DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FIRDAY, JANUARY 26, 1979

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MERCHANDISE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO U.S.A.

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THE POST OFFICE TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN FINALISED WITH THE U.S. POST OFFICE TO EXTEND THE SCOPE OF THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO THE U.S.A. TO INCLUDE MERCHANDISE ON FEBRUARY 1.

ITEMS SENT THROUGH THIS SERVICE WILL RECEIVE EXPEDITED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND DELIVERY IN THE U.S.A.

THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SENDING BUSINESS DOCUMENTS AND SAMPLES ON CONTRACT BASIS TO ALL PARTS OF THE U.S.A. AND ON 'ON DEMAND' BASIS TO MANY BIG U.S. CITIES.

BUSINESS DOCUMENTS SENT THROUGH THIS SERVICE ARE DELIVERED ON THE NEXT DAY AFTER POSTING THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

+THE EXTENSION OF THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE TO INCLUDE MERCHANDISE WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO HONG KONG EXPORTERS IN GETTING THEIR GOODS QUICKLY TO THEIR CUSTOMERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+BUT THE AGGREGATE VALUE OF MERCHANDISE A SENDER MAY SEND TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE IN ONE DAY BY SPEEDPOST SHOULD NOT EXCEED US$250. MONEY, JEWELLERY OR ANY OTHER ARTICLES OF VALUE ARE EXCLUDED,+ HE ADDED.

DETAILS ABOUT THE NEW SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU ON 5-2671222.

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GOVERNOR INSPECTS PRISONS DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PARADE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE INSPECTED THE ANNUAL PARADE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE AT STANLEY TODAY (FRIDAY).

SIR MURRAY PRESENTED COLONIAL PRISON SERVICE MEDALS TO 31 OFFICERS AFTER THE INSPECTION.

ON PARADE WERE EIGHT CONTINGENTS COMPRISING BY 220 PRISON OFFICERS COMMANDED BY SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, MAK PAK-LAM.

IN HIS SPEECH THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THERE WAS NO OVERCROWDING IN HONG KONG'S PRISONS.

+THIS, AND THE EMPHASIS YOUR COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN PLACING ON THE NEED TO RETHINK PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE CARRIED OUT TO THE FULL, SHOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE SUCCESS RATES,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY ALSO NOTED THAT WITH THE OPENING OF LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR IT BECAME POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL MALE YOUNG OFFENDERS IN INSTITUTIONS SPECIFICALLY SET ASIDE FOR THIS AGE GROUP.

/+THIS IS .....

+THIS IS AN ACHIEVEMENT ATTAINED IN VERY FEW COUNTRIES INDEED,+ HE SAID.

SIR MURRAY EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUTE TO THE MANY JUSTICES OF THE PEACE WHO HELP THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT ENSURE THAT INMATES ARE TREATED FAIRLY AND WITH HUMANITY.

+I PERSONALLY REGARD THE VISITS AS VERY IMPORTANT AND AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE MANY JP'S WHO MAKE TIME FOR THESE DUTIES,+ HE ADDED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH:

+ONCE AGAIN, I AM PLEASED TO INSPECT THIS ANNUAL PARADE AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF ADDRESSING STAFF OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

+THE TREND TOWARDS A LOWER PRISON POPULATION CONTINUED IN 1978. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THERE WAS NO OVERCROWDING. THIS, AND THE EMPHASIS YOUR COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN PLACING ON THE NEED TO RETHINK PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS TO ENSURE THEY ARE CARRIED OUT TO THE FULL, SHOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE SUCCESS RATES AND PROVIDE SPACE AND CAPACITY IN WHICH TO ACHIEVE A MUCH NEEDED EXPANSION OF PRISON INDUSTRIES.

+WITH THE OPENING OF LAI KING TRAINING CENTRE IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, IT BECAME POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL MALE YOUNG OFFENDERS IN INSTITUTIONS SPECIFICALLY SET ASIDE FOR THIS AGE GROUP -- AN ACHIEVEMENT ATTAINED IN VERY FEW COUNTRIES INDEED.

+THE YEAR END SAW YOUR DEPARTMENT ASSISTING WITH THE LARGE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, AND I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE SPEED AND SPIRIT WITH WHICH YOU MET THIS CHALLENGE.

