEERS, FROM WHICH HE RECENTLY RETIRED AFTER 22 YEARS' SERVICE.

THE EXPANDED WORKS UNIT WILL SUPERVISE ALL CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORK ON SITE AND WILL LIAISE WITH CONTRACTORS EMPLOYED ON LARGER PROJECTS.

IN ADDITION, THE CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT, LIAISING WITH THE PWD ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS, AND GIVING ADVICE ON OTHER MATTERS.

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PROSECUTIONS AGAINST LABOUR LAW BREAKERS  
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THERE WERE IN APRIL 752 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR VIOLATING LABOUR LEGISLATION.

THE CASES — TAKEN OUT BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S PROSECUTIONS UNIT — RESULTED IN FINES TOTALLING \$498 700 BEING IMPOSED BY THE COURTS.

THE MAJORITY OF CASES WERE RELATED TO BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND VARIOUS REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE ORDINANCE, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

AMONG THEM, 335 CONCERNED BREACHES OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS AND THE FINES AMOUNTED TO \$312 900.

OF THESE 335 CASES, 211 (WITH \$170 200 IN FINES) WERE FOR BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 58 (WITH \$88 400 IN FINES) WERE FOR BREACHES OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

OFFENCES RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACCOUNTED FOR 388 CASES AND FINES TOTALLED \$160 900.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE CASES WERE THE RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH EXISTING LEGISLATION SAFEGUARDED EMPLOYEES AT WORK AND PROTECTED THE WELFARE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG WORKERS, IT TOOK MORE THAN LAWS TO STAMP OUT OFFENCES IN INDUSTRY, AND CO-OPERATION WAS NEEDED FROM ALL CONCERNED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

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REPAIRING COUNTRY PARK LOSS  
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COUNTRY PARKS STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ARE WORKING HARD IN THE HILLS ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE GOOD SOME OF THE LOSSES CAUSED BY INCONSIDERATE AND CARELESS PICNICKERS.

MORE THAN HALF A MILLION TREES WERE DAMAGED IN 417 FIRES INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS LAST WINTER. THE AREAS DEVASTATED COVERED SOME 3 000 HECTARES.

YEARS OF PAINSTAKING LABOUR WILL HAVE TO BE DONE IN ORDER THAT THE SCORCHED GROUND CAN TURN GREEN WITH TREES AGAIN.

IT WILL HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING — THE GERMINATION OF YOUNG TREES.

LIMITED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF SEEDLINGS AS WELL AS MANPOWER, ONLY 200 000 OF THEM WILL BE PLANTED THIS YEAR AT THE BURNT OUT AREAS. ANOTHER 100 000 SEEDLINGS WILL BE PLANTED ON HILLSIDES TO CONTROL EROSION AND FOR LANDSCAPING.

+WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT CATCHING UP WITH THE NUMBER OF TREES DAMAGED, BUT WE ARE DOING THE BEST UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TREE PLANTING WAS NOT A SIMPLE PROCEDURE OF MERELY THROWING HANDFULS OF SEEDS ON THE GROUND AND LEAVING THE REST TO NATURE.

+IT IS A TEDIOUS TASK INVOLVING PROLONGED PERIODS OF PREPARATION AND AFTERCARE,+ HE SAID.

THE SEEDS HAVE FIRST TO BE COLLECTED AND SOWN IN SEEDBEDS. WHEN THEY HAVE GERMINATED, THEY ARE TRANSPLANTED TO POLYTHENE TUBES OF SOIL AND ARE TENDED FOR 10 MONTHS TO ONE YEAR UNTIL THEY ARE HARDY ENOUGH TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE NURSERY AND PLANTED IN THE WILD.

EVERY YEAR, STARTING IN JANUARY, WORKERS CARRYING HEAVY PICKS AND SPADES TRUDGE UP THE HILLS AND DIG PITS IN PREPARATION FOR THE PLANTING SEASON. IN THE PAST, THE PITS WERE EVENLY SPACED IN ROWS. THEY ARE NOW ARRANGED ASYMMETRICALLY TO GIVE THE WOODLAND A MORE NATURAL APPEARANCE.

SHORTLY BEFORE THE RAINS COME, THE SEEDLINGS ARE PLACED IN THESE PITS ONE AT A TIME WITH A HELPING OF FERTILIZERS TO START THEM ON THEIR NEW LIFE. THEREAFTER, FERTILIZERS ARE APPLIED AT REGULAR INTERVALS. NEXT COMES A LONG PERIOD OF TENDING BEFORE THEY GROW TO THEIR FULL HEIGHT - IF THEY ARE NOT BURNT DOWN BEFORE THIS.

+CARE IS ALSO TAKEN IN THE SELECTION OF TREES FOR PLANTING. WE ARE TURNING MORE AND MORE TO NATIVE SPECIES WHICH BLEND IN WITH THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FAR MORE NATURALLY THAN THOSE ORIGINATING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANOTHER MEASURE TO IMPROVE THE NATURAL LOOK OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE IS THE INTRODUCTION OF GREEN FIREBREAKS IN PLACE OF THE TRADITIONAL BARE ONES.

