



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, February 12, 1974

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food commodities

Release time: 7.00 p.m.

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IMPORTANT BILLS SET TO PASS THROUGH LEGCO TOMORROW

Debate on legislation relating to the Independent Commission Against Corruption resumes in the Legislative Council tomorrow when two unofficial members will give their views.

Speaking will be the Hon. Woo Pak-chuen and the Hon. Hilton Cheong-Leen. The bill will then be considered in Committee before its third and final reading to complete its passage through the Legislative Council.

The two unofficial members will also comment on the Official Languages Bill which makes both English and Chinese official languages in Hong Kong. It is also due to complete its passage through the council at tomorrow's sitting.

Other bills scheduled for second and third readings are: The Securities Bill, the Protection of Investors Bill, the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, the Prevention of Bribery (Amendment) Bill, and the Prisons (Amendment) Bill.

Unofficial members will be asking 11 questions on a wide range of subjects, including the position and consumption of fuel, keeping rice prices stable, employment of overseas domestic servants, pensions, and assistance to subvented voluntary organisations to meet expenditure on salaries.

The annual report by the Accountant General for the 1972/73 financial year will be tabled at tomorrow's meeting.

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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT TOLL DOWN

But No Room For Complacency Warns Labour Commissioner

Sixteen people were killed and 2,131 injured at work in the first month of this year.

Announcing the figures today, the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Ian Price, said: "These figures are less than the 34 dead and 2,446 injured in January 1973. Unfortunately, this is more likely to be due to the Lunar New Year being in January this year, rather than to any dramatic increase in the application of work safety methods.

"However, I still hope that the major Industrial Safety Exhibition at the recent CMA Fair is showing an effect in increasing consciousness of safety among managements and workers."

"I have also made a number of new safety regulations in recent months, including the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Confined Spaces) Regulations; the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations - which become effective on May 1; the Quarries (Safety) Regulations; the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear) Regulations 1974, which will become effective on November 1 this year; and the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (First Aid in Registrable Workplaces) (Amendment) Regulations," Mr. Price added.

"The first four regulations provide more stringent controls to improve general working conditions, and the last set of regulations - in an effort to ease the shortage of trained first-aid personnel in industries - recognises a wider range of qualifications for them."

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The Commissioner disclosed that his department was now working on further safety regulations and was planning further intensive courses at its Industrial Safety Training Centre in the Canton Road Government Offices.

He reiterated his appeal to industry to participate fully in the promotion of industrial safety. "It is everybody's business to prevent accidents from happening," he said, "but work safety will not be achieved until workers and employers cultivate a much greater sense of safety awareness.

"Employers have the responsibility of drawing up safety policies and providing safe working conditions; foremen and supervisors are responsible for ensuring safe work methods; and workers have an obligation to work safely - both for their own good and for the good of their families and of their fellow-workers."

Mr. Price urged employers, foremen and supervisors to take advantage of the free advisory service and training facilities available at the Industrial Safety Training Centre, which can be contacted by ringing 3-664270 or 3-661438.

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NGAU TAU KOK CLEARANCE COMPLETED

The second phase of the Ngau Tau Kok clearance operation involving some 70 structures was completed smoothly today (Tuesday).

Housing Department staff and men started the operation early in the morning and finished the job by about noon.

The area has now been handed over to the Crown Lands and Survey Office of the Public Works Department, and is being fenced off.

Many of the more substantially built structures were demolished by the factory operators employing their own contractors.

The cleared land, lying west of Kwun Tong Road on the Kowloon Bay Reclamation, is needed for the construction of a mass transit railway depot.

Today's clearance operation affected 31 factories, four shops, and 19 families comprising 64 people.

Eight families comprising 37 people who are eligible for public housing have moved to Kwai Shing and Lam Tin Estates. The others have been offered licensed area sites at Ma Tsai Hang.

A total of \$417,340 has been paid to 11 factory operators and another \$17,800 to two shop owners as ex-gratia allowances.

Thirty-two factory units in Kwun Tong Factory Estate have also been offered to eight factory operators. Another two operators were given licensed area sites in Ha Kwai Chung to rebuild their factories.

Mr. David Weeks, Administrative Officer (Clearance) said the operation could only have been such a success with the full support and co-operation of those affected.

The first phase of the Ngau Tau Kok clearance operation involving more than 150 factories, shops and about 100 other structures was carried out last June.

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RESULTS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS COMIC STRIP COMPETITION

Winners of the 'Keep Hong Kong Drug Free' comic strip competition have been named.

The competition, sponsored by the Education and Publicity Subcommittee of the Action Committee against Narcotics, was divided into two sections -- Post-Secondary and Secondary.

The first prize in the Post Secondary contest was won by 20-year-old Chan Pak-shun of Shue Yan College.

In second place was 19-year-old Fung Ka-kui of Bishop Bianchi College of Careers while third prize went to Miss Kwan Shun-choi of Sir Robert Black College of Education.

Seventeen-year-old Pang Cho-yiu, a form V student in the Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School won the top award in the Secondary section.

Second prize went to Miss Lam Yuk-shim of St. Catherine's School for Girls, Kwun Tong while in third place was Miss Tse Chau-ming of the Belilios Public School.

