



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
GARDEN ROAD, 5th-8th FLOORS, MURRAY BUILDING,
HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Saturday, July 13, 1996

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Director-General of Industry to visit Toronto

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The Director-General of Industry, Mrs Regina Ip, left Hong Kong today (Saturday) for a four-day visit to Toronto, Canada as part of the Industry Department's effort to attract overseas industrialists to invest in Hong Kong.

On July 17, Mrs Ip will deliver a keynote speech on "Business Opportunities in Hong Kong beyond 1997" at a luncheon hosted by the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada and the Hong Kong Canada Business Association.

The luncheon talk will be followed by a round table meeting during which Mrs Ip will discuss with members of the Alliance investment opportunities in Hong Kong's manufacturing industries.

Mrs Ip will call on senior officials of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism of the Ontario Government to discuss investment issues.

Mrs Ip's itinerary also includes meetings with leading Canadian manufacturers and visits to a number of Canadian companies engaged in high technology production.

"Canada has a leading edge in several areas of manufacturing and is an important source of external investment in Hong Kong's manufacturing industries. More contacts with the Canadian enterprises and officials will help promote external investment and technology transfer to Hong Kong," Mrs Ip said.

End

Grant from Disaster Relief Fund

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The Disaster Relief Fund Advisory Committee (DRFAC) has today (Saturday) approved a grant of \$3 million to Oxfam Hong Kong as a contribution to its relief programme for the flood victims in four counties in Guizhou, China.

The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, who normally chairs the DRFAC but is currently on leave, has expressed concern over the extent of the damage caused by the recent floods in China. She was pleased to hear that the grant had been approved.

The Hong Kong Government will require Oxfam Hong Kong to submit an evaluation report and an audited account on the use of the grant to ensure that the money will be used for the designated purpose.

This is the first grant the Committee has approved for relief of the victims in the recent floods in China. "The Committee hopes that the grant will stimulate more responses from the public towards the cause," a Government spokesman said.

The Committee secretariat has received four other applications from the Salvation Army, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Hong Kong Red Cross and World Vision Hong Kong. These applications are being processed.

End

Contractors warned not to use fire-fighting water

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The Water Supplies Department today (Saturday) warned contractors that unlawful use of water from fire hydrants and any other fire fighting installations would be prosecuted.

"Once convicted, the maximum fine will amount to \$5,000," said a spokesman for the department.

The warning was issued following eight recent court cases involving illegal connections to street fire hydrants by construction workers and illegal use of water from the hydrants for construction purposes. All offenders were convicted and fine totalling \$51,800 was imposed.

In another case, a garage worker in Yuen Long was fined \$1,800 for illegally altered the fire service installation in the garage and used the water for car-washing.

End

Pre-school services for handicapped children

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The objective of pre-school services for handicapped children is to facilitate their physical, mental and social development to the fullest extent their abilities permit.

This was stated by the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, when he officiated at the opening ceremony of the Heep Hong Society Jockey Club Early Education and Training Centre in North District today (Saturday).

"The ultimate aim is to enable them to receive education in ordinary schools as far as possible and as early as possible.

"Early education and training centres (EETC) are designed particularly for children aged below two for this purpose," Mr Strachan said.

He said the government funded 17 EETCs with a total of 1,265 places operated by non-governmental organisations as at the end of May.

"We target at providing another 465 places by 1998-99," he said.

In addition to the various training programmes offered by a team of professional staff including social worker, physiotherapist and occupational therapist to the handicapped children, Mr Strachan said support programmes were also made available for parents at present.

"There are six parents resources centres and 19 centres providing occasional child care services to disabled children," he said, adding that these provisions were essential to parents with disabled children.

The new EETC opened today is the eighth of its kind operated by Heep Hong Society.

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Radio shows to disseminate anti-drug message

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Five radio shows will be staged at public housing estates in the coming summer holidays to disseminate the anti-drug message in an entertaining atmosphere.