THESE ARE FORMED BY PLANTING FIRE-RESISTANT SPECIES OF VEGETATION CLOSELY TOGETHER TO FORM A BELT. IT TAKES MUCH LONGER TO BURN THROUGH AND SO GIVES THE FIREFIGHTERS TIME TO STOP THE FIRE FROM SPREADING. THEY ARE ATTRACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE AND DO NOT BRING ABOUT EROSION PROBLEMS.

+EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS IS BEING EXPLORED AND EVERY EFFORT IS MADE BY OUR STAFF TO PRESERVE THE CHARM AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+HOWEVER, WE MUST HAVE THE BACKING OF A CARING PUBLIC WHO HAVE RESPECT FOR THE COUNTRY CODE AND FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT,+ HE STRESSED.

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ORDERS-ON-HAND STATISTICS  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED ORDERS-ON-HAND STATISTICS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>INDUSTRY GROUP</u>	<u>ORDERS-ON-HAND IN TERMS OF MONTHS</u>	
	<u>FEB 1980</u>	<u>MARCH 1980</u>
WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR	5.0	5.1
TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL	2.8	3.2
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	4.5	4.7
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	4.7	4.6
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC MACHINERY, APPARATUS, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES	5.0	5.1
OTHERS	4.0	4.0
ALL MANUFACTURING	4.5	4.6

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE STATISTICS WERE BASED ON AN UPDATED AND ENLARGED PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SELECTED BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979.

+AS THE PANEL IS NOT A SCIENTIFICALLY DESIGNED SAMPLE, RESULTS OBTAINED WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE COMPANIES INCLUDED IN THE PANEL.

+IT IS HOPED HOWEVER THAT THEY WILL GENERALLY INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

THE SURVEY, WHICH IS CONDUCTED MONTHLY, ALSO ASKS QUESTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL AND COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS BESIDES MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR MARCH 1980 WILL SHORTLY BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, AT \$1 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, AT TEL. 5-274203.

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### TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES POPULAR WITH EMPLOYERS

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MOST OF THE GRADUATES FROM THE FOUR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES LAST YEAR HAVE FOUND JOBS BY EARLY OCTOBER, ACCORDING TO A RECENT SURVEY BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED AMONG MORE THAN 1 000 GRADUATES, AND OF THE 950 WHO SUBMITTED RETURNS, 77 PER CENT WERE WORKING BY THEN, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DIVISION SAID.

ANOTHER 17.2 PER CENT OF THE GRADUATES WERE PURSUING FURTHER FULL-TIME STUDIES, HE ADDED.

THE GRADUATES HAD ATTENDED FULL-TIME TECHNICIAN OR CRAFT LEVEL COURSES AT THE MORRISON HILL, KWAI CHUNG, KWUN TONG OR HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE AIM OF THE SURVEY WAS TO FIND OUT THEIR EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, AND TO ASSESS THE DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE OF FULL-TIME TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES BY INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

+ABOUT 13.8 PER CENT OF THE TECHNICIAN GRADUATES AND 55.7 PER CENT OF THE CRAFT GRADUATES JOINED THE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AVERAGE MONTHLY SALARIES OF THE GRADUATES RANGED FROM \$755 TO \$1 006 FOR THOSE WHO TOOK COMMERCIAL COURSES, AND FROM \$704 TO \$1 294 FOR THOSE WHO STUDIED TECHNICAL SUBJECTS.

+PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CIRCULARS AND TEACHERS ARE FOUND TO BE THE CHIEF SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE RETURNS, 88.5 PER CENT OF THE EMPLOYED GRADUATES CONTINUED TO UNDERTAKE SOME FORM OF PART-TIME STUDY, MAINLY IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC.

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SHEUNG WAN GETS A NEW FIRE STATION

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A NEW DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION WILL BE BUILT IN SHEUNG WAN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FIRE COVER FOR THE DENSELY POPULATED AREA.

A PWD SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE STATION WOULD OCCUPY A 3 900 SQUARE METRE SITE ON THE RECLAMATION NEAR THE MACAU FERRY PIER.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JULY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE THREE-STOREY STATION WILL BE OF STANDARD DESIGN. IT WILL HAVE ROOM FOR 10 FIRE APPLIANCES AND ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR DUTY AND LECTURE ROOMS, OFFICES, BARRACK ACCOMMODATION FOR ESSENTIAL OPERATIONAL STAFF, DINING AND RECREATIONAL AREAS, A DRILL YARD AND A DRILL TOWER.

A FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS WILL BE BUILT ON THE SAME SITE AND WILL BE A TWO-STOREY BUILDING WITH OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND QUARTERS FOR THE SENIOR OFFICERS ON DUTY.

TENDERS FOR THE WORK ARE BEING INVITED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

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SALT WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG, INCLUDING THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL, WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR 26 HOURS FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (MAY 20) TO 12 NOON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

DURING THIS PERIOD THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT ESSENTIAL ENGINEERING WORKS.

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