



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, December 4, 1973

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FIRST STAGE OF CENTRAL DISTRICT TRAFFIC SCHEME STARTS SUNDAY

The Commissioner for Transport announced today that the first stage of a scheme for improving traffic flow in Central District will be introduced on Sunday (December 9).

The first stage will be a relatively minor one, with public light buses prohibited from entering Gilman Street (between Connaught Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central) and the section of Wing Wo Street, between Connaught Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central.

At the same time, a new public light bus stand will be opened at the Jubilee Street Ferry Concourse, capable of holding 20 minibuses. This new off-street terminal is expected to prove convenient to intending passengers and will at the same time ensure that public light buses do not pick up passengers in congested side streets.

The second stage of the traffic scheme is due to be introduced on January 6, 1974, when public light buses will be prohibited from entering Des Voeux Road Central in either direction between Pedder Street and Morrison Street, and westbound along Des Voeux Road Central between Jackson Road and Pedder Street. At the same time, a second PLB stand will be opened to the east of the Central Bus Station, with PLB stops provided in both Wellington Street and Stanley Street.

Also in the second stage, the traffic routing in Queen Victoria Street and Jubilee Street is likely to be reversed and public light buses will be prohibited from entering Pottinger Street.

/Early next

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Early next year, it is proposed to introduce a ban on all goods vehicle loading/unloading in Central during the peak hours of 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The purpose of the scheme is to keep traffic moving along the congested roads of Central District, whilst at the same time ensuring that adequate and convenient pick-up points are available for public light bus passengers.

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SECOND ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO LAMMA FISH FARMERS

Further advance payments will be made by the Government to fish farmers in Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma, for losses of fish suffered by them following last month's Shell oil spillage.

The payments will be made at the South Lamma Rural Committee Office at Sok Kwu Wan between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursday (December 6) and between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday (December 7). Those farmers who have not yet collected their first payment may do so at the same time.

A spokesman for the New Territories Administration said today (Tuesday) that the payments would be made on the same basis as those made 10 days ago - that is to say, against further losses established by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in conjunction with the staff of the District Office, Islands.

"Although it is considered that the Government is under no obligation to make any payments in respect of the oil spillage, it has been decided to make these payments to relieve the hardship which has occurred," he stressed.

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TWENTY HECTIC YEARS OF SERVICE : AND STILL GOING STRONG

The Fireboat 'Alexander Grantham' -- one of the largest of its kind in the world -- enters her 20th year of service with the Fire Services this year.

Built in Hong Kong in 1953, the 351-ton vessel is still going strong and has recently returned to active service with a new lease of life after extensive refitting at the Government Dockyard.

During her colourful career, the 'A.G.' -- as she is affectionately known in the service -- has played a leading role in a diversity of rescue operations in such incidents as ship fires, aircraft crashes, oil pollution and land fires, the latter by supplying large quantities of sea water through her powerful pumps to the scene of fire.

Among the more notable incidents she attended to were a fire involving the s.s. Ala in 1956, a fire at Kowloon Bay in 1960, an air crash in Kowloon Bay in 1967, fires involving the tanker Cerberus and the USS Coastal Sentry in a shipbreaking yard in Hang Hau in 1968, a blaze on board the s.s. Eastern Star in Kowloon Bay in 1969, and the Jumbo Floating Restaurant fire in Aberdeen the year before last.

She also escorted the liner Seawise University into Hong Kong Harbour for refitting in July 1971 and, half a year later, took part in the battle to save her from her tragic destruction.

Though the A.G.'s complement of one fire officer and 15 men normally expects arduous and often dangerous work, life is not always grim and on many occasions she has joined in the festive spirit by putting up spectacular water displays for the enjoyment of her crew and the public.

/Currently,

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Currently, she is taking part in the Fire Prevention Campaign.

For those interested in technical details, the 'Alexander Grantham' is of 351 gross tons with a draft of 10½ feet. Her normal speed is 11.7 knots with a fuel consumption of 26 gallons of dieseline per hour when fully loaded.

