



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1994

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HK DRAGON BOAT RACING TAKES TO USA WATERS

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HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT RACING IS SPREADING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ALMOST AS QUICKLY AS A DRAGON BOAT ROWING TEAM CAN PLY THE WATER.

FOURTEEN TEAMS ARE GLIDING ACROSS FORT POINT CHANNEL IN MASSACHUSETTS TODAY (SATURDAY) TO COMPETE IN EXCITING HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT RACES.

THE WINNING TEAM WILL BE REPRESENTING BOSTON TO RACE IN THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES IN NEW YORK, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 21) ON THE HUDSON RIVER IN NEW YORK CITY.

THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE AND HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK AND SPONSORED BY HONGKONG BANK.

THE WINNER OF THE NEW YORK CHAMPIONSHIP RACE WILL BE FLOWN TO HONG KONG BY UNITED AIRLINES, THE OFFICIAL RACE CARRIER, TO COMPETE IN THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL RACES IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

CEREMONIES FOR THE DRAGON BOAT RACES IN BOSTON WILL BEGIN AT NOON WITH AN EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY, FOLLOWED BY A PARADE LED BY A LION DANCE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK, MR ALEX FONG, IS INVITED AS AN OFFICIATING GUEST IN TODAY'S EVENT.

TEAMS FROM BOSTON WILL RACE ON FOUR AUTHENTIC 39-FOOT HONG KONG DRAGON BOATS, SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK INC, OVER A 500-METRE COURSE ON FORT POINT CHANNEL ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

THE BOSTON RACE IS THE SECOND LEG OF A THREE-CITY TOURNAMENT THAT CULMINATES IN THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT CHAMPIONSHIP RACES IN NEW YORK. THE FIRST RACE WAS WON BY THE U.S. DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION IN PHILADELPHIA ON MAY 15.

ON AUGUST 13 AND 14 (SATURDAY AND SUNDAY), THE ALL NEW YORK CHAMPIONSHIP HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT RACE WILL BE HELD TO SELECT COMPETITORS FOR THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP RACE THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY ON THE HUDSON RIVER IN LOWER MANHATTAN OF BATTERY PARK CITY.

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SPEEDPOST SERVICE GOES TO FIVE MORE COUNTRIES

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RECIPROCAL SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO RUSSIA, POLAND, NAURU, LAOS AND MALDIVES FROM NEXT MONDAY (JUNE 20).

THIS WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS SERVED BY SPEEDPOST TO 67, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID.

THE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY OF POLAND AND NAURU AND WILL SERVE THE CAPITALS AND MAJOR CITIES OF RUSSIA, LAOS AND MALDIVES.

THE POSTAGE RATES AND DELIVERY STANDARDS ARE:

	RUSSIA	POLAND	NAURU	LAOS	MALDIVES
POSTAGE					
- NOT OVER 250G	\$130	\$145	\$85	\$95	\$115
- NOT OVER 500G	\$185	\$175	\$90	\$110	\$135
- EACH ADDITIONAL 500G	\$55	\$35	\$45	\$20	\$20
- KILOPAK RATE	\$230	\$200	\$125	\$120	\$145
DELIVERY SCHEDULE					
	GENERALLY SECOND DAY AFTER POSTING	GENERALLY SECOND DAY AFTER POSTING	GENERALLY SECOND TO THIRD DAY AFTER POSTING	NEXT TO SECOND DAY AFTER POSTING	GENERALLY NEXT DAY AFTER POSTING

"SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS FAST AND RELIABLE FOR SENDING DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE," MR PAGLIARI SAID.

"SPEEDPOST ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED AT 37 STRATEGICALLY LOCATED POST OFFICES," HE ADDED.

CUSTOMERS WHO REGULARLY SEND SPEEDPOST ITEMS MAY APPLY FOR PICK-UP SERVICE.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT SPEEDPOST SERVICE FOR THE FIVE COUNTRIES CAN BE MADE OF THE POSTAL MARKETING DIVISION ON TEL 9221 2277.

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HANDBOOK ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PUBLISHED

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED A HANDBOOK TO ENABLE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) CUSTOMERS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS.

IT SETS OUT IN DETAIL THEIR RIGHTS, COVERING THE TYPES AND LEVELS OF GRANTS, COMPLAINT AND APPEAL PROCEDURES AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION.

