



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1980

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WEATHER IN FEBRUARY LESS SUNNY

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LAST MONTH (FEBRUARY) WAS LESS SUNNY THAN NORMAL WITH RAINFALL BEING 9.6 MM ABOVE AVERAGE, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (MONDAY).

THE 54.5 MM OF RAIN RECORDED IN THE MONTH ALSO ENDED THE DRIEST FOUR-MONTH PERIOD EVER EXPERIENCED IN HONG KONG.

THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF THE MONTH WERE VERY COLD WITH DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM 5.5 TO 11.4 DEGREES CELSIUS.

THE COLD SPELL WHICH STARTED ON JANUARY 30 LASTED FOR 12 DAYS DURING WHICH THE MEAN TEMPERATURE WAS 9.9 DEGREES CELSIUS, MAKING IT THE COLDEST 12-DAY PERIOD SINCE JANUARY 1900.

THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH WAS 5.5 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 9. IT WAS ALSO THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED SINCE DECEMBER 14, 1975.

THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURES RECORDED ON THE SAME MORNING AT TAI MO SHAN AND TATE'S CAIRN WERE -1.0 AND 0.2 DEGREES CELSIUS RESPECTIVELY.

THE WEATHER BEGAN TO IMPROVE ON FEBRUARY 11 AND THE FOLLOWING NINE DAYS WERE FINE AND SUNNY EXCEPT FEBRUARY 17 WHICH WAS MAINLY CLOUDY WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN. A SHORT PERIOD OF STRONG EASTERLY WINDS WAS ALSO EXPERIENCED OFF SHORE EARLY ON THAT DAY.

TEMPERATURES ROSE PROGRESSIVELY FROM FEBRUARY 11 AND ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 19 THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RECORDED A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 23.3 DEGREES CELSIUS WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST IN THE MONTH.

A WEAK COLD FRONT WAS NEAR HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 21 AND CONDITIONS BECAME CLOUDY WITH A FEW PATCHES OF RAIN. THE FRONT DISSIPATED LATER IN THE EVENING BUT THE FOLLOWING DAY REMAINED CLOUDY WITH RAIN.

PERTURBATIONS IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE GAVE RISE TO A PERIOD OF UNSETTLED WEATHER FROM FEBRUARY 23 TO 27. EXCEPT FEBRUARY 24, THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED EVERY DAY DURING THIS PERIOD.

THUNDERSTORMS IN FEBRUARY ARE RELATIVELY RARE IN HONG KONG AND THE LAST OCCASION WHEN THUNDERSTORMS WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WAS IN 1966. FURTHERMORE, THUNDERSTORMS ON THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN FEBRUARY WERE UNPRECEDENTED IN HONG KONG.

THE THUNDERSTORMS ON THE EARLY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 27 WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A COLD FRONT COUPLED WITH PERTURBATIONS IN THE UPPER WESTERLY WIND FLOW.

/WINDS INCREASED .....

WINDS INCREASED VERY ABRUPTLY AND GUSTS OF 77 KNOTS AND 55 KNOTS WERE RECORDED AT CHEUNG CHAU AND THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RESPECTIVELY. THE GUST SPEED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ALSO EQUALLED THE RECORD FOR FEBRUARY WHICH OCCURRED ON FEBRUARY 11, 1960.

HAIL, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN RECORDED IN FEBRUARY IN HONG KONG BEFORE, WAS REPORTED IN KWAI CHUNG AND REPULSE BAY.

AS THE COLD FRONT QUICKLY MOVED SOUTHWARDS AWAY FROM HONG KONG, THE WEATHER IMPROVED SLOWLY DURING THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 27 AND THE REST OF THE MONTH WAS MAINLY FINE.

DURING THE MONTH NO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 23 AND 25 TO 27. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT IN 10 DAYS AND THE RED WARNING IN THREE DAYS DURING THE MONTH. LOW TEMPERATURE AND FROST WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON FEBRUARY 4 AND 5.

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#### MORE PEOPLE USE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE

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THE 27 PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR HANDLED OVER 3.87 MILLION REQUESTS FOR HELP BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THIS WAS AN INCREASE OF 12.6 PER CENT OVER THE 1978 FIGURE OF ABOUT 3 437 000.

THE COUNTER SERVICE ANSWERED 1 287 133 ENQUIRIES, HANDLED 188 254 CASES AND DISTRIBUTED 2 394 818 FORMS AND PAMPHLETS.

IN VIEW OF THE GROWING DEMAND FOR THE VARIOUS TYPES OF SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO ESTABLISH EVEN MORE CDO SUB-OFFICES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

OF THE ENQUIRIES HANDLED LAST YEAR, 83 024 (6.45 PER CENT) WERE ON THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, 54 922 (4.27 PER CENT) ON THE LOCATION AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 50 077 (3.89 PER CENT) ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION, 42 921 (3.34 PER CENT) ON GOVERNMENT JOBS AND VACANCIES AND 41 104 (3.19 PER CENT) ON PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

FORMS IN GREATEST DEMAND INCLUDED THOSE FOR APPLICATION FOR GOVERNMENT POSTS (317 851), ENROLMENT FOR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES (205 750), WALKS FOR A MILLION SPONSORSHIP (193 500), APPLICATION FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS (123 485), APPLICATION FOR SITTING THE GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION (111 567) AND APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HOUSING (69 724).

