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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**Saturday, June 10, 1995**

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Higher fines for unauthorised developments .....	1
Review of training and employment for disabled .....	2
Second driest May on record .....	3
Arrangements for holiday clinic services .....	6
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations .....	6

**Sunday, June 11, 1995**

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
New North District Officer appointed .....	7
Pregnant employees should not be sacked .....	7
Booklet on corrosion resistant waterpipe materials published .....	8
S6 classes in government evening secondary schools .....	9
Child care centres list updated .....	9
Chinese stamp album to be on sale .....	10

### Higher fines for unauthorised developments

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A resolution to increase the level of fines for unauthorised development under the Town Planning Ordinance will be moved into the Legislative Council on June 28, 1995.

The resolution proposes that any person who undertakes or continues an unauthorised development will be liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 on first conviction and to \$1,000,000 on each of second and subsequent convictions.

At present, the maximum fine for undertaking or continuing an unauthorised development is \$100,000.

The resolution also proposes that any person who fails to comply with the requirements specified in a notice served under the Ordinance will be liable to the same level of increased fine and, in addition, a daily fine for a continuing offence of \$50,000 for first conviction, and \$100,000 for each of second and subsequent convictions.

The present level of fine is \$100,000 and daily fine is \$10,000.

A Government spokesman said the Town Planning Ordinance was amended in 1991 to empower the Director of Planning to take enforcement action against unauthorised development within development permission areas in the New Territories. The intention was to contain the widespread environmental degradation of the countryside caused by haphazard development.

"The present level of fines under the Ordinance is too low to be a sufficient deterrent against unauthorised development. Profit generated from unauthorised development can be substantial, and in comparison, the fines appear to be minimal," the spokesman said.

So far, fines imposed under the Ordinance have been in the range of \$5,000 to \$199,000 with most fines in the lower end of the range.

Up to early March 1995, 105 defendants in 67 cases of unauthorised development have been convicted. Of these, only 26 cases have been discontinued after conviction.

The spokesman said the proposed maximum level of fine was worked out after taking into account the monthly turnover and profit margin of a typical container yard in the New Territories.

"The court can always impose a lower level of fine if the scale of any particular unauthorised development is of a modest nature and its adverse impact is not too severe," the spokesman added.

End/Saturday, June 10, 1995

#### Review of training and employment for disabled

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A working party under the chairmanship of the Director of Social Welfare has conducted a comprehensive review of a whole range of training and employment facilities for the disabled.

This was stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he officiated at the opening ceremony of the Home of Love Sheltered Workshop and Hostel of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong today (Saturday).

Noting that a report was expected to be available next month, Mr Strachan said one important means to achieve the basic aim of rehabilitation was to enhance independence through various modes of employment services for disabled persons.

"Sheltered work is one of these services. Historically, sheltered workshops provide opportunities for disabled persons to take part in the assembly line of our manufacturing industry.

"But we now to move one step forward. To enhance the employment opportunities of disabled persons, we need to improve their training and employment prospects," he said.

Mr Strachan said the authority basically wanted to see some of the more capable sheltered workers move on to more independent work settings by engaging themselves in supported and open employment.

"This will bring them a more dignified life, better integration with their ordinary counterparts in work and social situations.

"For anyone managing a sheltered workshop exciting times and new challenges lie ahead," he added.

The sheltered workshop and hostel opened today is the first of its kind ever run by the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong.

End/Saturday, June 10, 1995

#### Second driest May on record

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May 1995 was the fifth consecutive month this year with below average rainfall.

The monthly total rainfall of 20.8 millimetres recorded at the Royal Observatory is only 7 per cent of the normal amount, making last month the second driest May on record.

According to a Royal Observatory report released today (Saturday), the total rainfall of 183.7 millimetres accumulated since January 1 was 70 per cent below the normal of 616.5 millimetres for the same period and was also the second lowest record for the first five months.

Hot weather prevailed during the last few days of the month and a maximum temperature of 34.2 degrees was recorded on May 30, the fourth highest for the month of May.

Under the influence of a southerly airstream, it was fine and hot the first two days in May. A trough of low pressure developed over south China on May 3.

On its approach to the south China coast on May 4, the weather became unsettled over the territory with widespread rain and thunderstorms that afternoon. More than 40 millimetres of rainfall were recorded over the northeastern part of the New Territories that day but less than 20 millimetres in urban areas.