"THE CSSA SCHEME PROVIDES CASH ASSISTANCE TO BRING THE INCOME OF NEEDY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES UP TO A PRESCRIBED LEVEL WHERE BASIC AND ESSENTIAL NEEDS CAN BE MET," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

"WE HOPE THAT THE PRODUCTION OF THE HANDBOOK WILL HELP US PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TO OUR CSSA CUSTOMERS.

"IT IS ALSO AIMED TO ACHIEVE GREATER TRANSPARENCY ON THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, A TARGET THAT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN OUR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PERFORMANCE PLEDGE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COPIES OF THE HANDBOOK, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ARE NOW PLACED AT THE RECEPTION COUNTERS OF ALL 32 SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY. A NOTICE IS ALSO DISPLAYED CONSPICUOUSLY AT THE COUNTERS REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE HANDBOOK.

"FIELD UNIT STAFF WILL INFORM THEIR CSSA CUSTOMERS ABOUT THE HANDBOOK THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS WITH THEM," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COPIES ARE ALSO PLACED AT ALL SERVICE UNITS OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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HOT AND DRY IN MAY

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THE WEATHER LAST MONTH WAS ON THE WHOLE HOT AND DRY, A MONTHLY REPORT RELEASED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SAID.

THERE WAS A SPELL OF SUNNY DAYS IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE MONTH. WITH MORE SUNSHINE THAN NORMAL, THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 27.4 DEGREES RANKED THE FOURTH HIGHEST FOR MAY.

THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF THE MONTH AVERAGED 78 PER CENT WHICH IS THE FOURTH LOWEST FOR MAY.

THE DRIER CONDITION REFLECTED ALSO IN THE MONTHLY RAINFALL. ONLY 183.7 MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WHICH WAS ABOUT 58 PER CENT OF THE MAY NORMAL OF 316.7 MILLIMETRES.

MOST OF THE RAIN WAS DUE TO A MONSOON TROUGH WHICH AFFECTED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE MONTH.

/RAINFALL IN

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RAINFALL IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS AMOUNTED TO 266.7 MILLIMETRES, 57 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 616.5 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE MONTH STARTED WITH MAINLY FINE AND WARM WEATHER. HOWEVER, WITH THE MOVING IN OF A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FROM GUANGDONG, THE WEATHER BECAME UNSETTLED ON MAY 3 WITH WIDESPREAD HEAVY RAIN AND INTENSE THUNDERSTORMS.

DAILY RAINFALL OF OVER 80 MILLIMETRES FELL IN THE URBAN AREAS. THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR OCCURRED IN THE RUSH HOURS OF THE MORNING.

MORE THAN 60 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED WITHIN ONE HOUR AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HEADQUARTERS BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9 AM.

EIGHTY-THREE FLOODING REPORTS WERE RECEIVED OVER THE TERRITORY. THE PEAK TRAM SERVICE WAS DISRUPTED FOR ONE-AND-A-HALF HOUR BECAUSE OF A FALLEN TREE BLOCKING THE TRACK NEAR THE MACDONNELL ROAD STATION.

THE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE LINGERED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA COAST AND THE WEATHER STAYED OVERCAST WITH RAIN AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS ON MAY 4.

FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THE TROUGH, RAIN EASED OFF THAT EVENING.

THE ARRIVAL OF A RELATIVELY COOL AND DRY NORTHERLY AIRSTREAM BEHIND THE TROUGH BROUGHT THE TEMPERATURE DOWN TO THE MONTH'S LOWEST OF 21.1 DEGREES EARLY ON MAY 5.

THE DRY AIR CLEARED THE CLOUDS AND THE DAY BECAME SUNNY. THE COOLER CONTINENTAL AIRSTREAM DID NOT LAST LONG AND WAS GRADUALLY REPLACED BY A MARITIME AIRFLOW.

TEMPERATURES ROSE STEADILY IN THE NEXT FIVE DAYS. APART FROM A FINE DAY ON MAY 8, THE WEATHER DURING THESE FEW DAYS WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY WITH ISOLATED SHOWERS.

DISTURBED WEATHER RETURNED TO THE TERRITORY ON MAY 11 AS A RESULT OF THE ARRIVAL OF A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE TO THE SOUTH CHINA COAST.

