



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1974

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PUBLIC URGED TO HELP PREVENT FIRES DURING EASTER *****

VISITORS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD ARE URGED TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT FIRE.

PICNICKERS AND THOSE HOLDING BARBECUES SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES SAID.

PEOPLE WERE BOUND TO FLOCK OUT DOORS IF THE WEATHER WAS SUNNY FOR THE HOLIDAY, HE SAID, AND UNLESS PROPER CARE WAS TAKEN, THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASED FIRE RISK.

+ALTHOUGH WET AND HUMID WEATHER NORMALLY DECREASES THE FIRE RISK, THE FACT THAT MORE PEOPLE WILL BE OUT OF DOORS IN THE RURAL AREAS BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY MEANS THE CHANCES OF FIRE IN THESE AREAS BECOMES GREATER.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LARGEST SINGLE CAUSE OF FIRES IN HONG KONG CONTINUED TO BE CARELESS DISPOSAL OF LIGHTED CIGARETTE ENDS AND MATCHES. HE URGED ALL SMOKERS TO SEE THAT THESE WERE PROPERLY PUT OUT BEFORE DISPOSING OF THEM - PREFERABLY IN AN ASH TRAY.

HE ADVISED THOSE ORGANISING BARBECUES TO USE GOVERNMENT BARBECUE AREAS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. +DON'T LEAVE LITTER AROUND WHICH COULD CATCH FIRE AND EXTINGUISH ALL SOURCES OF HEAT BEFORE LEAVING THE SITE,+ HE STRESSED. HE ALSO SUGGESTED KEEPING A BUCKET OF WATER NEARBY TO DOUSE THE FIRE IF IT GOT OUT OF CONTROL.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED HOMEOWNERS THAT ELECTRICAL FAULTS WERE A MAJOR CAUSE OF FIRE, AND HE ADVISED THEM NOT TO TAMPER WITH ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES UNLESS THEY WERE SURE THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING. HE STRESSED: +DON'T OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL POINTS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WERE 8,350 FIRES IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR WHICH CAUSED AN ESTIMATED \$85 MILLION OF DAMAGE. +THIS IS AN APPALLING FIGURE, AND IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT ALMOST ALL FIRES ARE CAUSED THROUGH CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE.+

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SPORTS IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPMENT OF MENTALLY RETARDED

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GAMES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO HELP MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN TO DEVELOP PROPERLY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID TODAY.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST GAMES DAY FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN THIS MORNING, HE SAID THAT SINCE THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF QUITE A NUMBER OF RETARDED CHILDREN IS HINDERED, IN ADDITION TO THEIR ARRESTED INTELLECTUAL GROWTH, IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT JUST TO HELP THEM DEVELOP THEIR MENTALITY ALONE.

+ACTIVE GAMES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE USED TO HELP THEM DEVELOP THEIR PHYSIQUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF ACTION. SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DISCIPLINE, PATIENCE, FAIR COMPETITION AND TEAM-WORK SPIRIT. ALL THESE QUALITIES CANNOT BE OBTAINED FROM CLASSROOM TEACHING ALONE,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

THE GAMES DAY FOR 1,000 MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN WAS ORGANIZED BY THE SOCIAL WORK GROUPS OF ST. JAMES' SETTLEMENT, ST. FRANCIS CANOSSIAN COLLEGE, MARYKNOLL SISTERS' SCHOOL, THE HONG KONG TANG KING PO COLLEGE, SHUE YAN COLLEGE AND THE HONG KONG WAH YAN COLLEGE. IT WAS HELD AT THE WONG CHUK HANG SPORTSGROUND IN ABERDEEN.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. TOPLEY'S SPEECH, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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DECEMBER ACCOUNTS SHOW \$213 MILLION SURPLUS

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THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1973 SHOW A SURPLUS OF \$213 MILLION COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF \$263 MILLION THE PREVIOUS DECEMBER.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN A TOTAL SURPLUS OF \$140 MILLION FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE 1973/74 FINANCIAL YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$649 MILLION WAS \$70 MILLION MORE THAN IN DECEMBER 1972. THE TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR AT \$3,549 MILLION WAS \$317 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME PERIOD THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

EXPENDITURE AMOUNTED TO \$436 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF \$120 MILLION OVER DECEMBER 1972. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR TO \$3,409 MILLION — \$736 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME PERIOD THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

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NEW DRAFT PLAN FOR ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU
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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD HAS PREPARED A NEW DRAFT PLAN PROPOSING A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO THE TWO EXISTING DRAFT PLANS COVERING THE ABERDEEN AND AP LEI CHAU AREA.