+DESPITE THE LOWER PRISON POPULATION, THERE IS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PRISONERS SERVING LONG TERM SENTENCES OF MORE THAN SIX YEARS. THERE ARE NOW 700 COMPARED WITH 600 TWO YEARS AGO.

+MANY ARE HARDENED CRIMINALS WHO PRESENT A CONSTANT PROBLEM FOR YOU. FOR CONTROL AS WELL AS SECURITY IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT LARGE NUMBERS ARE NOT CONCENTRATED IN A SINGLE INSTITUTION.

+STANLEY PRISON HOLDS THE BULK OF SUCH PRISONERS BUT THE NEW PRISON AT SHEK PIK, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1981, WILL RELIEVE THE SITUATION.

+THE PSYCHOLOGICAL UNIT ESTABLISHED IN 1977 IS PROVING ITS VALUE, PARTICULARLY IN ASSESSING THE SUITABILITY OF PRISONERS FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND IN ADVISING ON THE BEST METHODS OF DEALING WITH THE MORE DIFFICULT TYPES.

+IN FULFILLING PRISONS PROGRAMMES, I AM AWARE OF THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE NEED FOR INMATES TO BE TREATED FAIRLY AND WITH HUMANITY. IT IS TO ENSURE THIS THAT JUSTICES OF THE PEACE VISIT ALL INSTITUTIONS.

+I PERSONALLY REGARD THE VISITS AS VERY IMPORTANT AND AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE MANY JP'S WHO MAKE TIME FOR THESE DUTIES.

+I AM PLEASED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE SUCH GOOD PROGRESS DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD.+

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NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR URBCO CANDIDATES

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NOMINATIONS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION, SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 8, OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ACCORDING TO A NOTICE IN TODAY'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THE NOMINATIONS ARE FOR SIX SEATS WHICH WILL BECOME VACANT ON APRIL 1, FOLLOWING THE EXPIRY OF THE PRESENT TERM OF OFFICE OF SIX ELECTED MEMBERS.

THEY ARE MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MRS. ELSIE ELLIOTT, DR. DENNY HUANG, MR. HENRY LUK, DR. WONG PUN-CHEUK AND MISS CECILIA YEUNG.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS TO BE SENT TO THE RETURNING OFFICER, MISS DENISE YUE, IS FEBRUARY 14.

EACH CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED ON A SEPARATE NOMINATION PAPER WHICH MUST BE SIGNED BY 10 ELECTORS.

NO ELECTOR MAY NOMINATE MORE THAN SIX CANDIDATES.

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YOUNG HONG KONG MUSICIANS HOLD MUSICAL EVENING IN UK

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HONG KONG'S LONDON COMMISSIONER, MR. DENIS BRAY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MORE MUSICAL EVENINGS WOULD BE HELD FOLLOWING THE DEBUT INFORMAL EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC RECENTLY BY SIX TALENTED YOUNG HONG KONG MUSICIANS AT HIS WESTMINSTER RESIDENCE.

+THE EVENING GAVE GREAT PLEASURE TO ALL OF US,+ MR. BRAY SAID ON WEDNESDAY, ADDING: +THE STUDENTS, SCATTERED AT SEVERAL COLLEGES, WERE ABLE TO MEET AND ENJOYED PLAYING IN INFORMAL SURROUNDINGS. THE GUESTS WERE PLEASANTLY IMPRESSED BY THE COMPETENCE OF THE ARTISTS AND SAW A SIDE OF HONG KONG LIFE THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE SEE.+

THE STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. AMONG THE GUESTS WERE LEADING AND RESPECTED PERSONALITIES FROM BRITAIN'S MUSIC FRATERNITY, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OFFICIALS.

THE EVENING BEGAN WITH TEENAGE PIANIST, MARY WU, RENDERING A SELECTION OF MUSIC BY RAVEL. MARY, WHO COMES FROM A FAMILY OF TALENTED MUSICIANS, IS A STUDENT AT THE PRESTIGEOUS YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC. SHE WAS A FINALIST AT LAST YEAR'S ROYAL OVERSEAS LEAGUE MUSIC FESTIVAL.

