



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, January 4, 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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RECORD HIGH IN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

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The number of accidents at work reached a new peak last year, bringing the total toll to 304 dead and 30,214 injured.

Releasing these figures today, the Commissioner of Labour, Mr. I.R. Price said he was gravely concerned about the effects of such accidents on Hong Kong's work force and economy. "A conservative estimate of the amount of workmen's compensation involved was \$20 million, while the number of man-days lost, was about 520,000."

Mr. Price said occupational accidents were costing the economy hundreds of millions of dollars a year. "If Hong Kong is to maintain its competitiveness in international markets, such damaging accidents must be reduced."

However even more disturbing than the economic waste is the painful and irreparable human suffering resulting from these accidents.

As in previous years, the majority of accidents occurred in industrial undertakings and of these about 25 per cent occurred in the construction industry which was responsible for the largest number of accidents, killing more than 500 workers and injuring 30,000 during the past 10 years.

However, Mr. Price expected a considerable improvement in the situation after the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations become effective in May this year. These regulations impose stringent requirements to ensure the safety and welfare of workers engaged in that industry.

/Mr. Price .....

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Mr. Price said the Labour Department this year would continue to prescribe minimum safety standards, advise and assist employers to improve general working conditions at all workplaces, and offer more intensive safety training to people in industry.

In 1973 the Industrial Safety Training Centre had organised 102 training courses, free of charge, for 2,089 people from 94 establishments.

"I hope that the present high accident rate will serve as an impetus to employers to take more advantage of these training facilities," Mr. Price said. "This year we plan to increase the number of safety courses by 30 per cent and to arrange for 150 interested groups to visit the Industrial Safety Training Centre where safety equipment and properly guarded machinery are on permanent display."

He added: "The present industrial safety exhibition at the CMA Exhibition reflects the government's determination to promote industrial safety."

The exhibition, which closes on January 9, has received excellent response from the public, attracting some 860,000 visitors.

Mr. Price strongly advised those who had not yet visited it not to miss this opportunity.

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\$49 MILLION DEFICIT IN SEPTEMBER

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The government accounts for the month of September 1973 show a deficit of \$49 million compared with a surplus of \$14 million in September 1972.

This has resulted in a total deficit of \$154 million for the first six months of this financial year.

Total revenue for the month was \$315 million, \$10 million more than in September 1972. The total revenue for the first six months of the financial year at \$1,972 million was \$304 million more than in the same period the previous year.

Expenditure amounted to \$363 million - an increase of \$72 million over September 1972.

This brings the total expenditure for the first six months of the financial year to \$2,126 million, which is \$454 million more than the same period in the last financial year.

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GOVT. RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS DIMMED TO SAVE FUEL

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Public lighting in government residential quarters has been reduced as part of the drive to save fuel.

An order has gone out to caretakers that all public light are to be switched on 30 minutes later than usual in the evenings and switched off 30 minutes earlier in the mornings.

In addition, public lights in quarters which are not strictly necessary for safety are not being turned on at all.

The Public Works Department, which issued the order, said that wherever possible light bulbs of lower wattage have been installed as another measure to reduce power consumption.

A spokesman for the department said today that checks were carried out to ensure that these measures did not reduce the degree of security in the buildings.

In office buildings shared by the government and other organisations, instructions have been issued that lights in public areas, including lift lobbies and staircases which have adequate natural lighting, are not to be switched on at all except during bad weather. This, of course, does not apply to lights in main entrance halls.

These measures have already been introduced in all government offices, and the savings in electricity consumption have been quite significant.

A spokesman said that there is a genuine effort in all government office buildings to save fuel. Lights are being switched off wherever possible and are not turned on unless absolutely necessary.

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MORE CASH AID TO FIRE VICTIMS

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Nearly \$190,000 has so far been paid out to victims of the recent Kowloon Tsai squatter fire.

Payments from the Emergency Relief Fund amounting to some \$130,000 were made to over 800 victims today (Friday) at the Squatter Control Office of the Housing Department at Li Cheng Uk Estate. Yesterday (Thursday), a total of \$55,000 was distributed to 550 victims.

Thirty-nine families comprising 139 people who are only eligible for sites at Cheung Sha Wan Licensed Area were each given a basic grant of \$1,250 for building new huts.

An additional \$100 was given to each member of the family for equipping their home.

Another 1,247 people, who have been offered or who had already taken up public housing at Lam Tin or Kwai Fong Estate, were each given \$100 re-equipment grant.

The victims of the fire at Ma Tsai Hang Licensed Area last Tuesday will be given the cash allowance next Thursday (January 10). Payments will be made to them at the Yan Oi Transit Centre.