THE NEW PLAN SHOWS THE NEW PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS FOR THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL APPROACH ROAD WITH AREAS RESERVED FOR OPEN SPACE AND OTHER PUBLIC USES ON EITHER SIDE.

ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL LAND AT THE WESTERN END FOR A POSSIBLE GAS HOLDER AND AN AREA FOR AN +OCEAN PARK+ ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF BRICK HILL ALSO FEATURE ON THE PLAN TOGETHER WITH PROVISION FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS.

THE PLAN ALSO INCLUDES A NUMBER OF CHANGES WHICH THE BOARD HAS PROPOSED TO MEET OBJECTIONS LODGED WHEN THE PREVIOUS PLANS WERE EXHIBITED.

THE AMENDMENT PLAN IS BEING EXHIBITED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE WEEKS AND MAY BE INSPECTED DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS AT THE PUBLIC INQUIRY CENTRE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), HONG KONG= THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE (WESTERN), 205A DES VOEUX ROAD WEST, HONG KONG= AND AT ABERDEEN CITY DISTRICT SUB-OFFICE, 200 ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE PLAN MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, NOT LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1974.

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HOLIDAY POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

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THERE WILL BE NO DELIVERY OF MAIL TOMORROW, GOOD FRIDAY, AND ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED. ON SATURDAY AND EASTER MONDAY, HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE ONE POSTAL DELIVERY EACH DAY.

A TOTAL OF 32 POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OPEN HALF DAY ON SATURDAY AND MONDAY, INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE. BUSINESS HOURS WILL BE 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON.

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TIN HAU'S BIRTHDAY ON MONDAY
GOVERNOR TO ATTEND FESTIVAL PARADE

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NEXT MONDAY, APRIL 15, IS THE BIRTHDAY OF TIN HAU, GODDESS OF HEAVEN AND PROTECTRESS OF SEAFARERS.

BEING A POPULAR PATRON SAINT OF THE BOAT PEOPLE, HER BIRTHDAY HAS BECOME A FESTIVAL -- ONE OF HONG KONG'S MOST COLOURFUL CHINESE FESTIVALS. AS POPULARITY GROWS, THIS FESTIVAL IS NOW PRACTICALLY CELEBRATED BY PEOPLE FROM ALMOST ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

EVERY YEAR THE CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES FOCUS IN YUEN LONG WITH A MAMMOTH PARADE AND IN JOSS HOUSE BAY WHERE THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS PAY HOMAGE TO TIN HAU. SIMILAR EVENTS, THOUGH ON A SMALLER SCALE, ARE ALSO HELD AT THE MANY TIN HAU TEMPLES BUILT NEAR THE ENTRANCES TO FISHING HARBOURS.

A LARGER CROWD IS EXPECTED AT THE YUEN LONG PROCESSION THIS YEAR AS THE FESTIVAL, CALCULATED ACCORDING TO THE LUNAR CALENDAR, FALLS WITHIN THE FOUR-DAY EASTER HOLIDAYS.

THE PARADE STARTS SHORTLY BEFORE 11 A.M. ON MONDAY (APRIL 15), PROCEEDING FROM THE YUEN LONG EASTERN BUS TERMINUS TO THE YUEN LONG STADIUM WHERE THE MAIN CELEBRATIONS WILL BE HELD.

