



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

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New Student Health Service

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The Department of Health announces today (Thursday) the launching of a new Student Health Service which provides a comprehensive range of promotive and preventive health services to students.

Introducing the new service at a press conference, the department's Consultant of Student Health Service, Dr Tse Lai-yin, said all primary day school students could now enrol in the service through their schools.

Dr Tse said: "The Student Health Service is an integrated service with emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and continuity of care.

"The new service, which is free of charge, aims to promote self-reliance and self-care in the maintenance of health through adoption of healthy life-styles.

"The service will also help prevent ill health and detect diseases early through regular health screenings and physical examinations," she said.

On the scope of the service, Dr Tse said: "Each enrolled student will be given an annual appointment to attend a Student Health Service Centre for health programmes which include physical examination, health screening, individual counselling and health education.

"These programmes will identify health problems such as obesity, visual defect and mental stress.

"Students found to have health problems will be referred to the Special Assessment Centre or appropriate medical specialities for further assessment and follow-up," Dr Tse added.

Dr Tse explained that all primary day school students are eligible to join the service and the enrolment exercise will be carried out on an annual basis at the beginning of each school year with assistance from schools.

Letters to parents inviting primary day school students to enrol in the current school year have been sent through schools.

The new service is a centre-based programme. There are seven Student Health Service Centres and one Special Assessment Centre set up at the initial stage.

The Student Health Service will be extended to secondary day school students in September 1996. Upon full implementation, a total of 12 centres and two special assessment centres will be established to provide services for some 900,000 primary and secondary school students.

The introduction of the service to replace the School Medical Service is one of the recommendations of the Working Party on Primary Health Care in 1990 following a review of the prevailing provision of health and medical services for school children.

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Ferry piers in Central relocated

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Passenger ferry facilities in Central will be improved with the completion of another new ferry pier later this month, members of the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Central and Western District Board were told.

At a meeting of the Committee today (Thursday), Chief Engineer (Hong Kong Island Division) of the Territory Development Department, Mr Peter So, said the Tuen Mun ferry and hoverferry service and the Tai O ferry service would be relocated to the new pier No. 5 upon its completion in late September.

"After that, we will then be able to relocate in early October the Lamma ferry service from its current temporary pier near Rumsey Street permanently to the eastern berth of pier No. 6," he said.

Pier No. 5 is one of the six new permanent piers being developed under the Central Reclamation Phase I project, part of the Airport Core Programme (ACP).

The project comprises the reclamation of 20 hectares of land between the Macau Ferry Terminal and the General Post Office Building for the expansion of the Central business area as well as the construction of the Airport Railway's Hong Kong Station.

It also includes reprovisioning of ferry piers along the Central waterfront to ensure continuation of ferry services throughout the reclamation works.

Mr So said more facilities for the new piers were completed and opened to the public last month.

"These include the permanent covered walkway along the promenade and designated lay-bys for taxis, private cars and goods vehicles to set down and pick up their passengers and goods.

"A dual two-lane carriageway linking the new piers with Harbour View Street, together with pedestrian crossings and a temporary covered walkway, will be completed this month prior to the opening of pier No. 5," he said.

On public transport, members were told that the bus terminus adjacent to the new piers was now served by six China Motor Bus routes (Nos. 3A, 4, 25, 91, 94 and 500) and five Citybus routes (Nos. 7, 11, 37, 71 and 511).

The piers are also served by two Green Minibus Bus (GMB) routes (Nos. 54 and 55). An additional new GMB route is being planned by the Transport Department to connect the new piers with Wan Chai north.

"We believe these facilities will be able to serve ferry passengers using the new ferry piers," said Mr So.

"Members of the public will be fully informed of the ferry relocation arrangements and leaflets and notices will be issued to ferry passengers.

"Directional signs will also be put up to guide motorists and ferry passengers," he added.

The relocation of ferry piers in Central will also be discussed by the Island District Board Traffic and Transport Committee at its meeting on September 14.

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Volume and price movements of external trade in June

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In the first six months of 1995, the volume of re-exports increased by 17% over the same period last year, while the volume of domestic exports increased by 6.7%, according to the statistics released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Taking re-exports and domestic exports together, the volume of total exports increased by 15%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 17% in volume.

The growth in the volume of trade is derived from the growth in trade values with the effect of price changes being discounted.

As regards price changes over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 3.7% and 2.4% respectively. Import prices increased by 5.9%.

Price changes are reflected by changes in unit value indices, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, based on specific price data.

The terms of trade index, defined as the ratio of total export price index to import price index, decreased by 2.4% in the first six months of 1995 over the same period last year.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, the volume of re-exports increased by 13%, while that of domestic exports increased by 2.4%. Taken together, the volume of total exports increased by 11%. Meanwhile, the volume of imports grew by 9.1%.