The winners will receive cash awards ranging from \$100 to \$500. Eight other students will receive a consolation prize of \$50 each for their outstanding entries.

There were over 250 competitors.

The panel of judges comprised Mr. John Chan, art Director of TVB, Mr. Lee Kwok-fai of the Education Department, Mrs. Emmy Chan of the Lutheran World Federation and Mrs. Dolly Ng of the Government Information Services.

/The aim

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"The aim of the competition," a spokesman of ACAN said, "is to involve students in the campaign against narcotic drugs, to make them aware of the problem and to contribute towards the community in which they have a part to play."

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Note to Editors: You are cordially invited to send a reporter/photographer to cover the prize giving ceremony. It takes place on Thursday (February 14) at 3 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Lutheran World Federation, 33 Granville Road, Kowloon. Rev. K.L. Stumpf, chairman of the Education and Publicity Committee will present the prizes.

Copies of photographs of the winning entries in both sections are boxed for collection.

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CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS IN N-W KOWLOON EASED

The clearway restriction hours on sections of Tong Mi Road and Prince Edward Road in north-western Kowloon have been relaxed considerably.

The sections involved are Tong Mi Road between Lai Chi Kok Road and Prince Edward Road, and Prince Edward Road between Tong Mi Road and Nathan Road.

Originally the clearway, which was introduced late last year to facilitate the construction of an elevated road, operated between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

However, following further traffic surveys in the area it was decided, that the clearway restrictions should only operate during peak periods -- 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

During these times, no motor vehicles except franchised buses will be allowed to pick up or set down passengers or to load or unload goods.

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TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS AT PIPER'S HILL

Minor traffic diversions are to be introduced along the eastbound carriageway of Tai Po Road to facilitate construction works at the Piper's Hill Interchange.

The new arrangements will come into force on Thursday (February 14) and will last for six days.

Motorists in the area are advised to exercise extreme care during this period. Warning signs will be posted to guide them.

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RESTAURANT FINED FOR UNAUTHORISED WORKS

The management of Garden Restaurant Company Ltd., located at 72-74 Hing Fat Street, Hong Kong, was today fined \$1,400 at Central Magistracy for having installed furnaces in the kitchen of the restaurant without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Labour.

Under the Clean Air (Furnaces, Ovens and Chimneys) (Installation and Alteration) Regulations, an occupier who wants to install, alter or modify any furnace, oven, chimney or flue on his premises must obtain approval from the Commissioner before the commencement of the work.

Mr. David Lin, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, said today that factory and restaurant owners should submit plans and specifications of such work at least 30 days before the commencement of the work.

"An approval certificate will be issued if the design of the work is found to be of a suitable standard from the point of view of combustion engineering and air pollution," he said.

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STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Illegal storage of dangerous goods is a serious offence which can have disastrous consequences, a Fire Services spokesman warned today.

All licences for the storage of dangerous goods, other than explosives, he said, are obtainable from the Fire Services Department and must be applied for before storage begins.

"However, a licence is granted only after the most stringent safety precautions have been met. With conditions as they are in Hong Kong, it is vital that kerosene, diesel or petrol is sold only from licensed premises where the risk of fire has been minimised," the spokesman said.

He reminded the public that anyone contravening the Dangerous Goods regulations was liable to a fine of \$8,000 and six months' imprisonment, plus confiscation of the goods.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realized today (Tuesday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
		<u>Average</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		
See Mew -- old crop	Good	-
-- new crop		-
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	-
Po Ngai	Good	-
Chu Cho	Good	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.74
10-15% Broken	Good	-
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.52
A1 Super	Good	1.42
Whole Glutinous	Good	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>		
	Good	1.74
<u>Australian Rice</u>		
	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>		
	Good	1.42
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>		
	Good	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Normal	5.70	3.50	4.50
Big-Eyes	Good	3.00	0.80	2.00
Squid	Limited	6.50	3.00	5.00
Hair-Tails	Limited	2.50	1.00	1.80
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.70	0.90	2.00
Croakers	Normal	1.80	0.80	1.20
Conger-Pike-Eels	Good	3.50	2.60	3.00
Melon Coat	Good	2.10	1.30	1.80
Breams	Limited	5.20	4.50	5.00
Yellow Belly	Good	1.50	0.70	1.10
Mackerels	Normal	5.50	3.50	4.50
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.40	0.60	1.30
Fork-Tail	Good	1.60	0.90	1.20
Horse-Head	Limited	6.50	3.50	4.80
Melon Seed	Normal	3.20	1.50	2.80
Pomfrets	Scarce	11.00	7.00	9.00
Garoupas	Normal	8.00	5.50	7.00
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

/Supplies and

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.4	1.2	1.8
White cabbage	Limited	1.2	0.5	0.8
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	1.0	0.25	0.6
Chinese Kale	Scarce	1.8	0.8	1.4
Spring onion	Normal	1.0	0.4	0.7
Spinach	Normal	1.0	0.2	0.6
Water cross	Normal	1.0	0.3	0.7
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.8	0.3	0.5
Tomato	Limited	1.8	0.6	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/picul)</u>
Pork	Good	(Average) 300