ADOLPH LIU AND JOSEPH FUNG PLAYED MUSIC COMPOSED FOR GUITAR AND FLUTE. ADOLPH WHO PLAYED THE FLUTE IS A STUDENT AT TRINITY COLLEGE AND JOSEPH WHO LATER ENTERTAINED THE GUESTS TO A GUITAR SOLO, IS A STUDENT AT THE ROYAL NORTHERN MANCHESTER COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

TO YAM AND YIP WING-SIE, BOTH VIOLINISTS, PLAYED COMPOSITIONS BY BARTON TOGETHER. TO YAM IS A STUDENT AT THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA AND LAST YEAR SHE ACCOMPANIED THE AVON YOUTH ORCHESTRA ON A TOUR OF THE FAR EAST AND PERFORMED IN HONG KONG.

YIP WING-SIE IS A STUDENT AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

EVA LUE, A PIANIST, BROUGHT THE EVENING TO A CLOSE. SHE IS ALSO A STUDENT AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

MR. DAVID STONE, MUSIC CONSULTANT TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, INTRODUCED THE ARTISTS TO THE GUESTS.

AMONG THOSE WHO ATTENDED WERE MR. GORDON SIU, MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR= MR. JOHN MACKENZIE, MEMBER OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA= SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS, DIRECTOR, ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC= SIR PAUL BRYAN, MP, AND MR. IAN WRIGGLESWORTH, CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE ANGLO-HONG KONG PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, AND MRS. WRIGGLESWORTH= SIR JOHN EDEN, MP AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOURNMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TRUST, AND LADY EDEN= MR. JOHN HOSIER, PRINCIPAL, GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA= MR. PETER NORRIS, PROFESSOR OF PIANO, YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL= PROFESSOR LEONARD HIRSH, PROFESSOR, ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC= DR. JEREMY BRAY, MP= MR. GERRY WIGGIN, MP, AND MRS. WIGGIN= MR. W.E. QUANTRILL, HONG KONG AND GENERAL DEPARTMENT, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AND MRS. QUANTRILL AND MR. PATRICK WILLIAMSON WHO IS NOW HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DESK AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, AND MRS. WILLIAMSON.

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HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT GOES ON SALE
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A COMPREHENSIVE AND AUTHORITATIVE DOCUMENT ON HONG KONG'S NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND THE EFFORT BEING MADE TO TACKLE IT IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE.

THE DOCUMENT, COMPILED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), IS ENTITLED HONG KONG NARCOTICS REPORT 1977.

THE REPORT IS PUT ON SALE BECAUSE ENQUIRIES WERE RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO OBTAIN A COPY WHEN IT WAS PUBLISHED LATE LAST YEAR.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE REPORT IS PUBLISHED IN FULL-COLOUR COVER AND WITH FULL COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS. THE REPORT COMES IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE LANGUAGES SEPARATELY.

THE 112-PAGE PUBLICATION GIVES A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGING CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG'S NARCOTICS SCENE AS WELL AS ALL MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OF THE VARIOUS MAJOR ACTION PROGRAMMES BEING CARRIED OUT.

FIVE CHAPTERS ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, DEVOTED TO THE DESCRIPTION OF THE +BATTLE OF WITS+ BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS, DETAILING THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE, AND THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN REDUCING THE SUPPLY OF HEROIN, OPIUM AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS IN HONG KONG.

THE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG'S TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR DRUG ADDICTS ARE ALSO GIVEN IN THE REPORT, COMPLETE WITH STATISTICS TO SHOW THE TRENDS OF DRUG ABUSE IN RECENT YEARS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR ACAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THE REPORT IS AN INFORMATIVE AND HIGHLY READABLE DOCUMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE LONG-STANDING, SERIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEM OF NARCOTIC ADDICTION IN HONG KONG.

IT IS PARTICULARLY RECOMMENDED TO TEACHERS, STUDENTS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF OTHER PROFESSIONS WHOSE WORK MAY BE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NARCOTIC ISSUE, HE SAID.