Over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 4.4% and 2.3% respectively. Import prices increased by 6.9%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of re-exports by end-use category are shown in Table 1.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, the volume of re-exports of all end-use categories recorded increases of various magnitudes: fuels (+65%), capital goods (+23%), foodstuffs (+18%), raw materials and semi-manufactures (+18%), and consumer goods (+5.8%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases in the prices of re-exports were noted of all end-use categories: raw materials and semi-manufactures (+10%), consumer goods (+2.8%), fuels (+2.8%), foodstuffs (+1.7%), and capital goods (+0.7%).

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of domestic exports by principal commodity group are shown in Table 2.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, commodity groups which recorded increases in volume of domestic exports included radios of all kinds (+59%); and metal ores and scrap (+36%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of footwear and textile yarn and thread decreased by 74% and 22% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded increases in domestic export prices included textile made-ups and related articles (+11%); and metal ores and scrap (+6%).

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of imports by end-use category are shown in Table 3.

The import volume of foodstuffs increased by 16% in June 1995 compared with June 1994.

Significant increases in the import volume were noted of sugar; and meat and meat preparations. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of live poultry; and tea and coffee.

Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods increased by 3.4%.

Significant increases in import volume were recorded in miscellaneous made-up articles of textile materials; and cameras, flashlight apparatus and supplies for photography. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of passenger motor cars and tobacco manufactures.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 18% in June 1995 compared with June 1994.

Significant increases in import volume were noted of base metal other than iron and steel; and wood, lumber and cork. However, the import volume of silk fabrics; and watch and clock movements, cases and parts declined.

Imports of fuels decreased by 48% in volume in June 1995 compared with June 1994.

As regards capital goods, the import volume increased by 14% in June 1995 over June 1994.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of office machines; and scientific, medical, optical, measuring, and controlling instruments and apparatus. The import volume of transport equipment however declined.

Comparing June 1995 with June 1994, the import prices of all end-use categories increased : raw materials and semi-manufactures (+10%), capital goods (+6.4%), foodstuffs (+5.9%), consumer goods (+4.4%), and fuels (+4.4%).

Details of the above statistics are published in the June 1995 issue of the "Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers".

The report will be on sale around September 11 at \$14 per copy at either (i) the Government Publications Centre on the ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway; or (ii) the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department at 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, Tel 2598 8194; and enquiries on trade indices to the Census and Statistics Department, Tel 2582 4918.

Table 1 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JUN 1995 with JUN 1994			Comparing JAN-JUN 1995 with JAN-JUN 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	19.3	1.7	18.4	23.8	2.4	22.8
Consumer goods	8.6	2.8	5.8	10.9	2.2	9.1
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	29.4	10.0	17.8	33.0	9.1	21.7
Fuels	74.7	2.8	65.0	28.4	4.8	23.1
Capital goods	19.1	0.7	23.0	27.0	0.2	30.2
ALL COMMODITIES	16.9	4.4	13.0	20.3	3.7	16.8

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing JUN 1995 with JUN 1994			Comparing JAN-JUN 1995 with JAN-JUN 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	3.6	1.8	2.2	7.8	1.7	6.2
Textile fabrics	3.4	5.0	-1.3	-2.1	4.8	-6.7
Textile yarn and thread	-18.5	4.1	-21.8	-4.1	2.1	-6.9
Textile made-ups and related articles	39.9	11.0	22.6	24.4	13.7	8.4
Radios of all kinds	55.0	2.2	59.3	-1.9	0.7	5.3
Electronic components	18.3	3.8	16.4	27.8	4.2	25.3
Footwear	-70.7	3.0	-74.2	-54.9	4.0	-57.9
Metal manufactures	13.0	3.8	8.5	8.6	2.5	6.6
Metal ores and scrap	39.7	6.0	36.4	40.7	6.6	31.2
Watches and clocks	-10.6	1.7	-13.3	9.8	2.4	5.9
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-4.5	0.3	-3.8	-4.4	-3.1	-0.5
Domestic electrical appliances	-13.8	0.5	-14.8	-13.5	0.9	-14.1
ALL COMMODITIES	4.6	2.3	2.4	9.5	2.4	6.7

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JUN 1995 with JUN 1994			Comparing JAN-JUN 1995 with JAN-JUN 1994		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	22.3	5.9	15.7	21.6	4.9	16.1
Consumer goods	7.5	4.4	3.4	13.6	4.3	9.6
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	29.6	10.2	18.2	32.6	9.2	21.3
Fuels	-44.3	4.4	-48.0	2.5	1.6	-0.9
Capital goods	19.0	6.4	14.1	34.5	4.9	29.3
ALL COMMODITIES	16.4	6.9	9.1	24.2	5.9	17.2

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Platforms in Braille available for the blind

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Platforms of candidates for the Legislative Council elections are now available in Braille to help blind electors to get to know the candidates.