HEAVY THUNDERY SHOWERS DEVELOPED OVER THE HONG KONG ISLAND WHERE MORE THAN 50 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED.

WEATHER STARTED TO IMPROVE ON MAY 12 AND TURNED FINE ON MAY 13 AND 14.

THE APPROACH OF ANOTHER TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE AGAIN BROUGHT UNSETTLED WEATHER WITH THUNDERY SHOWERS ON MAY 15. THE TROUGH SOON WEAKENED AND THE WEATHER TURNED FINE ON THE NEXT DAY.

UNDER A BRILLIANTLY SUNNY SKY, TEMPERATURES CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 32.9 DEGREES IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE WEATHER REMAINED FINE THE FOLLOWING MORNING BUT BECAME VERY UNSTABLE IN THE AFTERNOON.

/SEVEN SQUALLS

SEVERE SQUALLS DEVELOPED AND SWEEPED FROM WEST TO EAST ACROSS THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. THERE WERE REPORTS OF A SHORT-LIVED SMALL TORNADO IN THE FANLING AREA.

A PROLONGED SPELL OF FINE AND HOT WEATHER APART FROM PASSING SHOWERS PREVAILED FROM MAY 18 TO 27.

WEATHER STARTED TO DETERIORATE AS THE FRESH EASTERLY WINDS REACHED THE TERRITORY IN THE EVENING OF MAY 27.

HEAVY RAIN FELL IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY WHERE ALMOST 80 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL WERE RECORDED AT CAPE D'AGUILAR ON MAY 28.

DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH, THE WEATHER REMAINED UNSETTLED WITH HEAVY SHOWERS.

THERE WERE TWO TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN MAY 1994.

NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED IN THE MONTH AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

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 ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN MAY 1994

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
FLOOD WARNINGS	MAY 3 0830 - MAY 3 1000
	MAY 30 1515 - MAY 30 2135
THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	MAY 3 0700 - MAY 3 1030
	MAY 3 1100 - MAY 3 1500
	MAY 4 0600 - MAY 4 0900
	MAY 4 1030 - MAY 4 1230
	MAY 11 0100 - MAY 11 0600
	MAY 11 1835 - MAY 11 2035
	MAY 15 0750 - MAY 15 1200
	MAY 17 1530 - MAY 17 1900
	MAY 26 1810 - MAY 26 2010
	MAY 27 1025 - MAY 27 1225
	MAY 27 1800 - MAY 27 2000
	MAY 27 2300 - MAY 28 0600
	MAY 28 1535 - MAY 28 1735
MAY 29 1655 - MAY 29 1855	
MAY 30 1045 - MAY 30 1245	
MAY 31 0005 - MAY 31 0500	

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TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - MAY 1994

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	186.1 HOURS; 32.3 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	16.57 MJ/SQM; 0.45 MJ/SQM ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	183.7 MM; 133.0 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	73 %; 1 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	78 %; 5 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	30.2 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	27.4 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	25.6 DEGREES CELSIUS; 1.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23 DEGREES CELSIUS; 0.4 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	130.7 MM ; 7.0 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.

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YOUNG DOUBLE BASS PLAYER TO ATTEND USA MUSIC CAMP

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DOUBLE BASS PLAYER MR NG LUNG-CHEUNG HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP AT INTERLOCHEN IN MICHIGAN, USA THIS SUMMER FOR AN EIGHT-WEEK INTENSIVE TRAINING.

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EVENT IS AIMED AT PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP THROUGH MUSIC. IT WILL BE HELD FROM JUNE 26 TO AUGUST 22.

IT TAKES IN HIGHLY QUALIFIED YOUNG MUSICIANS AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 18. THE HIGHEST HONOUR FOR A PARTICIPANT IS TO BE SELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CAMP'S WORLD YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

/TRAINING WILL

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TRAINING WILL INCLUDE MASTER CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY RENOWNED MUSICIANS.

IN ADDITION, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SING-A-SONG ROUND CAMP FIRES, CANOEING AND SWIMMING WILL BE ARRANGED.

MR NG, 18, WAS SELECTED IN AN OPEN AUDITION IN MID-MARCH.

HE IS STUDYING MUSIC IN THE HONG KONG ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN MANY MUSIC ACTIVITIES AND IS A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

"IT IS REALLY EXCITING THAT I CAN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERLOCHEN ARTS CAMP AND TO MEET YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE COMING TWO MONTHS.