THE REPORT COSTS $9.50 EACH. THE ENGLISH EDITION IS NOW ALREADY ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING AND THE CHINESE EDITION WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

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FISHERMEN AWARDED FOR SAVING LIVES

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EIGHT HONG KONG FISHERMEN WHO SAVED 369 LIVES AT SEA LAST YEAR WILL BE REWARDED FOR THEIR EFFORTS BY MRS. J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, WIFE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

AT THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY TOMORROW AT THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET, MRS. RIDDELL-SWAN WILL PRESENT AWARDS TO THE EIGHT FISHERMEN AND TO 24 CHAMPION FISHERMEN.

MR. RIDDELL-SWAN WILL PRESENT 25-YEAR-LONG SERVICE MEDALS TO 12 RECIPIENTS OF THE FISH AND VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATIONS.

THE CEREMONY WILL BE OPENED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FISHERIES AND MARKETING) OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR. A.K. MURRAY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND LIFE-SAVING AWARDS AT THE ABERDEEN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET, 100A SHEK PAI WAN ROAD, ABERDEEN, AT 10.55 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY). TRANSPORT FOR THE PRESS WILL LEAVE QUEEN'S PIER, EDINBURGH PLACE AT 9.45 A.M.

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TAI PO RECLAIMED LAND TO GET NEW ROAD

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY BUILD A 1.2-KILOMETRE ROAD ON THE RECLAIMED LAND SOUTH OF TAI YUEN HOUSING ESTATE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TAI PO.

THE PROJECT, TENDERS FOR WHICH WERE INVITED TODAY (FRIDAY), INCLUDES THE LAYING OF A 1.5-KILOMETRE TRUNK SEWER AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUS TERMINUS.

THE WORK, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE TAI PO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, IS EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MR. GEORGE CHIEN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF PWD'S TAI PO AND FANLING DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SAID THE RECLAIMED LAND, MEASURING ABOUT 22 HECTARES, WOULD ULTIMATELY BE DEVELOPED AS A COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREA WITH SCHOOLS, A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, OPEN SPACE AND A TOWN SQUARE.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA, FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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MORE TEACHERS NEEDED TO MEET DEMAND FOR CRAFTSMEN

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THE TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE MUST BE RAPIDLY EXPANDED TO COPE WITH THE DEMAND FOR CRAFTSMEN, MR. CHAN SHU-ON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING AT THE FOURTH SPEECH DAY OF THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, MR. CHAN ESTIMATED THAT HONG KONG REQUIRED AN ANNUAL SUPPLY OF SOME 8,000 CRAFTSMEN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE JUST OVER 1,000 GRADUATES FROM THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL INSTITUTES EACH YEAR, MR. CHAN SAID, ADDING THAT THIS OUTPUT WOULD BE INCREASED TO 6,360 IN 1982 ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT PLANS.

+IT CAN BE SEEN THAT ALTHOUGH PRESENT OUTPUT OF GRADUATE CRAFTSMEN FALLS FAR SHORT OF ACTUAL DEMAND, YET AN AMBITIOUS PLAN HAS BEEN LAID TO INCREASE THE OUTPUT SEVERAL FOLD, AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE BE EXPANDED IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT AN ACCELERATED PACE TO COPE WITH NEW DEMANDS,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE QUALITY OF THE CRAFTSMAN, MR. CHAN FELT THAT ANY CRAFTSMAN WORTHY OF HIS PROFESSION MUST UPHOLD A HIGH STANDARD OF WORKMANSHIP.

+HE MUST DISCIPLINE HIMSELF TO WORK FOR PERFECTION, WHICH CAN NEVER BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT CONSTANT PRACTICE,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, MR. P.R. SMITH, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE COLLEGE, IN PRESENTING HIS REPORT FOR 1977-78 SAID HIS STAFF WERE BUSY REDESIGNING THE COURSE OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE TO FIT IN WITH THE PLAN IN THE EDUCATION WHITE PAPER TO EXPAND THE TEACHER TRAINING PROVISION FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS BY 1980.

DURING THE YEAR 14 SHORT COURSES WERE ALSO ORGANISED FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHERS, HE SAID. THE NATURE OF THESE COURSES RANGED FROM BEATEN METAL WORK TO A SEMINAR ON +MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION TODAY+.

THE SEMINAR IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES WHICH THE COLLEGE IS OFFERING ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS TO HELP TEACHERS DEVELOP INTO GOOD MANAGERS OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR SCHOOLS.

