DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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RENT ALLOWANCE REVISED

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT RENT ALLOWANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME HAVE BEEN INCREASED WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 1 (THURSDAY).

THE REVISED MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE IS NOW $488 FOR A SINGLE PERSON, $1,140 FOR A FAMILY WITH THREE MEMBERS, AND $1,425 FOR FIVE-MEMBER FAMILY.

"THE REVISION IS BASED ON THE LEVELS OF RENT CHARGED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT," A SWD SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"HOUSEHOLDS WITH TWO MEMBERS, FOUR MEMBERS AND SIX OR MORE MEMBERS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THE REVISION EXERCISE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT 4,560 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOUSEHOLDS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE REVISION OF RENT ALLOWANCE RATES.

THE REVISION IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF ABOUT $0.7 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND $4.3 MILLION FOR 1990-91. THE OLD AND REVISED MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCES PAYABLE UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NO. OF ELIGIBLE MEMBERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD	OLD RATE	REVISED
	$	$
1	405	488
2	908	908*
3	908	1,140
4	1,238	1,238*
5	1,238	1,425
6 AND ABOVE	1,643	1,643*

(* SAME AS EXISTING RATES)

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HISTORIC STUDY HALL TO BE RESTORED

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BUILT MORE THAN 140 YEARS AGO. THE DECAYING KUN TING STUDY HALL IN YUEN LONG IS TO HAVE A FACELIFT BY THE AUTUMN OF THIS YEAR.

THIS STUDY HALL IS CONSIDERED THE BEST OF ITS KIND REMAINING IN HONG KONG SINCE THE DEMOLITION OF SEVERAL OTHERS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

/ONLY A .....

ONLY A FEW SIMILAR HALLS STILL EXIST IN SOUTH CHINA.

THE STUDY HALL WAS BUILT BY THE TANG CLAN OF PING SHAN DURING THE REIGN OF THE DAOGUANG EMPEROR OF THE QING DYNASTY (1821-1850) TO COMMEMORATE THEIR FIRST GENERATION ANCESTOR, TANG KUN-TING, WHO WAS AT THAT TIME A WEALTHY AND PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE CLAN.

THE CLAN IS ONE OF THE LONGEST ESTABLISHED FAMILIES IN THE TERRITORY.

LIKE OTHER STUDY HALLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HALL WAS DESIGNED FOR THE YOUTH OF THE CLAN TO STUDY FOR A DEGREE IN THE IMPERIAL CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION OF THE QING GOVERNMENT.

BUT, UNLIKE OTHERS, THE HALL WAS ALSO THE VENUE FOR HOLDING BANQUETS AND THE TABLETS OF ANCESTORS WERE ALSO PLACED THERE.

THE BUILDING IS DESIGNED IN THE TRADITIONAL TWO-HALL STYLE, WITH ADJOINING WINGS. IT IS STUDDED WITH SUPERB TIMBER CARVINGS, PANELS AND MURALS.

THERE IS ALSO AN INTERESTING COLLECTION OF GRADUATION BANNERS KEPT IN THE MAIN HALL.

CONNECTED TO THE STUDY HALL IS A LARGE KITCHEN WHICH WAS USED FOR THE PREPARATION OF BANQUETS FOR GUESTS AND IMPORTANT OFFICIALS.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, THE RESTORATION WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A COST OF $2 MILLION, WHICH HAS BEEN DONATED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE RESTORATION WORK BEGAN LAST MONTH AND WILL TAKE NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

FULL REPAIRS WILL BE DONE TO THE BADLY DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE, WITH SPECIAL EFFORTS BEING MADE TO RESTORE THE DAMAGED TIMBER CARVINGS, DOOR PANELLING, AND ALTARS.

GREAT CARE IS NEEDED IN PERSERVING THE DECORATIONS, WHICH INCLUDE MURALS DEPICTING BATTLE SCENES AND FEATS OF HEROISM, AS TANG KUN-TING TOOK A KEEN INTEREST IN THE TEACHING OF MARTIAL ARTS.

THE STUDY HALL WILL NOT BE DEMOLISHED OR BE CONVERTED FOR ANOTHER 15 YEARS.

ON COMPLETION OF THE RESTORATION WORK, THE HALL MAY BE OPENED FOR DISPLAY, PERHAPS AS A MUSEUM OF MARTIAL ARTS TO WHICH THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE ACCESS.

