



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
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Tuesday, August 15, 1995

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Full investigation on landslips underway

The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department is sending out questionnaires and appealing to individuals who have witnessed the landslips at Chai Wan and Aberdeen to come forward to assist in their investigations.

They are requested to contact the GEO on 2762 5354.

Meanwhile, clearance operations are continuing at the two landslip sites.

A footpath along Fei Tsui Road has been cleared but the road remains closed. The Hong Kong Baptist Church has been closed because of debris resting against the church building and concern over possible further slope movements.

Aerial photographs of the site have been taken and detailed ground survey of the failed slope and surroundings has started. A team of four geotechnical engineers and two technical officers are investigating the failure.

The GEO investigation team will be gathering all relevant background technical information from existing photographic and documentary sources next week. The team has also started a detailed ground investigation, involving geological mapping, assessment of groundwater conditions, sampling and testing of soil and rock materials. The investigation will take several months to complete and a preliminary report on the findings will be issued in about two weeks.

In response to news of the discovery of two bodies from the landslip debris at Aberdeen, the acting Head of the GEO, Mr John Massey, said that he was grieved to learn of further loss of life and offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and friends. He pledged that the GEO would continue to make every effort to assist with the clearance operations.

Mr Massey said that a full investigation of the circumstances leading to the tragedy had started and undertook to identify the cause of the failure.

At the base of the failed slope in Aberdeen, clearance operations have been made easier since heavy rain stopped yesterday, but Shum Wan Road remains blocked. A large volume of debris is still resting against the displaced shipyards.

An investigation team of six geotechnical engineers and two technical staff has been set up. Land surveyors have been making accurate plans of the site, and additional aerial photography will be undertaken to assist the survey work.

Geological mapping has started in the exposed area near the head of the landslip and will be extended as more of the hillside is cleared of slipped debris. This will be followed by collection of soil and rock samples for testing.

Meanwhile, a total of 123 landslip incidents have been reported to the GEO since last Friday night. Of these, 73 have affected roads, 21 occurred behind buildings and ten affected squatters.

77 of the incidents occurred on Hong Kong Island, 19 in Kowloon, 20 in the New Territories and seven on outlying islands (Lantau, Cheung Chau and Lamma Island).

Between August 11 and midnight last night, about 400mm of rainfall have been recorded at the Royal Observatory. During the same period between 400 and 500mm fell over most of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the central and eastern New Territories. More than 650mm have been recorded in parts of Hong Kong Island. The rain eased overnight and less than 10mm have been recorded since then over most of the territory.

Since the GEO Emergency Control Centre was first activated at 10.30 pm on August 11, the GEO has mobilized 14 emergency teams to respond to incident reports. More than 100 professional staff have been involved. Some who were first involved at the weekend are now carrying out a second round of emergency duties.

The centre will stay open at least until tomorrow morning.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

LegCo candidates briefed on electoral regulations

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The Boundary and Election Commission this (Tuesday) afternoon held a briefing session for candidates of the September Legislative Council elections, to help them understand better the relevant electoral regulations.

More than 130 candidates and agents had attended the two-and-a-half hour session held in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

BEC chairman, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, told the floor that he hoped the forthcoming elections would be held in an open, fair and honest manner.

Apart from Mr Justice Woo, representatives from the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Legal Department and the Post Office also answered election-related questions raised by candidates and their agents.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Orderly repatriation of 85 VMs

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A group of 85 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned to Vietnam today (Tuesday) on the 24th flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

The returnees, comprising of 31 men, 22 women, 17 boys and 15 girls, were mainly from Whitehead Departure Centre. The oldest is 62 years old and the youngest 18 months.

Most of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1988 and 1989, with one in 1990 and another one in 1995.

The group brought to 1,456 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

The returnees were transported to the airport early this morning for pre-departure security checks before boarding the flight for Hanoi. 12 returnees were assisted in boarding the aircraft.

The Acting Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Gordon Leung, stressed that the Government was determined to repatriate all screened-out VMs to Vietnam.

"There is no future for them in Hong Kong and the best option for them is to volunteer to go back to Vietnam," he said.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Monitors' report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this morning (Tuesday) have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

A Government spokesman said the monitors were a Justice of the Peace, Mr Eddie Lee Chung-keung, and Miss Marie Vander Elst from Medecins Sans Frontieres.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Container growth underlines need for new facilities

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Latest official throughput figures underline the growing need for additional container terminal facilities in Hong Kong.

Statistics for the first four months of the year show that the port is maintaining its high throughput growth rate with the biggest increase occurring in river trade.

Issued by the Marine Department, the figures show that up to the end of April, Hong Kong has handled 3.7 million twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs). This was a 16.5 per cent increase over the same period last year.

The eight terminals at the Kwai Chung Container Port handled 2.45 million TEUs, a rise of 17.5 per cent over the first four months of last year. There was a smaller increase in the number of containers handled mid-stream. The total rose 9.5 per cent to 913,000 TEUs:

By far the biggest increase was in river trade, up 28.5 per cent to total 338,000 TEUs.