Screening for intake into public housing of the 376 victims will begin next Monday.

Seven families comprising 27 people who are not eligible to public housing have been given permission to re-erect their huts on the original site.

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GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR THIS YEAR

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Two lists of general holidays for 1974 and 1975 are published in today's gazette.

The Lunar New Year holidays this year fall on January 23 until January 25. In April, there are five holidays apart from Sundays.

The following is the list of general holidays for 1974:

Every Sunday .....	-
The first week-day in January .....	Tuesday, 1st January
Lunar New Year's Day .....	Wednesday, 23rd January
The second day of Lunar New Year .....	Thursday, 24th January
The third day of Lunar New Year .....	Friday, 25th January
Ching Ming Festival .....	Friday, 5th April
Good Friday .....	Friday, 12th April
The day following Good Friday .....	Saturday, 13th April
Easter Monday .....	Monday, 15th April
The Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen .....	Thursday, 25th April
Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival .....	Monday, 24th June
The first week-day in July .....	Monday, 1st July
The first Monday in August .....	Monday, 5th August
The last Monday in August, which shall be Liberation Day .....	Monday, 26th August
The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival .....	Tuesday, 1st October
Chung Yeung Festival .....	Wednesday, 23rd October
Christmas Day .....	Wednesday, 25th December
The first week-day after Christmas Day .....	Thursday, 26th December

/GENERAL .....

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GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR 1975

Every Sunday .....	-
The first week-day in January .....	Wednesday, 1st January
Lunar New Year's Day .....	Tuesday, 11th February
The second day of Lunar New Year .....	Wednesday, 12th February
The third day of Lunar New Year .....	Thursday, 13th February
Good Friday .....	Friday, 28th March
The day following Good Friday .....	Saturday, 29th March
Easter Monday .....	Monday, 31st March
Ching Ming Festival .....	Saturday, 5th April
The Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen .....	Monday, 21st April
Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival .....	Saturday, 14th June
The first week-day in July .....	Tuesday, 1st July
The first Monday in August .....	Monday, 4th August
The last Monday in August, which shall be Liberation Day .....	Monday, 25th August
The second day following the Chinese Mid- Autumn Festival .....	Monday, 22nd September
Chung Yeung Festival .....	Monday, 13th October
Christmas Day .....	Thursday, 25th December
The first week-day after Christmas Day .....	Friday, 26th December

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MORE FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS INTEGRATED

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The Medical and Health Department has launched the second phase of a plan to integrate family planning services into its maternal and child health programme.

With the implementation of this phase, which began last Wednesday, a total of 10 clinics are now operating. This is an increase of six from the four government clinics which began to offer family planning services last October.

A spokesman for the department said today the 10 clinics would be followed by others until all family planning clinics now operated by the Family Planning Association in government institutions were completely integrated into the government's maternal and child health programme.

But the F.P.A. would continue to play an active role in family planning in areas not served by the government.

Eligible mothers may make use of the family planning services in the 10 clinics. The cost is only \$1 a visit.

The spokesman said work in connection with the integration had proceeded smoothly since October, thanks to the devotion and enthusiasm of the staff.

This could be seen by the fact that new cases, old cases and total attendances had all shown increasing trends between October 1 - when the first four family planning clinics in the maternal and child health centres in Central, Kennedy Town, Chai Wan and Kowloon City were opened to the public - and December 31, when the first phase of the integration programme was completed.

/In that .....

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In that time, a total of more than 4,500 attendances was recorded. "These figures are most encouraging," the spokesman said.

The 10 maternal and child health clinics offering family planning services are : The Central Dispensary, Kau Yu Fong, Kennedy Town Jockey Club Clinic, Tang Shiu Kin Hospital, and Chai Wan Clinic, on Hong Kong Island; the Yau Ma Tei Jockey Club Clinic, Kowloon City Lions Club Maternal and Child Health Centre, and Yau Tong Maternal and Child Health Centre, in Kowloon; and the North Kwai Chung Clinic, South Kwai Chung Jockey Club Polyclinic, and Maureen Grantham Health Centre, Tsuen Wan, in the New Territories.

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NEW NAME AND ADDRESS FOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

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The Transport Department Headquarters is moving to new premises in the Murray Road Multi-storey Car Park in Central on Monday (January 7).

It will occupy the 9th floor. The new telephone number for the offices will be 5-260121.

At the same time, the Transport Department will take on a new Chinese name. It will be known as "Woo Soo Chew". The name change is to avoid confusion between the department and the Police Traffic Branch, which is known in Chinese as "Gau Tung Bo".