"I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO STAGING CONCERTS TOGETHER WITH RENOWNED MUSICIANS AND I WOULD DO MY BEST TO INTRODUCE HONG KONG TO OTHER CAMPERS," HE SAID.

HE WILL LEAVE HONG KONG ON JUNE 24 AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN IN LATE AUGUST.

THE CAMP FEE WILL BE MET BY ORGANISERS WHILE THE ROUND-TRIP AIR PASSAGE WILL BE JOINTLY SPONSORED BY CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB MUSIC FUND.

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TO BE A VOTER IS A CIVIC RIGHT
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THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PO PUI-LEONG, TODAY (SATURDAY) APPEALED TO RESIDENTS TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY BY REGISTERING AS A VOTER.

BY DOING SO, THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS TO ELECT THE CANDIDATE OF THEIR CHOICE TO REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENCY, HE SAID AT A "TA CHIU" CEREMONY CUM VOTER-REGISTRATION DRIVE AT KO LAU WAN VILLAGE.

MR PO ALSO REMINDED ELIGIBLE VOTERS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER BEFORE JULY 1.

SO FAR, THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE HAS RECEIVED 28,600 COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,478	0930	-530
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	968	1000	-530
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-530
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-530	1130	-530
LAF TODAY	+20	1500	
		1600	
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 124.1	*-0.3*	18.6.94

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46 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

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THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 46 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

OF THE PLANS, 15 ARE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN FOR KOWLOON AND 24 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDE 16 FOR APARTMENT AND APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, SEVEN FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS AND 12 FOR FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

IN THE SAME MONTH, CONSENT WAS GIVEN FOR WORK TO START ON 43 BUILDING PROJECTS, WHICH INVOLVE 161,768 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 126,905 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN THE MONTH TOTALLED ABOUT \$2,386 MILLION.

OF THE BUILDINGS CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION IN THE MONTH, USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES ARE 154,873 SQUARE METRES AND 112,265 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE SAME MONTH, THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED 39 OCCUPATION PERMITS - 11 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN FOR KOWLOON AND 21 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 30 DEMOLITION CONSENTS INVOLVING 74 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT'S CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 626 COMPLAINTS OF UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,748 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 435 REMOVAL ORDERS ON THE UNAUTHORISED WORKS.

THE DEPARTMENT'S DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION ALSO INSPECTED 1,031 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED NO EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE COURT.

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TEACHERS URGED TO VOTE
IN COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) APPEALED TO ELIGIBLE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS TO CAST THEIR VOTES IN THE BY-ELECTION FOR A SEAT IN THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION (CPCE) ON JUNE 28 (TUESDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE BY-ELECTION WAS ORGANISED TO FILL A SEAT FOR THE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS CATEGORY IN THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOLE CANDIDATE.

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AS A RESULT OF THE WITHDRAWAL, THE DEPARTMENT HAD TO CONDUCT A SECOND ROUND OF NOMINATION, HE SAID.

AT THE END OF THE NOMINATION PERIOD, THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED A NOMINATION FOR MR HO KWOK-SUEN IN THE CATEGORY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

MR HO IS THE VICE-PRINCIPAL OF HENNESSY ROAD GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL (PM SESSION).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SINCE MR HO WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE IN THE BY-ELECTION, HE MUST RECEIVE A MINIMUM OF 500 VOTES IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL.

HE REMINDED ALL FULL-TIME REGISTERED AND FULL-TIME PERMITTED TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS AND HEAD TEACHERS OF ALL GOVERNMENT, AIDED, PRIVATE AND THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SCHOOLS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE.

"TEMPORARY TEACHERS WHO HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND ARE EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME MONTHLY BASIS CAN ALSO CAST THEIR VOTES."

HE SAID: "IN ORDER TO MAKE THE BY-ELECTION SUCCESSFUL, ALL ELIGIBLE TEACHERS ARE URGED TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT BY CASTING THEIR VOTE ON JUNE 28."

THE COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON MEASURES TO PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE DRAFTING OF OPERATION CRITERIA DEFINING THE CONDUCT EXPECTED OF AN EDUCATOR, AND TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN CASES OF DISPUTES OR ON ALLEGED PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT.