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS WERE STILL ADMINISTERED BY THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS AND THE MEDIATION UNIT AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS. THE NUMBER ADMINISTERED LAST YEAR WAS 177 386, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 12.6 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE MOST FREQUENT DECLARATIONS WERE FOR APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS, APPLICATION FOR ENTRY TO SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND FOR SITTING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, MARRIAGE REGISTRATION AND EMIGRATION.

THE ENQUIRY COUNTERS ALSO HANDLED COMPLAINTS, ATTENDED TO PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND PROVIDED MEDIATION SERVICE IN DISPUTES.

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SURVEY ON LABOUR FORCE  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL DO A NEW LABOUR FORCE SURVEY TO COLLECT UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

THE REVIEW IS ONE OF A SERIES OF SIMILAR SIX-MONTHLY SURVEYS AND WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF THIS MONTH.

IT WILL BE TAKEN ON A SAMPLE BASIS COVERING ABOUT 16 000 HOUSEHOLDS THROUGHOUT ALL DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG.

BEFORE THE FIELD ENUMERATION BEGINS, AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILL BE SENT TO THE SAMPLED HOUSEHOLDS EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY AND SEEKING THEIR CO-OPERATION.

CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ENUMERATORS WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS ON A DAY BETWEEN MARCH 19 AND APRIL 4. FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES, THEY WILL BEAR AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY CARD WITH THEIR PHOTOGRAPH ON IT.

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDE THE AGE, SEX AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF INDIVIDUALS- THE ACTIVITY STATUS, OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, EARNINGS, HOURS OF WORK, AND PLACE OF WORK OF THOSE WORKING- AND THE TENURE AND RENT OF THEIR HOUSEHOLDS. INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON THE NUMBER OF DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS AND TYPE OF DOCTOR CONSULTED BY THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

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SIX NT SITES FOR SALE  
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SIX LOTS OF CROWN LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE TO BE SOLD AT A GOVERNMENT AUCTION TOMORROW (TUESDAY) IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

THE SITES, TWO IN ISLANDS DISTRICT AND FOUR IN SAI KUNG, ARE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING ONE FOR A RETAIL FOOD SUPERMARKET.

THE AUCTION, WHICH WILL START AT 11 AM, WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE CHIEF ESTATE SURVEYOR, NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR NIGEL BURLEY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND STAFF TO COVER THE AUCTION. STAFF OF THE NTA PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT WILL BE PRESENT TO ASSIST PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.

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MINOR STAFF VACANCIES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS  
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FURTHER EXPANSION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS HAS CREATED A NUMBER OF VACANCIES FOR AMAHS, ORDERLIES AND LABOURERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHICH HANDLES THE RECRUITMENT OF THESE STAFF SAID TODAY. (MONDAY) THE MONTHLY SALARY FOR THESE POSTS STARTED AT \$1 175 RISING TO \$1 250.

APPLICANTS FOR THE ORDERLY AND LABOURER POSTS SHOULD BE MALE, AGED 19 TO 45, WITH GOOD PHYSIQUE, AND BE ABLE TO WRITE SIMPLE CHINESE. SOME KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE, HE SAID.

THE AMAH POSTS ARE FOR FEMALES IN THE SAME AGE GROUP. OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF ORDERLIES AND LABOURERS.

THE DUTIES OF THESE STAFF ARE MAINLY CLEANSING, PERFORMING ERRANDS AND ATTENDING TO PATIENTS IN WARDS.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO WORK IN SHIFTS INCLUDING NIGHT DUTY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICATIONS COULD BE MADE TO THE BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE. ENQUIRIES COULD BE MADE ON TELEPHONES 3-683764 AND 3-666615.

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**NEW PLACE TO INSPECT DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES**

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ALL INSPECTIONS OF DANGEROUS GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AT THE NEW KOWLOON BAY VEHICLES INSPECTION CENTRE FROM NEXT MONDAY (MARCH 17).

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS FOR SUCH TESTS AT THE SOO KON PO VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW INSPECTION CENTRE (TEL: 3-7597505). ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR TONG NGAI KIN ON 5-768879.

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**ACTIVITY APPROACH TEACHING CENTRE OPENS TO TEACHERS**

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITY APPROACH TEACHING CENTRE IS INVITING HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH METHOD TO SEE THE RESOURCE MATERIALS ON DISPLAY THERE.

THE CENTRE, AT PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT, WILL BE OPEN EVERY TUESDAY FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM AND 2 PM TO 4.30 PM BEGINNING NEXT WEEK.

BESIDES SHOWING PUPILS' WORK, IT ALSO PROVIDES REFERENCE AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS FOR USE BY TEACHERS AND SUGGESTIONS ON LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR THE ACTIVITY APPROACH.

VISITS BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT CAN ALSO BE MADE BY EITHER CONTACTING THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE, TEL: 5-774001 EXT 40, OR THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TEACHING CENTRES, TEL: 5-614364.

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**SECTION OF TAI HANG ROAD TO BE CLOSED**

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THE SECTION OF TAI HANG ROAD BETWEEN THE ROUNDABOUT WITH STUBBS ROAD AND ITS JUNCTION WITH BLUE POOL ROAD WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 3 AM AND 5.30 AM EACH NIGHT FROM WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY (MARCH 12 TO 15).

THE ARRANGEMENT WILL HELP CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE AREA.

DURING THE PERIODS OF CLOSURE, MOTORISTS MAY USE STUBBS ROAD AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE THEM.

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