ABOUT 3,000 VILLAGERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS WILL TAKE PART IN THE TWO-HOUR PROCESSION WHICH FEATURES LION, DRAGON AND UNICORN DANCES, ACROBATIC DISPLAY AND FLOATS.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL BE AMONG THE THOUSANDS ATTENDING THE FESTIVAL PARADE AND SHARE IN THE FUN AND GAIETY.

AT JOSS HOUSE BAY, A LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS IS EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR WAY IN GAILY DECORATED JUNKS, BARGES AND SAMPANS TO THE TIN HAU TEMPLE THERE, BRINGING OFFERINGS AND FOOD FOR THE DAY-LONG CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER, AS A PRECAUTIONERY MEASURE, THE +KAI-TO+ OPERATORS HAVE BEEN WARNED NOT TO OVERLOAD THEIR VESSELS.

THERE WILL BE SIGNS INDICATING BERTHS FOR EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION AND THE ARMY WILL PROVIDE A TEMPORARY PONTOON FOR PASSENGERS TO LAND FROM BOATS.

IN ORDER TO AVOID CONGESTION ON LAND, LION AND OTHER DANCES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ASHORE AT JOSS HOUSE BAY.

FIRST AID AND FIRE FIGHTING FACILITIES WILL BE ARRANGED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. IN ADDITION, SPACE IS ALSO RESERVED TO BE USED AS A SPECIAL HELICOPTER PAD SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY.

/TO COPE

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TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS, THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WILL OPERATE SPECIAL SERVICES BETWEEN WANCHAI AND JOSS HOUSE BAY AT HALF-HOURLY INTERVALS.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO GO TO JOSS HOUSE BAY ON SUNDAY (APRIL 14), THE FERRY COMPANY WILL RUN SPECIAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE TWO POINTS FROM 9 A.M. TO 4.30 P.M.

ELDERLY AND FRAIL PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO MAKE THEIR VISITS ON SUNDAY TO AVOID THE CROWDED CONDITIONS THE FOLLOWING DAY.

NOTE TO EDITORS

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT AT YUEN LONG. OFFICIAL TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A VAN, AM2134, WILL PICK UP PRESS MEMBERS AT TSIM SHA TSUI SUB-POOL AT 9.15 A.M. ON MONDAY (APRIL 15).

G.I.S. OFFICERS, JOHNNY KHAN AND HANNY LEE, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS. PRESS BADGES FOR THE PARADE ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE G.I.S. PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE TODAY (THURSDAY).

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (THURSDAY) 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 OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE(\$/CATTY) AVERAGE</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.12
S.C.JIEN		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.06
PO NGAI	GOOD	-
CHU CHO	GOOD	-
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	2.03
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	2.01
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	1.90
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.70
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	-
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.92
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	-
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	-

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(VMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	GOOD	1.00	0.20	0.60
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.25
CHINESE LETTUCE	GOOD	0.60	0.20	0.40
WATER SPINACH	LIMITED	1.80	0.60	1.40
CHINESE KALE	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
SPRING ONION	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
SPINACH	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
WATER CRESS	NORMAL	0.90	0.20	0.60
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE SPINACH	LIMITED	1.50	0.50	1.00
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.40	0.20	1.00

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD

WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORKER (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 305 (AVERAGE)

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH

(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	4.40	2.80	3.60
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.40	0.60	1.50
SQUID	NORMAL	4.50	2.50	3.50
HAIR-TAILS	NORMAL	1.80	1.00	1.30
LIZARD FISHES	LIMITED	2.70	1.40	2.00
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.80	0.60	1.20
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	1.70	1.20	1.50
MELON COAT	LIMITED	2.50	1.50	2.00
BREAMS	LIMITED	4.50	3.00	4.00
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.80	0.60	1.40
MACKERELS	NORMAL	4.00	3.00	3.50
RED COAT FISH	NORMAL	0.90	0.50	0.70
FORK-TAIL	GOOD	1.30	0.80	1.10
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	6.50	3.50	4.50
MELON SEED	NORMAL	2.80	1.70	2.00
POMFRETS	SCARCE	11.00	8.00	10.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.50	5.50	6.50
YELLOW CROAKER	---	---	---	---

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