Later this month, the Hong Kong Licensing Office of the department will also move from its present offices at Rumsey Street Reclamation to the ground and mezzanine floors of the multi-storey car park complex at No. 2 Murray Road.

The move to larger premises marks a further step in the rapid development of the Transport Department, which began with a staff of 23 as a branch of the Colonial Secretariat in December 1965.

A year later, it took over from the Police the registration and licensing of vehicles and drivers, and most of the powers concerned with the regulation of road traffic.

It thus became a sizeable executive unit of the government and was established as a department, separate from the Colonial Secretariat, in December 1968.

/Since then .....

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Since then, the department has continued to expand as a result of the rapid increase in the number of vehicles and drivers, and the need to regulate road traffic and to co-ordinate public transport services.

With its ever-increasing work load the department's present accommodations at Blake Block, Queensway, have become insufficient and new and larger premises have been made available in the Murray Road Multi-storey Car Park.

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NEW CONTROLLER OF RHK - TV ARRIVES

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Mr. Donald Kerr, the new Controller of Radio Hong Kong's Television Unit, arrived from England today to take up his post.

Mr. Kerr, 41, is seconded from the BBC where he was the Regional Television Manager for Northeast England.

He will be mainly responsible for all output of RHK television, programme policy and standards, and management and training of staff.

Married with two children, Mr. Kerr began his career on the Buxton Herald as a junior reporter, and later with the Evening Mail, Barrow-in-Furness. He also worked for the Evening Argus, Brighton, The Times and Granada before joining the BBC in 1961 when television started in Plymouth. He became the BBC News Editor in Bristol three years later.

The Deputy Director of Broadcasting, Mr. T. Duffy, described Mr. Kerr's appointment as "timely and important" as colour output by RHK-TV was being planned at present.

He said Mr. Kerr would also have an important role to play in future productions of RHK-TV public affair programmes, including the popular "Viewpoint."

According to a recent survey, Viewpoint enjoys almost as wide an audience as that for news programmes particularly among young people. It is very popular, particularly in squatter areas and public housing estates.

Mr. Duffy noted that the most marked measure of a programme's success was the degree to which people could recall its content. "And the survey shows that 96 per cent of the people who had seen Viewpoint the previous day were able, when interviewed, to recall the content of the programme. This is a very high rate of recall indeed."

/He continued .....

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He continued that a number of suggestions came up during the survey, one of which was to lengthen the five-minute programme.

"We view this as a compliment to us. However, we think that five minutes is just right for this type of programme. The survey demonstrates that we are on the right line, people are interested in public affairs and they want to see more programmes of this kind.

"With the advent of Mr. Kerr and his journalistic background, we shall be looking into the possibility of producing more public affairs programmes which will, if possible, even be better than our current ones," he said.

The survey also showed that Viewpoint had maintained a "fair and balanced stance."

Most of the people interviewed during the survey expressed their liking for the critical and analytical approach of the programme, Mr. Duffy said.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Kerr's photographs are boxed for collection.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

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The following prices were realised today (Friday) 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	-
<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	Good	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	Good	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	-

/Supplies and .....

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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	Good	4.0	2.8	3.5
Big-Eyes	Good	2.7	0.6	1.7
Squid	Limited	6.8	2.5	5.0
Hair-Tails	Good	2.5	1.1	1.8
Lizard Fishes	Normal	3.5	1.0	2.5
Croakers	Normal	2.5	0.8	1.8
Conger-Pike-Eels	Good	3.1	2.5	3.0
Melon Coat	Limited	2.8	2.0	2.5
Breams	Normal	4.75	3.3	4.0
Yellow Belly	Normal	2.3	0.8	1.6
Mackerels	Good	4.1	3.2	3.5
Red Goat Fish	Normal	3.0	0.7	2.0
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.5	1.0	1.2
Horse-Head	Normal	5.8	3.2	4.0
Melon Seed	Normal	3.2	2.0	2.8
Pomfrets	Scarce	9.5	7.0	8.0
Garoupas	Normal	7.5	5.0	6.5

/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	3.0	1.2	2.2
White cabbage	Limited	1.5	0.6	1.0
Chinese lettuce	Normal	1.2	0.3	0.8
Chinese kale	Limited	1.8	0.7	1.2
Spring onion	Limited	2.4	1.2	1.8
Spinach	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.5
Water cress	Normal	1.6	0.5	1.0
Leaf mustard cabbage	Scarce	1.5	0.5	1.0
Tomato	Limited	1.8	1.0	1.4

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

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

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