



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Re-settlement for Lei Yue Mun landslips victims

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The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO), in conjunction with the Housing Department, has identified about 30 structures in the Lei Yue Mun Squatter Area as at immediate risk following an inspection of the reported landslips in the area.

Families living in these structures had moved out voluntarily and had been offering alternative accommodation by the Housing Department.

The situation is being closely monitored by the department and GEO.

A government spokesman said: "Families living in other structures in the Lei Yue Mun Squatter Area are not in immediate danger, but the potential risk may increase if heavy rain continue. They have been advised to move out temporarily in case of heavy rain."

Meanwhile, the Home Affairs Department has opened temporary shelters for those who need them in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin.

The department has also set up an inter-departmental co-ordination centre at the Kwun Tong District Office which is headed by the Deputy Director of Home Affairs, Miss Sandra Lee, to further assist affected residents. The Social Welfare Department will also be offering assistance to those taking shelters in these centres.

The Housing Department has opened a special centre at Hoi Ban School within the squatter area to facilitate registration and its staff have been visiting individual families with a view to expediting the process of registering for alternative accommodation.

The department has also set up an emergency hotline - 2761 5511 - to answer enquiries and to arrange transportation for affected families to temporary shelters.

Priority assistance will be given to the elderly and the disabled.

For general information on the latest developments, members of the public and media could contact the Kwun Tong District Office on 2341 6315 or 2342 3460.

End/Saturday, August 19, 1995

Use Less Plastic Bags Campaign a success

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The "Use Less Plastic Bags Campaign" has attained a successful result a year after it was launched as about one third of the participating companies have achieved the target reduction of 10 per cent in their use of plastic bags during 1994-95.

Among these companies, two had scored the highest cutback rate of at least 30 per cent while most of the retailers took part in the drive had achieved a noticeable level of reduction in plastic bag consumption.

Jointly organised by the Environmental Protection Department, the Retail Management Association and the Consumer Council, the campaign demonstrated the collaborative effort of the retail industry, consumers and the Government in tackling the plastic bag problem.

It also showed it was a practical idea to get the plastic bag 'producer' to take up the responsibility to provide solutions for environmental problems and set a good example for other industries to follow.

The Use Less Plastic Bags Campaign Committee will carry the momentum of the drive into the second year by encouraging the participants to initiate their own ideas for cutting and controlling the use of plastic bags and to provide education for their staff.

The committee is hoping to achieve another 10 per cent reduction in plastic bag consumption in 1995-96.

Regular forums will be organised to disseminate creative and practical reduction ideas for the participating company's consideration in applying them to their own programmes.

A total of \$114,000 has been granted from the Environment and Conservation Fund/Woo Wheelock Green Fund for the production of publicity tapes for broadcasting at some 800 major retail outlets throughout the territory to remind shoppers the need to protect the environment.

More than 20 versions of the tapes featuring such celebrities as top singers Andy Lau and Aaron Kwok will be produced for broadcast in the year to come in supermarkets, convenience and department stores.

A double decker bus carrying a catchy campaign slogan will run daily between Tin Shui Estate in the New Territories and the KCR Terminal Station in Kowloon to attract more public attention on the issue.

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HK veterans commemorate VJ Day in London

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Watched by Her Majesty the Queen, the Hong Kong delegation to the VJ Day Commemorations took part in a parade of veterans and serving military personnel in London today (Saturday).

The parade was held to mark the 50th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.

Soldiers from Britain, the Dependent Territories, Commonwealth countries and countries whose forces fought for Britain marched past a dais where the Queen took the salute before they proceeded down the Mall watched by large crowds. On either side of the dais in VIP stands were High Commissioners and Chiefs of Defence Staff in full Ceremonial Day uniforms.

The Hong Kong Commissioner, Sir David Ford, who represented the territory as Chief of Defence Staff equivalent said: "This parade and other events organised to mark VJ day is of special significance to people all over the world, including those in Hong Kong who suffered and survived the occupation.

"It is appropriate that the Hong Kong contingent, including four veterans, should participate in these events in recognition of their service for the defence of Hong Kong and in memory of those who fought and died for Hong Kong." Earlier, the Hong Kong delegation along with other participants attended an open air service in Buckingham Palace.

