



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR APRIL WAS \$10 130 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$6 541 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$3 589 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S VISIBLE TRADE IN APRIL 1982 PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY).

WITH IMPORTS AT \$12 302 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR APRIL WAS \$2 172 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH APRIL IN 1981, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$958 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT, COMPRISING INCREASES OF \$697 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND \$261 MILLION OR EIGHT PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY \$904 MILLION OR EIGHT PER CENT.

AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ (THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS) AT 18 PER CENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, WAS NARROWER THAN IN APRIL 1981 AT 20 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE GROWTH RATE IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN APRIL, AT 12 PER CENT, WAS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE NINE PER CENT RECORDED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1982. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO SIGNS YET OF A PICK-UP IN THE RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, GIVEN THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS REMAINED STEADY AT EIGHT PER CENT.

WHEN THE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WERE COMPARED WITH THE FIGURES FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1981, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT 10 PER CENT, WAS HIGHER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, AT EIGHT PER CENT.

THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AT 16 PER CENT, WAS NARROWER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1981, AT 18 PER CENT.

THE SPOKESMAN REMARKED THAT WHILE THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AT 11 PER CENT WAS STILL SLOW IN TERMS OF PAST EXPERIENCE, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT 10 PER CENT, WAS NOT TOO DISCOURAGING IN VIEW OF THE GENERALLY UNFAVOURABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN HONG KONG'S MAIN MARKETS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT :

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$ 6 541 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 3 589 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$10 130 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$12 302 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 2 172 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	FEB-APR 1982	FEB-APR 1981	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	17 806	15 558	+ 2 248	+14.4
RE-EXPORTS	10 897	9 522	+ 1 374	+14.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	28 702	25 080	+ 3 622	+14.4
IMPORTS	35 690	31 782	+ 3 908	+12.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 6 988	- 6 702	- 286	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	APRIL 1982	APRIL 1981	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 541 (64.6%)	5 844 (63.7%)	+ 697	+11.9
RE-EXPORTS	3 589	3 328	+ 261	+ 7.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	10 130	9 172	+ 958	+10.4
IMPORTS	12 302	11 398	+ 904	+ 7.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 172	- 2 226	+ 54	

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LAST MONTH	APRIL	MARCH	INCREASE OR	
	1982	1982	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 541 (64.6%)	6 577 (63.9%)	- 35	- 0.5
RE-EXPORTS	3 589	3 714	- 126	- 3.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	10 130	10 291	- 161	- 1.6
IMPORTS	12 302	12 178	+ 123	+ 1.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 172	- 1 887	- 285	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-APR	JAN-APR	INCREASE OR	
	1982	1981	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	24 045 (62.8%)	21 904 (63.0%)	+ 2 141	+ 9.8
RE-EXPORTS	14 215	12 850	+ 1 365	+10.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	38 261	34 754	+ 3 506	+10.1
IMPORTS	45 713	42 468	+ 3 245	+ 7.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 7 452	- 7 714	+ 262	

LAST 12 MONTHS	MAY 1981	MAY 1980	INCREASE OR	
	TO	TO	DECREASE	
	APR 1982	APR 1981	\$ MN.	%
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	82 565	70 982	+11 583	+16.3
RE-EXPORTS	43 105	34 586	+ 8 519	+24.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	125 669	105 568	+20 102	+19.0
IMPORTS	141 620	120 392	+21 228	+17.6
TRADE BALANCE	-15 951	-14 824	- 1 127	

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HONG KONG STUDENT TOPS IN ACCOUNTING EXAM

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A 22-YEAR-OLD STUDENT OF LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, MR CHENG CHUN-HUNG, HAS BEEN AWARDED FIRST PLACE IN AN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTING STAFF (IAS) EXAMINATION, A COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTING EXAMINATION FOR MID-LEVEL ACCOUNTING STUDENTS.

MR JAMES H.L. KUNG, HEAD OF LEE WAI LEE'S COMMERCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT, SAID IN ADDITION TO MR CHENG, THREE OTHER STUDENTS FROM HIS DEPARTMENT WERE AMONG THE TOP TEN FINISHERS OUT OF 706 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FROM VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

THE OTHER THREE ARE TO YUM-CHUNG IN THIRD PLACE, CHAU WAI-KWAN IN SIXTH AND LO WAI-KEUNG IN TENTH.

THE IAS PART II EXAMINATION HAS BEEN A TRADITIONAL STEPPING-STONE FOR ACCOUNTING STUDENTS TO BECOMING CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

MR CHENG, STILL A SECOND YEAR STUDENT OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES, SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE HIS ACCOUNTING STUDIES AT THE POLYTECHNIC AND BECOME A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.

THE INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTING STAFF HAS, HOWEVER, RECENTLY BEEN REPLACED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS (AAT) WHICH WILL CONDUCT EXAMINATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE ORGANISED PREVIOUSLY BY IAS.

+SO STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, OUR ACCOUNTING COURSES WILL BE STRUCTURED ACCORDING TO THE SYLLABUSES OF AAT, A UK-BASED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING BODY WHICH WILL OFFER THREE LEVELS OF EXAMINATIONS,+ MR KUNG SAID.