Jointly organised by the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Housing Authority and Hit Radio of the Metro Broadcast, the first episode of the series will be kicked off at noon on Sunday (July 14) in Cheung Fat Shopping Centre, Tsing Yi.

The shows, open free to the public, will feature performances by Canto pop singers as well as quiz and games to encourage participation from the audience.

Through the anti-drug shows which target at youngsters and families, the audience will learn about the harmful effects of drug abuse, the misconception about drug abuse and how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The other four radio shows will be held in Tai Wo Shopping Centre on July 21, Lok Wah (North) Estate on August 4, Siu Sai Wan Estate on August 25 and Long Ping Estate on September 8. The time is from 3 pm to 4.30 pm.

In order to reach more people, all five shows will be recorded and broadcast on Metro Hit Radio in the following Saturday from 11 am to noon.

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Flushing water cut in Tai Po

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The flushing water supply to some premises in Tai Po Industrial Estate will be temporarily suspended from 6 pm on Tuesday (July 16) to 6 am the following day for conversion to salt water flushing to be carried out.

The suspension will affect all premises in Dai Fat Street, Dai Fu Street, Dai Shun Street, Dai Kwai Street, Dai King Street, Dai Wang Street, Dai Cheong Street, Dai Shing Street, Dai Li Street and Dai Hei Street.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	1,582	09:30	+310
Closing Balance in the account	1,922	10:00	+310
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+310
Money Market Activity	+310	11:30	+310
Laf Today	+30		

Laf Rate 4% Bid/6% Offer TWI 124.6 *+0.1* 13.7.96

End

Lantau taxi fare increases

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The Transport Department announces today (Sunday) that the taxi fare on Lantau will be increased by 10 per cent from Friday (July 19).

The Lantau taxis' flagfall charge for the first two kilometres (Km) and subsequent jumps for every 0.2 kilometre will be increased from \$10 to \$11 and from \$1 to \$1.1 respectively.

The waiting time charge for every one minute will also be increased from \$1 to \$1.1.

The surcharge for each large baggage, animal or bird carried will from the same time be increased from \$4 to \$5 while that for every hiring through telephone booking will remain unchanged at \$5.

A Transport Department spokesman said that before the taxi meter was calibrated and sealed, a fare conversion table showing old and new fare scales would be displayed to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

Lantau taxi owners can from tomorrow (Monday) collect the conversion tables by producing their taxi registration documents at:

- * the Islands District Office,
Mui Wo Sub-office,
ground floor, Mui Wo Government Offices,
2 Ngan Kwong Wan Road,
Mui Wo, Lantau Island, and
- * the Public Vehicles Section,
Transport Department,
third floor, United Centre,
95 Queensway, Hong Kong.

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Tertiary students reminded to apply early for grants

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Children or dependants of farming and fishing families in need of financial assistance for tertiary education are reminded to apply early for the Agricultural Products and Marine Fish Scholarship Funds.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department said applications for the scholarship and grants will close on July 20 (Saturday).

Application forms are obtainable from the department's headquarters on the 12th floor of Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road, Kowloon and from various district agricultural and fisheries liaison offices.

"Applicants should be Hong Kong residents under 30 years of age," the spokesman said.

"The awards will be tenable at any university in Hong Kong and any acceptable overseas institution."

Approved courses for tertiary education include those on agriculture, veterinary science, marine science and biology or any applied science directly relevant to the local agriculture or fisheries and related trades.

Enquiries about application procedures may be directed to the Secretary of the Agricultural Products and Marine Fish Scholarship Funds Advisory Committee on 2733 2244.

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Fresh water cut in Yau Tong

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The fresh water supply to some premises in Yau Tong will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (July 17) to 6 am the following day to facilitate waste detection work on watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in the areas of Ko Yee Estate, Ko Chun Court, Ko Chiu Road Home for the Aged and Yau Tong Centre.

End