In addition to an array of fire-fighting equipment, she has a hydraulic rescue and water tower with a platform which can be raised 60 feet above sea level. A 20-foot motor boat is carried along for use when the fireboat is anchored offshore for rescue work.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the 'Alexander Grantham' are boxed for collection.

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NEW TRAINING CENTRE FOR AMS SUB-UNIT

The Auxiliary Medical Service sub-unit at Tung Chung on Lantau Island will soon have its own training and operational centre thanks to the Rotary Club of Kowloon West which donated \$53,000 for the project.

The two-storey centre, now being built in the vicinity of Tung Chung Road near Tung Chung Fort, will provide space for a lecture room, a duty room and a dormitory for members of the sub-unit on typhoon and emergency duties.

At present, members of the Tung Chung AMS sub-unit, totalling 60 men and women, make temporary use of the Tung Chung Public School for training and operational purposes.

The centre will have a garage for the sub-unit's new landrover type ambulance which was also donated by the Rotary Club.

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NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

A total of 102 new building plans were approved by the Buildings Ordinance Office in October this year, compared with 79 in the same month last year.

Most of the plans submitted were for multi-storey apartment/commercial buildings with 57 of them to be located on Hong Kong Island, 14 in Kowloon and 31 in the New Territories.

These included a 29-storey apartment/commercial building in Caine Road on the Island, one of 23 storeys in Soy Street in Kowloon and one of 21 storeys in Po Kong Village Road, San Po Kong.

In the same month, 38 completed buildings were certified for occupation. The total declared costs of these buildings was over \$52 million.

The Office also approved work to start on 57 new building projects, including a club house for the Hong Kong Cricket Club in Wongneichong Gap Road.

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FACTORY VISITS BY MR. MCGREGOR

Note to Editors: The acting Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. J.D. McGregor, will pay familiarisation visits to two factories in Kwun Tong on Thursday (December 6).

He will be accompanied by Mr. K.H. Yeung, Principal Trade Officer of the Industrial Development Branch.

They will first call at Colex Ltd. in Tak Sing Industrial Building, 28A Hung To Road, 11th floor, Kwun Tong, before proceeding to Texwood Ltd., 183 Wai Yip Street, Kwun Tong. Colex Ltd. manufactures electronic calculators while Texwood specialises in ready-to-wear garments.

You are invited to have the visits covered.

The visiting party will arrive at Colex Ltd. at 9.45 a.m. and will stay for about 90 minutes. They will be at Texwood Ltd. at about 11.30 a.m.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised 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>China Rice</u>		
		<u>Average</u>
See Mew - old crop	Good	1.64
- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jien old crop	Good	1.58
Po Ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Scarce	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	No Sale
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	No Sale
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	No Sale

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	Good	4.0	2.6	3.4
Big-Eyes	Good	2.6	0.6	1.5

/Squid

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<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Squid	Limited	5.2	1.7	3.8
Hair-Tails	Good	1.8	1.0	1.5
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.7	0.9	1.7
Croakers	Normal	1.5	0.5	1.0
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.7	1.5	1.8
Melon Coat	Normal	2.2	1.2	1.7
Breams	Scarce	5.2	2.5	4.0
Yellow Belly	Normal	1.4	0.7	1.15
Mackerels	Good	4.2	2.6	3.0
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.3	0.55	1.1
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.3	0.7	1.0
Horse-Head	Normal	5.8	2.0	3.8
Melon Seed	Limited	3.2	2.0	2.4
Pomfrets	Scarce	8.0	6.5	7.5
Garoupas	Scarce	8.2	6.0	7.0
Yellow Croaker	Normal	4.5	1.8	3.0

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	2.00	0.80	1.60
White cabbage	Good	0.40	0.08	0.30
Chinese lettuce	Good	0.45	0.12	0.30

/Chinese kale

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<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Chinese kale	Normal	1.00	0.30	0.70
Spring onion	Normal	1.40	0.30	0.80
Spinach	Normal	1.20	0.40	0.80
Water cress	Normal	1.30	0.30	0.90
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	0.50	0.20	0.30
Tomato	Scarce	2.20	1.20	1.80

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/picul)</u> (Average)
Pork	Good	285

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.