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FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION IN CHAI WAN

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RESIDENTS IN CHAI WAN WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION FROM AN EXHIBITION TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT WAN TSUI ESTATE. IT WILL BE OPEN FROM 11 AM TO 3.30 PM.

THE EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY WORKING GROUP, IS THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF NINE FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITIONS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP SAID THE EXHIBITIONS AIM TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND THE POTENTIAL HAZARD OF ELECTRIC FAULT WHICH REMAINS A MAJOR CAUSE OF DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL FIRES.

"ELECTRIC FAULTS CAN BE AVOIDED IF REGULAR MAINTENANCE OF POWER POINTS AND APPLIANCES ARE CARRIED OUT BY PROFESSIONALS," HE SAID.

DISPLAY PANELS PROVIDED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BE SET UP TO CONVEY THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE EXHIBITION TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO PREVENT HILL FIRE.

"OFFICERS FROM THE TWO DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC." THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

VISITORS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO RECEIVE A BOOKLET ON FIRE PREVENTION AT HOME AND SOUVENIRS SPONSORED BY KWONG ON BANK LTD.

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YUEN LONG TO STAGE FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL

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A LUNAR NEW YEAR FUN FAIR AND FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE YUEN LONG MINI SOCCER PITCH IN TAI YUK ROAD TOMORROW (SUNDAY), BEGINNING AT 2 PM.

ORGANISED BY THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WITH THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, THE EVENT IS AIMED AT PROVIDING YOUNGSTERS WITH ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON AND AT THE SAME TIME DRIVING HOME THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE.

THERE WILL BE STALL GAMES SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO BRING ACROSS A PARTICULAR FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE, AND AN EXHIBITION ON HOME SECURITY DEVICES.

/OFFICIATING AT .....

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ROBIN IP; THE DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR LIM SHEK-YEUNG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR TAI KUEN; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR LAI KWOK-YIU.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YUEN LONG LUNAR NEW YEAR FUN FAIR AND FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE YUEN LONG MINI SOCCER PITCH IN TAI YUK ROAD. THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN ABERDEEN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 5), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TSUNG MAN STREET IN ABERDEEN FROM A POINT ABOUT SEVEN METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG SING ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 55 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE DESIGNATED A 24-HOUR DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY FOR SIX WEEKS.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS AND GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO 7 PM RESTRICTION ON THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TSUNG MAN STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT SEVEN METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TUNG SING ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

ALSO, THE SECTION OF OLD MAIN STREET, ABERDEEN FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH YUE FAI ROAD TO ITS NORTHERN JUNCTION WITH ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A TEMPORARY BAN ZONE FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND VEHICLES EXCEEDING THREE TONNES FOR FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD RESURFACING WORKS.

EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND VEHICLES WEIGHING MORE THAN THREE TONNES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THIS BAN ZONE.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TAI KOK TSUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TAI KOK TSUI FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 5) FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS BECAUSE OF ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

VEHICLES OVER SIX METRES LONG WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER EASTBOUND FUK LEE STREET BETWEEN MAN ON STREET AND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD. LONG VEHICLES ON EASTBOUND FUK LEE STREET HEADING FOR NORTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD ARE ADVISED TO USE MAN ON STREET AND WAI ON STREET.

BEDFORD ROAD BETWEEN MAPLE STREET AND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING TURNING MOVEMENTS WILL BE BANNED:

* THE LEFT-TURN FROM SOUTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD ONTO EASTBOUND BEDFORD ROAD;

* THE RIGHT-TURN FROM SOUTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD ONTO WESTBOUND FUK LEE STREET; AND

* THE RIGHT-TURN FROM EASTBOUND FUK LEE STREET ONTO SOUTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON SOUTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD HEADING FOR EASTBOUND BEDFORD ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA FUK TSUN STREET AND WALNUT STREET WHILE THOSE HEADING FOR WESTBOUND FUK LEE STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA IVY STREET, TAI CHING STREET, TAI TSUN STREET AND NORTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD.

MOREOVER, VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON EASTBOUND FUK LEE STREET HEADING FOR SOUTHBOUND TAI KOK TSUI ROAD ARE ADVISED TO USE MAN ON STREET AND WAI ON STREET.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURE ON TOLO HIGHWAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.3 KILOMETRES OF THE SLOW LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY NORTHBOUND NEAR TAI PO TAI WO ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 5).

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