A fresh and relatively cool northeasterly airstream brought cloudy weather to Hong Kong on May 5. Temperatures dropped to the month's lowest of 20.8 degrees early that morning.

As winds moderated, the weather turned fine on May 6. It became cloudy with some rain patches the next three days.

Temperatures rose rapidly on May 10 as winds turned to the southeast and the weather cleared up.

A fresh easterly airflow reached the south China coast early on May 11 and the weather became cloudy with some rain patches on May 11 and 12.

More rain fell on May 13 where over 30 millimetres were recorded mainly over the northern part of the New Territories.

It was sunny on May 14 and the warm weather continued the next day.

A continental airstream reached the territory and brought cooler and cloudier weather on May 16 and 17. Cloudy conditions persisted but temperatures were on the rise in the next three days.

A trough of low pressure traversed the coast of Guangdong during the night of May 21. As it reached Hong Kong, it weakened rapidly. Although thundery showers brought more than 20 millimetres to Lantau Island, only traces of rainfall were recorded in other areas of Hong Kong.

The weather remained cloudy and slightly cooler with light rain patches on May 22 to 24.

Under the influence of a maritime airflow, it was fine and hot apart from some isolated showers from May 25 until the end of the month.

The month's highest temperature of 34.2 degrees was reached in a sunny and very hot afternoon of May 30.

No tropical cyclone activity was observed over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in May.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarized in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of May are tabulated in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in May 1995**

<b>Warnings / Signals</b>	<b>Effective date and time</b>
<b>Flood Warning</b>	4 May 1620 - 4 May 1720
<b>Thunderstorm Warnings</b>	4 May 1315 - 4 May 1815 21 May 1830 - 21 May 2130

**Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - May 1995**

Total Bright Sunshine	156.4 hours ; 2.6 hours above normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	14.52 MJ/m <sup>2</sup> ; 1.60 MJ/m <sup>2</sup> below normal
Total Rainfall	20.8 mm ; 295.9 mm below normal
Mean Cloud Amount	80 % ; 6 % above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	82 % ; 1 % below normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	28.8 °C ; 0.1 °C above normal
Mean Air Temperature	26.0 °C ; 0.1 °C above normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	24.1 °C ; 0.2 °C above normal
Mean Dew Point	22.5 °C ; 0.1 °C below normal
Total Evaporation	110.4 mm ; 27.3 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.

End/Saturday, June 10, 1995

Arrangements for holiday clinic services

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The Department of Health announced today (Saturday) that there would be no holiday out-patient clinic service on June 17 (Saturday).

Eight general out-patient clinics will be open from 9 am to 1 pm on June 18 and June 19 (Sunday and Monday).

They are: Violet Peel Health Centre and Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club Clinic on Hong Kong Island; Kwun Tong Jockey Club Health Centre, Robert Black Health Centre and Yaumatei Jockey Club Clinic in Kowloon; and Lady Trench Polyclinic, Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Clinic and Yuen Long Jockey Club Health Centre in the New Territories.

All other out-patient and evening clinics will be closed during the three days of holiday.

End/Saturday, June 10, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	1,803	09:30	+525
Closing Balance in the account	883	10:00	+525
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+525
Money Market Activity	+525	11:30	+525
Laf Today	-1,445	15:00	

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 118.4 \*-0.1\* 10.6.95

End/Saturday, June 10, 1995

### New North District Officer appointed

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Mr Tommy Yuen Man-chung will assume the post of District Officer for North District tomorrow (Monday).

Mr Yuen, 31, joined the administrative service in 1985 and was promoted to Senior Administrative Officer in 1993.

He has served in the former Administrative Services and Information Branch, the Economic Services Branch, the former City and New Territories Administration, and the Housing Department.

His previous post was Assistant Secretary for the Economic Services Branch.

End/Sunday, June 11, 1995

### Pregnant employees should not be sacked

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The Labour Department today (Sunday) warned employers not to dismiss any female employee who had given notice of her intention to take maternity leave.

Overseas Company Registration Agents Asia Limited at Harcourt Road, Central, was recently fined \$7,500 at Western Magistracy for sacking a pregnant employee after she had submitted a notice of intention to take maternity leave to the company.