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FAMILY AND CHILD SERVICE UNITS TO HOLD OPEN DAY

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ABOUT 50 SERVICE UNITS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL BE SHOWING THEIR OFFICE IN ITS BEST SHAPE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC LATER THIS MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AWARD-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF AN OFFICE COMPETITION OF THE FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES UNITS, THEY WOULD HOLD AN OPEN DAY THIS COMING SATURDAY (JUNE 25).

"IT WILL PROVIDE THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP OVER THE THRESHOLDS OF THESE UNITS AND TO GET TO KNOW THE SERVICES BETTER.

"THIS WILL BUILD UP A RAPPORT BETWEEN THE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE SERVICE USERS," HE SAID.

/A TOTAL

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A TOTAL OF 30 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, FOUR CHILD WELFARE SERVICE UNITS (ADOPTION UNIT, CENTRAL FOSTER CARE UNIT, CHILD CUSTODY SERVICES UNIT AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE UNIT) AND 19 FAMILY ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTRES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE OPEN DAY.

INVITATIONS ARE BEING EXTENDED TO THE CUSTOMERS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS TO VISIT THESE UNITS FROM 9 AM TO 3 PM ON JUNE 25.

"WE WILL PLACE A NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT ON JUNE 24 AND 25 TO GIVE MORE DETAILS OF THE OPEN DAY AND TO ENCOURAGE MORE VISITS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE SAID THE OFFICE COMPETITION WAS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (IYF) 1994.

THE EVENTS ARE HELD IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO CELEBRATE IYF ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HE SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE OFFICE COMPETITION WAS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STAFF MEMBERS TO IMPROVE THEIR OFFICE CONDITIONS AND TO CREATE A MORE USER-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS.

"THE OFFICE WILL BE MORE ORGANISED AND EQUIPPED FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS IN SERVICE DELIVERY, AND SATISFACTION AMONG CUSTOMERS," HE ADDED.

THE THREE ADJUDICATORS FOR THE FINAL SELECTION HELD ON MAY 17 AND JUNE 3 WERE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE), MRS PATRICIA CHU; CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CONSUMER COUNCIL, MRS PAMELA CHAN; AND PROFESSOR NELSON CHOW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

IN SELECTING THE WINNING UNIT, THE ADJUDICATORS PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MAXIMUM USE OF PREMISES, TIDINESS AND CLEANLINESS, DECORATION AND DESIGN, DISPLAY OF INFORMATION AND USER-FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FAMILY ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTRES, ONE OF THE TWO GROUPS IN THE COMPETITION, WAS A NEW FACILITY SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO HELP FAMILIES DEVELOP AND BETTER COPE WITH THE CHANGING WORLD.

"THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE ARE TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR DROP-IN AND MUTUAL SUPPORT TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS FAMILY RELATIONSHIP, EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS AND REFERRAL FOR IN-DEPTH COUNSELLING SO AS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PLAY THEIR ROLES IN THE FAMILY MORE EFFECTIVELY," HE SAID.

THE FIRST OF THE FAMILY ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTRES WAS OPENED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

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\$2M DONATION FOR SCHOOL EXTENSION PROJECT

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB HAS OFFERED THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES - CHAK YAN CENTRE SCHOOL A GRANT OF \$2 MILLION FOR BUILDING AN ADDITIONAL FLOOR TO THE ANNEXE OF ITS SCHOOL PREMISES.

THE ADDITIONAL FLOOR WILL HOUSE THREE CLASSROOMS, AN ART AND DESIGN ROOM AND AN INTERVIEW ROOM.

THE SCHOOL IS A SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS. MOST OF ITS STUDENTS EITHER COME FROM BROKEN FAMILIES OR ARE IN LACK OF PROPER PARENTAL CARE AND GUIDANCE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1974, IT OPERATES 11 PRIMARY AND SEVEN SECONDARY CLASSES. TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES, THE SCHOOL PLANNED TO EXTEND ITS PREMISES AND TO IMPROVE ITS FACILITIES.

THE PLAN CAN NOW GO AHEAD WITH THE DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE PROJECT WILL TAKE TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

THE SCHOOL IS RUN BY THE SOCIETY OF BOYS' CENTRES WHICH OPERATES THREE SPECIAL SCHOOLS WITH AN AIM TO PROVIDING A BASIC FORMAL EDUCATION AND SOUND MORAL TRAINING TO BOYS AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 18.