A SERIES OF SATURDAY MORNING COURSES WERE ALSO OFFERED DURING THE YEAR FOR WORKSHOP ASSISTANTS AND ATTENDANTS COVERING TOPICS SUCH AS THE USE OF THE METRIC WEIGHING SYSTEM, THE CARE AND SHARPENING OF TOOLS, AND SAFETY WITHIN WORKSHOPS.

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HONG KONG OWES MUCH TO FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN

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HONG KONG OWES MUCH TO ITS PAST AND PRESENT FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN, SAID MR ALAN JONES, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES), AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE TODAY (FRIDAY) OF RECRUITS FROM THE FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL IN PAT HEUNG.

+AT SOME TIME DURING AN INCIDENT YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN PERSONAL DECISIONS, AND BE FACED WITH CRUCIAL AND POSSIBLY VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE TOLD THE 55 SUCCESSFUL FIREMAN AND AMBULANCEMAN TRAINEES.

+THAT IS WHEN YOUR TRAINING, CONFIDENCE AND ABILITY WILL BE REALLY PUT TO THE TEST AND I AM SURE YOU WILL NOT BE FOUND WANTING.+

ON PARADE WERE 29 FIREMEN, 18 SENIOR AMBULANCEMEN AND EIGHT AMBULANCEMEN WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED SIX-MONTH AND TWO-MONTH BASIC TRAINING RESPECTIVELY. EIGHTY-FIVE FIREMEN STILL UNDER TRAINING ALSO TOOK PART IN THE PARADE.

THE RECRUITS WILL NOW BE REPORTING TO VARIOUS FIRE STATIONS AND AMBULANCE DEPOTS.

MR JONES TOUCHED ON THE SUPPOSED GLAMOUR OF THE ROLE OF A FIRE-FIGHTER, SAYING: +PERHAPS YOU VISUALISED YOURSELF RESPLENDANT IN YOUR UNIFORM, FIGHTING FIRES OR HELPING TO TREAT INJURED OR SICK PEOPLE... EMULATING THE EXPLOITS OF VARIOUS ACTORS IN DRAMATIC MOVIES OR TELEVISION SERIALS.+

HE ADDED: +NOW YOU ARE NOT ONLY MORE AWARE OF WHAT YOU WILL REALLY DO, AND HOW YOU WILL DO IT, BUT THAT IT DEMANDS FAR MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT, AND SURPRISINGLY YOU HAVE FOUND YOURSELF ABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS.+

HE SAID THE HARD, ARDUOUS TRAINING HAD INSTILLED IN ALL THE ATTRIBUTES OF CONFIDENCE, UNDERSTANDING, TEAMWORK, DETERMINATION, RELIABILITY +AND NOT LEAST AN ACCEPTANCE THAT YOUR PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, MAKING YOU ALL BETTER MEN.+

TO MEET THE CONSTANTLY INCREASING AND VARIED DEMANDS WHICH MUST BE FACED EVERY DAY, MR JONES TOLD THE RECRUITS, +YOU MUST CONTINUE TO IMPROVE YOURSELF IN EVERY RESPECT, NOT JUST IN PRACTICAL ASPECTS BUT IN THEORY, DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE, AND NEW PROCEDURES.+

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EASTERN END OF WONG TAI SIN ROAD TO BE EXTENDED

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN WORK SHORTLY TO EXTEND THE EASTERN END OF WONG TAI SIN ROAD TO THE JUNCTION OF CHUK YUEN ROAD AND SHATIN PASS ROAD.

MR. T.D. ARMOUR, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION SAID THE PROJECT, TENDERS FOR WHICH WERE INVITED TODAY (FRIDAY), AIMED TO PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO UPPER WONG TAI SIN HOUSING ESTATE AND THE NEW CHUK YUEN ESTATE TO THE NORTH.

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE BUILDING AN 11-METRE WIDE CARRIAGEWAY AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORK.

IN ADDITION, THE EXISTING ON FU ROAD WILL BE RE-ALIGNED.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MAY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 10 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS (KOWLOON) DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE, PWD.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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EXTRA BUS SERVICES WILL OPERATE DURING LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND THE HOURS OF OPERATION WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED.