+GRADUATES FROM THE COMMERCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF LEE WAI LEE WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE FIRST TWO LEVELS. THE AAT EXAMINATIONS, JUST LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, ARE A RECOGNISED FORM OF ACCOUNTANCY COMPETENCY TEST,+ HE ADDED.

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HONG KONG REFEREE FOR WORLD CUP
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ALTHOUGH THE HONG KONG TEAM DID NOT QUALIFY TO PLAY IN NEXT MONTH'S WORLD CUP FINALS IN SPAIN, ONE OF HONG KONG'S SOCCER REFEREES, A RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICER OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THERE.

HE IS MR THOMSON CHAN, 42, WHO HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) AS ONE OF THE REFEREES IN THIS IMPORTANT EVENT HELD ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS.

IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A CHINESE HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REFEREE IN THESE EVENTS.

A TOTAL OF 24 NATIONAL TEAMS WILL PLAY IN MORE THAN 60 MATCHES IN THE FINALS.

MR CHAN WAS A GOVERNMENT PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AND TRANSFERRED TO THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE IN 1975.

DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE RSS, HE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANISING VARIOUS TEAM GAMES FOR YOUTH AS WELL AS SETTING UP CLASSES FOR REFEREES.

HE WAS A CLASS THREE REFEREE IN 1970 AND BECAME A CLASS ONE REFEREE FOUR YEARS LATER.

+ONE HAS TO REFEREE MORE THAN 20 MATCHES IN TWO YEARS BEFORE ONE CAN BECOME A CLASS TWO REFEREE,+ MR CHAN EXPLAINED.

+DURING THE MATCHES AN ASSESSOR FROM THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WAS PRESENT TO TEST MY ABILITY.

+TO CLIMB TO THE TOP, I HAD TO UNDERGO ANOTHER TWO YEARS OF REFEREEING AND TESTS.

+ALTHOUGH I OBTAINED A CLASS ONE GRADING IN 1974, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1975 THAT I WAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY FIFA,+ HE SAID.

TO BECOME A FIFA RECOGNISED REFEREE, ONE HAS TO HAVE GOOD RECORD OVER SEVERAL YEARS IN BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MATCHES.

DURING HIS REFEREEING CAREER, MR CHAN TOOK PART IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MATCHES THROUGHOUT ASIA AND THE OCEANIA, HIS LATEST IN EARLY MARCH IN THE GULF TOURNAMENT HELD IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR SPAIN EARLY NEXT MONTH AND ON ARRIVAL WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO A NUMBER OF TESTS INCLUDING A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION.

+I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING THERE AND WILL DO MY UTMOST TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT HONG KONG DOES HAVE WORLD-CLASS REFEREES,+ HE ADDED.

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REFUSE BARGES FOR CHEUNG CHAU
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THE PILOT SCHEME OF USING BARGES TO REMOVE HOUSEHOLD REFUSE FROM CHEUNG CHAU FOR DISPOSAL BY INCINERATION AT KWAI CHUNG HAS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE SCHEME, WHICH WAS STARTED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE ISLAND.

THE NEW MEASURES HELPED TO CUT DOWN ON SMOKE POLLUTION ON THE ISLAND SINCE THE TWO SMALL RURAL TYPE INCINERATORS AT TAI SHEK HOU OF THE ISLAND STOPPED OPERATION AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BARGE SERVICE.

AS A RESULT, THE PILOT SCHEME IS NOW BEING EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID.

IN THIS CONNECTION, TENDERS ARE NOW BEING INVITED FOR THE SUPPLY OF A MOTORISED BARGE COMPLETE WITH CREW FOR TRANSPORTING REFUSE FROM CHEUNG CHAU.

THE BARGE WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE ABOUT 20 TONNES OF REFUSE LOADED IN BASKETS FROM CHEUNG CHAU TO A DESIGNATED MOORING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES DAILY. AFTER UNLOADING, THE EMPTY BASKETS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE LOADING POINT AT CHEUNG CHAU THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER CAN START OPERATION ON JULY 1 FOR A CONTRACT PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TENDER FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE NTSD SOUTH REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF FOURSEAS BUILDING, 208-212 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX AT THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI, BEFORE JUNE 18 (FRIDAY).

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE WITH THE NTSD SOUTH REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS ON TELEPHONE 3-7211837 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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TENDERS FOR PLEASURE BOATS AT BEACH
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE PROVISION OF BEACH PLEASURE BOATS FOR HIRE TO THE PUBLIC AT CASTLE PEAK BEACH IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

TENDER FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE NTSD HEADQUARTERS ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF AUSTIN CENTRE, 19-23 AUSTIN AVENUE, TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE ABLE TO START BUSINESS ON JUNE 18 FOR A CONTRACT PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

COMPLETED TENDER FORMS MUST BE PLACED IN THE TENDER BOX ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF NTSD HEADQUARTERS BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 11.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE WITH THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES SECTION OF NTSD ON TELEPHONE 3-678715.

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