The Secretary of the Port Development Board, Mr Tony Clark, said the figures confirmed the Board's projections for the introduction of new facilities.

He said: "The first berth of Container Terminal Nine should ideally be ready by September 1996, but, because of delays in starting construction, that is not possible.

"That makes it all the more imperative to bring the terminals on Lantau Island into operation as soon as possible. It is planned that the first berth of these terminals should come on stream by mid-1998."

"The big rise in river trade also underlines the need for a dedicated River Trade Terminal (RTT). We hope to dispose of the rights to build and operate our first RTT towards the end of this year. It will be built near Tuen Mun and the first berth should come into operation in 1998.

"With more than one and a quarter million TEUs likely to be handled by river vessels this year, it is obvious that shippers are looking increasingly at the Pearl River as a natural highway to Hong Kong's port," he added.

Mr Clark said: "The figures for the first four months of this year are impressive and show that there is no sign of a slowdown in our throughput growth. However, our planning is carried out not on just one year's figures but on long-term trends.

"Last year we had a 20 per cent growth and since 1984 our throughput has grown by an average of 18 per cent a year.

"If we are to handle such increases we must have new container terminal facilities as soon as possible, or there will be negative effects on the economy."

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

No question of VRs becoming permanent HK residents

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In response to press enquiries about reports which said UNHCR is urging the Hong Kong Government to consider accepting 1,700 Vietnamese refugees stranded in Hong Kong, a government spokesman today (Tuesday) said the following: "The Hong Kong Government has not received any request from the UNHCR to consider accepting 1,700 Vietnamese refugees stranded in Hong Kong.

"There is no question of the Vietnamese refugees becoming permanent Hong Kong residents.

"The UNHCR and the international community have the responsibility to identify and implement durable solutions for the Vietnamese refugees still remaining in Hong Kong."

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

8,862 agreements lodged with Land Registry in July

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A total of 8,862 sale and purchase agreements for building units, which include both residential and non-residential properties, were lodged with the Land Registry last month.

The figure represents an increase of 14.5 per cent from that of June this year, and an 27.9 per cent increase compared with July last year.

The total consideration of these agreements is \$21.18 billion, down 1.1 per cent and 15 per cent as compared with the amounts for June 1995 and July 1994 respectively.

The figures are contained in the monthly statistics released today (Tuesday) by the Land Registry on deeds relating to property transactions received for registration in the Urban and New Territories Land Registries last month.

Relevant statistics for June 1995 and July 1994 were provided for comparison.

Figures on sale and purchase agreements received for the past 12 months and the year-on-year rate of change were also released.

The statistics generally relate to land transactions executed up to four weeks prior to their submission for registration, as there is usually a time lag between the execution of deeds and their lodgement for registration.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

2,704 apply for S6 places in central allocation

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The Education Department has received a total of 2,704 S5 students applied for central allocation of the remaining 235 S6 places in the S6 admission procedures.

They included five students who could produce today (Tuesday) the original copy of the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) Results Notice or relevant documents in supporting their applications.

A spokesman for the Education Department reminded applicants to return on Friday (August 18) to the same centre where they applied for central allocation to see if they have been allocated with a place.

Application results will be displayed at the specified centre at 9 am on Friday. Successful candidates should take their allocation slips to their chosen schools for registration before 3.30 pm on the same day.

The spokesman reiterated that a place was allocated on the basis of the applicants' HKCEE results under the central allocation.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Relief provided to landslip victims

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The Southern and Eastern district offices are actively assisting victims of the two major landslides at Aberdeen and Chai Wan, a spokesman for the Home Affairs Department spokesman said today (Tuesday).

"They are also busy at co-ordinating the work of concerned departments to bring the affected disaster areas back to normal," the spokesman added.

Earlier, a cash relief of \$5,000 was given by Eastern District Office to the family of the boy who was killed in the landslide which occurred last Saturday at Fei Tsui Road, Chai Wan. The cash assistance was made available from the General Chinese Charities Fund.

The acting Eastern District Officer, Miss Shirley Yuen, said her staff had contacted the bereaved family following the tragedy.

"We have referred their case to the Social Welfare Department which has agreed to pay them \$9,000 for the funeral service. We have also assured them that they can approach us any time if they require further assistance," Miss Yuen said.

As regard the Chai Wan Baptist Church which has been badly damaged by the landslip, arrangements have been made for temporary reprovision of premises to enable the Church to run its nursery and kindergarten in a vacated kindergarten in Siu Sai Wan Estate.

In addition, the Church is also given two rooms in Hing Wah Community Hall to continue its after-school care service for primary pupils.

Referring to the recovery this morning of two bodies identified to be that of the missing couple in Shum Wan, Aberdeen, the spokesman said staff of Southern District Office and the Social Welfare Department would approach the family or friends of the deceased to see what kind of assistance they needed.

The Southern District Office had provided temporary shelter at the Tang Shiu Kin Primary School in Wong Chuk Hang to four male workers of a shipyard and a timber factory in Shum Wan which were demolished by the landslip.