This evening, the VIPs, the veterans, and the serving military contingent and their guests will view displays, flypasts and fireworks from various vantage points on the River Thames.

Tomorrow (Sunday), the veterans and Chiefs of Defence Staff will attend a lunch-time reception and a Beating Retreat Ceremony at Horse Guards Parade in London.

Earlier in the week, the Hong Kong Commissioner had hosted a reception to welcome the 10-strong Hong Kong delegation to London comprised the veterans Mr Arthur Gomes, Mr Lau Yam-choi, Mr Jack Edwards and Mr Raymond Mok Wah-chan; and serving military personnel Major Chu Cho-ming, WO1 (RSM) Yuen Chi-leung, Cpl Lee Chun-mou, Lt Ho Lai-san, Sgt Suen Wu-tiu and L Cpl Lee Poon-hoo.

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Financial assistance for child care

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Members of the public whose children are enrolled in child care centres, including day creches and day nurseries, are invited to apply for financial assistance from the Social Welfare Department (SWD).

A department spokesman said today (Saturday) a child aged below six years at a child care centre will be qualified for fee assistance.

"Parents or guardians who wish to apply must demonstrate that they cannot afford the full cost of the fees charged.

"They must also prove that they are unable to provide adequate care for their children at home during the day, for reasons such as both parents have to work for a living, single-parent family or family with an aged or disabled member who needs special care," he said.

The spokesman explained that the amount of assistance payable is calculated with regard to the family's net income which is the difference between the family's total income and the recognised rent.

"The maximum amount of assistance payable will be based on the fees charged in aided child care centres. For 1994 -95, the general maximum fee assistance level is set at \$3,180 per month for day creches and \$1,680 per month for day nurseries.

"Applications for the fee assistance scheme may be made throughout the year, but preferably be lodged three months before the date of the child's admission to a child care centre," the spokesman said.

However, staff from SWD's social security field units will, from June to August, go to the child care centres to help needy parents process applications in batches.

To further publicise the scheme, the SWD has recently updated a leaflet entitled "Fee Assistance Scheme for Child Care Centres".

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained at child care centres, social security field units and district offices throughout the territory.

Interested persons who have enquiries about the fee assistance scheme can approach their respective social security field units or contact the Child Care Centre Advisory Inspectorate on 2836 3114.

Contractors must observe safety regulations

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The Labour Department today (Sunday) warned contractors not to make light of safety precautions on construction sites.

"Failure to take necessary precautions may cause an industrial accident resulting in injuries or even fatalities," a spokesman for the department said.

Tai Hing (Engineers & Builders) Limited in Mong Kok was recently fined \$80,000 at Western Magistracy for failing to take necessary precautions on a site resulting in the death of a worker. The fine was the highest ever imposed on a single conviction since the maximum fine for such offence was raised to \$200,000.

The fatal accident happened in July last year in a construction site at Queen's Road Central, where a 20-storey building was being demolished.

The deceased was in the lift shaft on the ground floor unfastening a bundle of metal bars when a falling object knocked off his safety helmet and struck him on the head.

Investigation showed that the contractor had not taken necessary precautions to prevent the deceased working there from being struck by falling materials or objects.

The spokesman said failure to take precautions on construction sites to protect the safety of workers was an offence under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations and the offender would be liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 on conviction.

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Anti-rabies inoculation drive in fishing ports

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The Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD) will launch a half-yearly dog inoculation drive in fishing ports over the next ten days for fishermen to have their dogs immunised against rabies.

Starting from Monday (August 21), AFD's mobile dog inoculation teams will go to the territory's fishing ports one by one and make boat-to-boat visits between 10 am and 4 pm daily. The inoculation programme is as follow:

<u>Port</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sha Tau Kok	21.8.95
Sam Mun Chai	22.8.95 - 23.8.95
Aberdeen	22.8.95 - 23.8.95
Sai Kung	22.8.95 - 23.8.95
Castle Peak Bay	24.8.95 - 25.8.95
Shau Kei Wan	24.8.95 - 25.8.95
Cheung Chau	29.8.95 - 30.8.95

The drive, a regular exercise since 1980, is intended to help fishermen who find little time to take their dogs to an inoculation centre or a government kennel for inoculation.