The notice, which stated her expected date of confinement and the date on which maternity leave was to begin, was submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Employment Ordinance.

"Under the Employment Ordinance, a female employee is protected from termination of her employment from the date on which she gives notice of her intention to take maternity leave until the date on which she is due to return to work, if she has been employed for not less than 12 weeks," Labour Officer (Prosecutions) Mrs Tonia Leung said.

A female employee who has worked for the same employer under a continuous contract for not less than 26 weeks is entitled to maternity leave.

She is also entitled to maternity leave pay if she has worked continuously for the same employer for not less than 40 weeks before the expected date of her commencement of maternity leave and if she has not more than two surviving children.

Mrs Leung said failure to comply with these provisions could incur a maximum fine of \$10,000.

End/Sunday, June 11, 1995

#### Booklet on corrosion resistant waterpipe materials published

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The Water Supplies Department has recently published a booklet providing general information on the use of different types of pipe materials as inside service in buildings, a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

Following announcement of amendments to the Waterworks Regulations on December 23, 1994, unlined galvanised steel pipes should not be used as water inside service in new buildings one year after the enactment of the new legislation.

"The booklet supplies consumers with general information on the corrosion resistant type of pipe materials approved by the Water Authority under the new legislation.

"It outlines the advantages and disadvantages of different pipe materials and provides a list of suppliers and a price list for comparison.

"However, consumers should still consult suppliers on the properties and characteristics of the pipe material they want to use," the spokesman said.

The booklet was prepared last year by a working party comprising representatives from associations in the plumbing trade.

Copies of the booklet, which are available in both English and Chinese, can be obtained free of charge from the consumer enquiry centres of the Water Supplies Department.

End/Sunday, June 11, 1995

S6 classes in government evening secondary schools

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The Education Department will operate sixth form classes in the Government Evening Secondary School Course in the 1995/96 school year for students aged over 15 to pursue post-secondary or tertiary education.

A spokesman for the Education Department said: "The newly introduced sixth form course will last for three years and only arts classes will be offered at the present stage."

The course fee for 1995/96 will be \$1,290 per annum.

A total of four classes, one at each centre with different combinations of arts subjects, will be offered at the following centres:

- \* Ho Tung Technical School for Girls Centre;
- \* Queen Elizabeth School Centre;
- \* Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School Centre; and
- \* Sha Tin Government Secondary School Centre.

Application forms will be obtainable at the Adult Education Section of the Education Department, Wu Chung House, 11th floor, Room 1106, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai on August 10 and 11 and at the respective centres on August 11.

End/Sunday, June 11, 1995

Child care centres list updated

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The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has recently revised a list of all registered child care centres to provide up-to-date information to members of the public enquiring about child care centre service.

The list, which is updated on an annual basis, is intended for the reference of various concerned government departments as well as non-governmental organisations, a spokesman for the SWD said today (Sunday).

The list indicates that as at April this year, there are 365 child care centres providing a total of 39,817 places throughout the territory.

The spokesman said under the provision of the Child Care Centres Ordinance, all child care centres looking after more than five children aged under six are required to be registered with the SWD.

"The registration system aims to ensure that the child care centres are maintained to a standard which provides adequate care for children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development.

"Members of the public wishing to check the exact location of any particular child care centre or whether the centre is a registered one may contact the department's Child Care Centres Advisory Inspectorate (CCCAI) on telephone 2892 5510," the spokesman said.

Anyone who intends to operate a child care centre or wants to make any enquiry in respect of child care centres may call on the office of CCCAI on ninth floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

End/Sunday, June 11, 1995

Chinese stamp album to be on sale

\* \* \* \* \*

The Postmaster General, Mr Mike Pagliari, announced today (Sunday) that the 1994 Annual Album, the Romance of the Three Kingdoms presentation pack and the Three Gorges of Yangtze River presentation pack, issued by the Chinese Post Office, will be placed on sale at the following seven philatelic offices as from June 14:

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

The selling prices are:

- \* prestige album - \$200
- \* The Romance of the Three Kingdoms presentation pack - \$12
- \* Three Gorges of Yangtze River presentation pack - \$12

A restriction of a maximum of two items per product per customer queuing will be imposed on June 14.

End/Sunday, June 11, 1995