A spokesman for the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) said today (Thursday) a total of 30 sets of platforms with Braille text had been produced and were available for loan from district offices or the following voluntary organisations:

- * Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong;
- * Society for the Blind; and
- * Hong Kong Association of the Blind.

In addition to platforms, copies of a leaflet in Braille and cassette tapes introducing the main features of the LegCo elections are also obtainable from:

- * Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service Shek Kip Mei Lutheran Centre for the Blind;
- * Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong;
- * Hong Kong Society for the Blind;
- * Ebenezer School and Home for the Blind;
- * Hong Kong Federation of the Blind; and
- * Pentecostal Holiness Church Ling Kwong Bradbury Centre for the Blind.

The spokesman said blind electors and those who could not read might visit district offices to listen to the tapes.

They may also call the REO hotline 2891 1400 to listen to recorded messages on candidates' personal particulars and platforms. Meanwhile, candidates' data have also been included onto an internet service, the InterServe.

The internet home page location is:

<http://www.interserve.com.hk.elect95/main.html>

Enquiries on the data may be directed to the Registration and Electoral Office via electronic mail address: reg-electoffice@interserve.com.hk

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Reminder on handling problem students

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With the new school year under way, the Education Department has re-issued its circular on handling problem students, in particular drawing the attention of schools to its guidelines regarding the expulsion of students and suspension from class.

The department also noted a growing concern over practices by some schools in advising pupils to leave school voluntarily as an alternative to expulsion.

"The Education Department has critically examined the present situation and is of the view that such advice on 'voluntary' withdrawal is educationally undesirable, and defeats the purposes of providing schools with various resources to promote education for all abilities and to provide free and compulsory education opportunities for all children, including problem children, up to junior secondary level," a spokesman said.

"It is also noted that some parents who have been advised to withdraw their children from schools may not realise that they have the right to refuse such advice."

The spokesman said the Director of Education had clear authority to direct schools to admit students to fill vacant places.

"Schools should provide maximum possible guidance and counselling services to students with learning and behaviour problems. They should not oblige their students to leave school or withdraw 'voluntarily'."

The spokesman said schools should not expel students from school solely on the ground that they were academically weak.

Neither should they suspend students from school except under very special circumstances.

"The student in question should be allowed to continue normal schooling, pending the outcome of any investigation into the cause of his misbehaviour by the school and, if necessary, he should be referred for professional advice," the spokesman said.

Schools may suspend problem students from class for a short period of time in order to adjust their behaviour. Students on suspension from class, however, should receive proper supervision and counselling within the school premises; the spokesman said.

The spokesman encouraged schools to adopt the Whole School Approach to Guidance and Discipline, under which all teachers in a school participate actively in assisting students to resolve their problems. Students with more serious problems should be referred to student guidance teachers or school social workers as appropriate for assistance.

Schools should familiarise themselves with various feasible ways of handling problem students who might require professional advice through formal and informal communication with one another and with external services agencies, including the Education Department's Services Division.

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Traffic situation in Tuen Mun/Yuen Long improving

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Sheung Shui-bound traffic from Yuen Long to Sheung Shui has improved following the opening of an additional traffic lane on Sheung Shui-bound carriageway of San Tin Highway from Fairview Park Interchange to Shek Wu Wai at 7.30 am this (Thursday) morning, a Transport Department spokesman said.

This will provide a three-lane Sheung Shui-bound carriageway on the New Territories Circular Road from Fairview Park Interchange.

At the same time, a temporary traffic lane, which is converted from a cycle track, from Au Tau to Fung Kat Heung has also contributed to the improved traffic situation in Yuen Long area.

Travelling time from Yuen Long to Sheung Shui has been reduced by 10 minutes as experienced by KMB buses this morning.

Traffic in Tuen Mun Town Centre is congested this morning but the situation has improved since 9.30 am.

Traffic in both directions of Tuen Mun Road is satisfactory while traffic on Castle Peak Road remains heavy but slow moving.

This morning's travelling times on Tuen Mun Road as reflected by KMB 60M are as follows:

46-97 minutes for Tsuen Wan bound

26-54 minutes for Tuen Mun bound

Up to 9 am, a total of 71,100 passengers had been carried by buses and ferries from Tuen Mun to the urban areas with breakdowns below:

1.	ferries to Central	5,100
2.	ferries to Tsuen Wan	1,000
3.	buses from Tuen Mun	65,000

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Smooth traffic in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long

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Traffic is generally smooth in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long today (Thursday), a Transport Department spokesman said.

Vehicular queues in Tuen Mun Town Centre and Castle Peak Road have been reducing since 2 pm this afternoon.