Three of them have moved to a transit centre in Tuen Mun run by the Housing Department today.

"An immediate cash relief of \$1,000 was also given to each of them by the Southern District Office, also from the General Chinese Charities Fund," the spokesman said.

The Home Affairs Department has opened 51 temporary shelters and provided temporary refuge to 238 people since typhoon signal No 8 was hoisted on Friday.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Buildings temporarily closed due to landslips

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A number of buildings which have been affected by landslips had been temporarily closed by the Building Authority under closure orders.

Chaiwan Baptist Church at Fei Tsui Road has been closed from this (Tuesday) morning. Low-rise buildings at 73, 87 and 89 Repulse Bay Road; House Nos 1, 2 and 12 at 46 Island Road; Unit Nos 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B at 18 Shouson Hill Road and Island Gardens at Chai Wan Road were closed this (Tuesday) afternoon.

The nurses quarters at Nam Long Hospital in Wong Chuk Hang will be closed tomorrow (Wednesday) morning.

A spokesman for the Buildings Department said that the premises would be re-opened once the threat of danger to the buildings was removed.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

48 pollution cases convicted in July

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A total of 48 convictions were made in the courts last month for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 16 were convictions made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO), 13 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO), 11 under the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO), five under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO), and three under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (OLPO).

The fines ranged from \$2,000 to \$80,000. Mingai Dyeing and Printing Factory Limited was fined \$80,000 for discharging polluting matter in North Western Water Control Zone.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Path to Tung Lung rock carving closed for repair

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The path leading to the historic rock carving on Tung Lung Island has collapsed following the recent rainstorm.

A spokesman for the Antiquities and Monuments Office called on members of the public not to plan any outings to the area until the path had been repaired.

Located on the northern coast of the island, the carving depicts the image of a dragon and consists of complicated and tortuous lines which can be seen at a distance.

It is the largest of the eight ancient rock carvings declared as monuments in Hong Kong.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Oral health teaching kit design competition launched

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Pre-school educators and those interested in the promotion of oral health are invited to participate in a teaching kit for pre-school children design competition for the promotion of oral health.

The competition, organised by the Oral Health Education Unit (OHEU) of the Department of Health in collaboration with the Hong Kong Institute of Education, is open to both pre-school educators and the public.

A spokesman for the department said the OHEU would hold a briefing session on August 19 (Saturday) to provide support to the participants. Enquiries could be made on tel 2711 0742.

He said the competition was organised to encourage more public participation in oral health education for pre-school children.

The winning entries will be displayed at a prize presentation ceremony to be held on November 11, the spokesman added.

Application forms and information booklets are available from district offices and the OHEU on the fourth floor of Argyle Street Jockey Club School Dental Clinic at 147J, Argyle Street, Kowloon.

The spokesman said the competition was sponsored by Oral B Laboratories and eight winners would receive a souvenir and a cash coupon worth \$1,000 to \$7,000.

Entries with the completed forms should be sent to the OHEU on or before October 14, 1995.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Queen's Pier temporarily close for parade

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The landing steps at Queen's Pier in Central will be closed to marine traffic between 10.30 am and 11.30 am next Tuesday (August 22) when the Fleet Veterans' Parade for the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Hong Kong will take place in Edinburgh Place.

No vessels will be allowed to berth at any of the landing steps of the Queen's Pier during the temporary closure.

Owners and operators of small craft are advised to use alternative landing facilities during the closure. Public landing steps are available along the waterfront at Sheung Wan and Wan Chai. Across the harbour, there are other public landing steps at the Kowloon Public Pier and along the Tsim Sha Tsui east promenade.

The memorial event will have a two-minute silence from 11 am. The beginning and ending of the period of silence will be marked by firing of gun from Royal Navy patrol craft. Owners and operators of small craft are advised to avoid unnecessary sounding of whistle during the period of silence.

End/Tuesday, August 15, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	15 Aug 1995	15 Aug 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q533	H571
Amount applied	HK\$6,870 MN	HK\$4,820 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.61 PCT	5.67 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.61 PCT	5.67 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 43 PCT	About 43 PCT
Average tender yield	5.64 PCT	5.70 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 21 Aug, 1995

Tender date	22 Aug 1995
Paper on offer	EF bills
Issue number	Q534
Issue date	23 Aug 1995
Maturity date	22 Nov 1995
Tenor	91 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300 MN

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,470	0930	+47
Closing balance in the account	1,476	1000	+47
Change attributable to :		1100	+66
Money market activity	+66	1200	+66
LAF today	-60	1500	+66
		1600	+66

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 121.0 *+0.2* 15.8.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.62	2 years	2708	6.06	99.84	6.24
1 month	5.63	3 years	3807	6.16	98.91	6.68
3 months	5.65	5 years	5006	6.60	97.29	7.40
6 months	5.70	5 years	M501	7.90	100.80	7.84
12 months	5.79					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,165 million

Closed August 15, 1995

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