The department's Senior Veterinary Officer, Dr Liu Kwei-kin said that the drive was part of Government's continuing efforts to prevent the outbreak of rabies in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong regained the rabies-free area status on July 10, 1989 by having successfully prevented the outbreak of any indigenous rabies case since July 10, 1987," Dr Liu said.

Nevertheless, he stressed that rabies was a deadly disease transmissible from animals to human. Dogs on fishing vessels are particularly vulnerable because of their possible contacts with other animals outside Hong Kong.

"It is therefore important that fishermen's dogs are inoculated against rabies especially when there are reports of recent rabies outbreaks in neighbouring areas," he added.

Under the Rabies Ordinance, all dogs over five month old are required to be licensed and inoculated against rabies. Failure to do so will render the owner liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

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Two closure orders lifted

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The Buildings Department has lifted two closure orders in respect of the buildings affected by recent landslips.

Lifted are the orders in respect of the upper floors of the Chai Wan Baptist Church and the three houses at 46 Island Road.

The ground and first floors of the church, however, remain closed for the time being.

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Closure of Ma Tau Wai Registration of Persons Office

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For better utilisation of resources, the Immigration Department today (Saturday) announced that the Registration of Persons Ma Tau Wai Office will be closed from August 29. After the closure, its existing workload will be redistributed as follows:

(a) New entrants from China

Registration of Hong Kong Identity Cards for new entrants from China holding One Way Permits will be dealt with at the Registration of Persons, Kowloon Office, Empire Centre, second floor, 68 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East.

(b) Resident One Way Permit holders

Resident One Way Permit holders who require subsequent registration services (e.g. replacements due to loss, damage or change of residential status etc.) may approach any of the Registration of Persons Offices.

"To avoid queuing for an appointment tag, applicants are encouraged to make use of the Automated Telephone Appointment Booking System operating 24 hours. The telephone number is 2598 0888," the spokesman said.

For enquiry, members of the public may telephone 2824 6111 or use faxline 2877 7711.

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Logo scheme for tourist guesthouses to be introduced

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The Home Affairs Department will introduce a logo scheme for all licensed tourist guesthouses from September 1, a spokesman for the department said today (Saturday).

The spokesman said the scheme was aimed at enabling tourists to identify bona fide tourist guesthouses which are licensed by the department's Office of the Licensing Authority (OLA).

The logo will be issued free of charge to operators of licensed tourist guesthouses when they collect their licences.

"Tourists will be able to tell from the logo whether the guesthouse in which they plan to stay has complied with the necessary building and fire safety requirements," said the spokesman.

He added that the logo was not transferable and must be surrendered on cancellation of the licence.

At present, there are a total of 373 licensed tourist guesthouses throughout the territory.

Under the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance, anyone who operates a guesthouse without a licence is liable to a fine of \$200,000 and two years' imprisonment.

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Advanced computer system for registration of persons

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The Immigration Department today (Saturday) announced the implementation of a more advanced computer system on August 29 to replace the existing Identity Card Information System. It is another new computer application to come on stream under the department's Information Systems Strategy.

"The format of Hong Kong identity cards will remain as at present under the new computer system. However, the manually prepared form issued to acknowledge an application for Hong Kong identity card will be replaced by a new style document. "This new document will be computer-printed bearing the holder's photograph and data," a spokesman for the Immigration Department said.

"The new document will also contain the digitised facsimile of the holder's photograph to facilitate the establishment of the holder's identity and to prevent unlawful alteration.

"The new acknowledgement forms will be issued from August 29, 1995. The old style acknowledgement forms will continue to be acceptable as proof of identity within their validity," the spokesman added.

For enquiry, members of the public may telephone 2824 6111 or use faxline 2877 7711.

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Firing practice scheduled on four days in September

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Firing practice will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range on four days next month.

The public is advised not to enter the area when red flags are hoisted.

Following are the dates and times for the firing practice:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
September 11 (Monday)	8.30 am to 5 pm
September 14 (Thursday)	8.30 am to 5 pm
September 18 (Monday)	8.30 am to 5 pm
September 21 (Thursday)	8.30 am to 5 pm

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,192	09:30	-15
Closing balance in the account	1,327	10:00	-15
Change attributable to:		11:00	-15
Money market activity	-15	11:30	-15
LAF today	+150	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.1 *-0.1* 19.8.95

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