The improved traffic situation was attributed to a number of combined efforts including the opening of a temporary traffic lane from Au Tau roundabout to Fung Kat Heung and an additional traffic lane from Fairview Park Interchange to Shek Wu Wai on the Sheung Shui-bound carriageway of San Tin Highway.

Police assistance and patrol also play an important role in making the traffic moving.

The existing special transport arrangements will continue tomorrow (Friday) for Tuen Mun and Yuen Long residents.

The travelling times on Tuen Mun Road as reflected by KMB 60M in the morning and evening peak hours are:

Tuen Mun bound	26 - 75 minutes
Tsuen Wan bound	30 - 97 minutes

The number of bus and ferry passengers to and from Tuen Mun during the morning and evening peak hours are 71,100 and 57,200 respectively with breakdowns below:

	Morning Peak Hours (6 am to 9 am)	Evening Peak Hours (5 pm to 8 pm)
* ferries to Central	5,100	
* ferries to Tsuen Wan	1,000	
* buses to Tsuen Wan	65,000	
* ferries from Central		4,500
* ferries from Tsuen Wan		2,700
* buses to Tuen Mun		50,000
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	71,100	57,200

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Proposals to alter the Valuation Lists

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The Rating and Valuation Department has now dealt with all proposals, received in April and May this year, to alter the rateable values in the Valuation Lists.

A spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department urged any ratepayer who had not yet received a notice of decision in response to his proposal to immediately contact the department on tel 2805 7666.

The spokesman added that if a rateable value had been altered as a result of a proposal, the amendment to the rateable value and any adjustment to the rates payable will be effective from April 1 this year. Such adjustment, if any, will be made in the rates demands as soon as possible.

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Poll cards sent to electors

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The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has issued poll cards to all electors informing them about the Legislative Council elections to be held on September 17 (Sunday).

Electors who have not received poll cards by now are requested to contact the REO on 2827 1122.

An REO spokesman said today (Thursday) the card also included such information as the polling hours and the polling station where an elector is to cast his vote.

"While it is not imperative for a voter to bring along the poll card to the polling station, it will certainly facilitate checking their identities and avoid delay if they do so," the spokesman said.

But he added that electors must bring along their Hong Kong identity card when they go to the poll.

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Prestige Annual Stamp Album soon on sale

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The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Thursday) that the 1994 Prestige Annual Stamp Album will be on sale on September 12 at the following seven philatelic offices:

- * General Post Office
- * Beaconsfield House Post Office
- * Peak Post Office
- * Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
- * Granville Road Post Office
- * Sha Tin Central Post Office
- * Tsuen Wan Post Office

The Album, at \$220, is the first of its kind introduced by the Hong Kong Post Office as a prestige philatelic product for collectors.

"It is a complete collection of all the special stamps and definitive stamp sheetlets issued in 1994," Miss Law said.

"It also reproduces all the special postmarks and cachets used in connection with the stamp issues in the year."

Another special feature of the Album is that it contains over 40 attractive colour photographs and illustrations concerning the theme of each special stamp issued with descriptions. Furthermore, it records two major events organised by the Hong Kong Post Office - the successful Hong Kong '94 Stamp Exhibition and the Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrations.

The Album consists of a book and a separate package of one set each of the following special stamps and stamp sheetlets issued in 1994 to be inserted into the relevant page in the book by the collector:

- * Year of the Dog
- * 150th Anniversary of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force
- * Traditional Chinese Festivals
- * Commonwealth Games
- * Dr James Legge 1815 - 1897
- * Hong Kong Corals
- * Hong Kong Classics Series Nos. 3, 4 & 5 (Stamp sheetlets printed on Crown Agents watermarked paper)
- * Definitive Stamp Sheetlets Nos. 8&9

The total face value of the postage stamps is \$101.50.

Miss Law said: "The Album is ideal both as a gift and for personal collection. A restriction of not more than two Albums per customer will be imposed on September 12. No Advance Order Service or Hand-back Service will be provided."

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Souvenirs to promote LegCo elections

The Government has prepared attractive souvenirs to promote the coming Legislative Council Elections which will fall on September 17.

They include coffee mugs, metallic bookmarks, and memo pads. Promotional messages and election logo were printed on these items to appeal to the public to cast vote.

These souvenirs are being distributed to members of the public participating in district events and activities organised by the press, Home Affairs Department and Government Information Services.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,711	0930	-510
Closing balance in the account	1,703	1000	-510
Change attributable to :		1100	-510
Money market activity	-508	1200	-508
LAF today	+500	1500	-508
		1600	-508

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.3 *-0.1* 7.9.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.95	2 years	2708	6.06	100.10	6.09
1 month	5.88	3 years	3807	6.16	99.66	6.39
3 months	5.85	5 years	5006	6.60	98.88	6.99
6 months	5.87	5 years	M501	7.90	102.05	7.51
12 months	5.88					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$12,085 million

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