THE +STAR+ FERRY WILL RUN ALL NIGHT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE BETWEEN CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI WHILE THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY WILL EXTEND SOME OF ITS SERVICES UNTIL AT LEAST 2.30 A.M. ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

TRAM SERVICES WILL BE EXTENDED INTO THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING ON NEW YEAR'S DAY IF NECESSARY.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) ADVISED MOTORISTS THAT CONGESTION IS EXPECTED IN CAUSEWAY BAY DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD AND URGED THEM NOT TO TRAVEL IN THE AFFECTED AREA UNLESS THEIR JOURNEY IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

HE URGED PEOPLE WISHING TO GO TO THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND FLOWER MARKETS ELSEWHERE TO TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED AWAY BY THE POLICE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

A NUMBER OF ROADS IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE CLOSED OR DIVERTED ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND WHERE THESE OCCUR THERE WILL EITHER BE TRAFFIC SIGNS OR TRAFFIC POLICEMEN TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

THE HING FAT STREET CAR PARK WILL BE RESERVED FOR GOODS VEHICLES FROM 10 A.M. TODAY (FRIDAY) TO 6 A.M. ON SUNDAY.

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS AT SHA TIN FOR CHE KUNG FESTIVAL

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN SHA TIN TO COPE WITH THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WORSHIPPERS EXPECTED TO VISIT THE CHE KUNG TEMPLE OVER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER, SHA TIN, MR. GERRY HIGGINSON, UP TO 100,000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE TEMPLE WITH AT LEAST HALF OF THEM ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE NEW YEAR WHEN THE FESTIVAL REACHES ITS PEAK.

HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT WORKS TAKING PLACE IN THE AREA, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE WORKED OUT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORSHIPPERS.

+A ONE-WAY CIRCULATION SYSTEM WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PEDESTRIANS WHO WILL BE DIRECTED TO USE THE ACCESS TRACK FROM THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD EAST OF THE SHING MUN RIVER TO ENTER THE TEMPLE,+ MR. HIGGINSON EXPLAINED.

+THE PEDESTRIANS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE TEMPLE BY USING THE FOOTBRIDGE LEADING TO TAI WAI VILLAGE,+ HE ADDED.

ONLY FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP ON THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD. PARKING FACILITIES WILL BE VERY LIMITED BECAUSE OF THE EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION WORKS GOING ON IN THE AREA.

THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL ARRANGE ADDITIONAL BUS SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE ROUTES TO MEET THE EXPECTED HEAVY DEMAND:

* NO. 70 -- FROM JORDAN ROAD TO SHEUNG SHUI VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD
* NO. 72 -- FROM TAI PO MARKET TO TAI KOK TSUI FERRY VIA TAI WAI
* NO. 89 -- FROM KWUN TONG (YUE MAN SQUARE) TO LEK YUEN ESTATE VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD

VISITORS TO THE TEMPLE ARE THEREFORE STRONGLY ADVISED TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND, IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY TRAFFIC FLOW, THEY ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO USE THE SUBWAY WHEN CROSSING THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD.

MR. HIGGINSON APPEALED TO ALL WORSHIPPERS TO TAKE SPECIAL CARE WHEN BURNING JOSS STICKS TO REDUCE FIRE HAZARDS AND WARNED HAWKERS THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS TO SELL HYDROGEN-FILLED BALLOONS, WHICH WERE LIABLE TO EXPLODE, AROUND THE TEMPLE.

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SIX MAXICAB ROUTES

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THE FIVE MAXICAB ROUTES SERVING MAINLY STANLEY, CHUNG HOM KOK AND CHAI WAN WILL BE COMBINED INTO FOUR ROUTES FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING.

IN ADDITION, TWO NEW MAXICAB ROUTES WILL OPERATE FROM THE CHAI WAN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA TO HING WAH ESTATE AND TO O PUI LUNG.

THE NEW SERVICES WILL START TOMORROW WITH FARES RANGING FROM 50 CENTS TO $1.

THE REASON WHY THE MAXICABS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE CHAI WAN TEMPORARY AREA IS BECAUSE BUSES ARE NOT ABLE TO SERVE THE AREA DUE TO ROAD RESTRICTIONS.

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