DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Contents **5**

Director-General of Trade departs for Osaka APEC 1

Healthy teeth essential to children's development 2

The Weather of October 3

Special stamp issuing programme for 1996 8

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations 9

Sunday, November 12, 1995

Contents **Page No.**

UN consultative meeting on drug control 10

New Insider Dealing Tribunal Chairman appointed 10

Teachers required in government secondary schools 11

Rat prevention campaign launched 12

Design for special school wins architectural award 13

First Southern District Sports Festival 13

Education staff awarded for good service 14

Flag days in 1996 15

Salt water cut in Tsz Wan Shan and Wong Tai Sin 19

Director-General of Trade departs for Osaka APEC

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The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, said today (Saturday) that the draft Action Agenda will be finalised and submitted to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) ministers and economic leaders at the Osaka meeting next week.

Speaking before his departure for the series of meetings to be held between November 13 and 19, Mr Miller said: "The road map now known as 'Action Agenda' has been 95 per cent completed, though not without thorny issues yet to be resolved.

"There are however indications that APEC members have the will to resolve these problems in order to make the Osaka Leaders Meeting a success.

"I am pretty confident that we can finish it off by the time our leaders meet in Osaka. So be prepared to be pleasantly surprised by the scope and openness of the package of the Action Agenda which will be unveiled in Osaka.

"Apart from a comprehensive Action Agenda, APEC leaders will also announce at their meeting their initial actions (once known as 'downpayment') recently taken or to be implemented very soon on liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment, to demonstrate its will to lead the process of global liberalisation by example, rather than to establish another trade bloc or free trade area."

Mr Miller will attend the senior officials get-together on November 13 and 14, then accompany the Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Chau Tak-hay, to the seventh APEC Ministerial Meeting on November 16 and 17.

He will be special assistant to the Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, to the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting to be held in Osaka on November 19.

The second Economic Leaders Meeting at Bogor last November set an unqualified goal of free trade and investment in the Asia Pacific region by 2010 and 2020.

Leaders also instructed ministers and senior officials to devise a road map for achieving the free trade goal for their consideration this year at the third Economic Leaders Meeting in Osaka.

Member economies of APEC are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States.

End/Saturday, November 11, 1995

Healthy teeth essential to children's development

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Healthy teeth are not only essential in keeping up children's learning spirit, but also an important element in building up children's confidence as they grow up.

This was said by the Director of Hong Kong Institute of Education, Professor C K Leung, at the opening ceremony of 'Brighter Smiles for the New Generation' Healthy Teeth Carnival 1995 held at the Hong Kong Science Museum today (Saturday).

Professor Leung said the focus of the "Brighter Smiles for the New Generation" pre-school oral health education programme was very much in line with the development of pre-school children.

"At the age of three, children will start to explore and try to accomplish things by themselves, so it is a good opportunity to teach them good oral health habits," he said.

"The programme is well-designed and very innovative in the sense that it arouses pre-school children's awareness on oral health by first educating the pre-school teachers who are adults that influence them most.

"The teachers can also benefit from the process by learning more about the needs of children in maintaining oral health," he added.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Director of Health, Dr Margaret Chan, said the "Brighter Smiles for the New Generation" pre-school oral health programme, sponsored by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, had received very good response from the public since it was launched by the Department of Health in 1993.

She said a two-pronged approach was adopted in the programme. In maternal and child health centres, parents were given information and counselling on oral hygiene. At the same time, a series of teaching kits were distributed to kindergartens for use by pre-school teachers.

In addition, the Department of Health has prepared a series of three story books on oral hygiene for distribution to children of different ages while its Oral Health Education Unit has set up a "Brighter Smiles Playland" offering children a colourful place to learn more about oral health through interesting games.

Dr Chan noted that every year more than 80 per cent of kindergartens obtained teaching kits from the Department of Health and more than 200,000 story books had been given away. Response to the oral health playland had also been very encouraging, with more than 50,000 visitors annually.

She urged the public to continue to support and participate in the programme so that the oral health condition of our younger generation can continue to improve.

During today's ceremony, eight winners of the Oral Health Teaching Kit Design Competition were presented with prizes.

The "Brighter Smiles for the New Generation" Healthy Teeth Carnival 1995 will be held until Thursday (November 16). It offers free stall games, computer games, variety shows and quizzes for the participants to know more about oral health while having fun.

End/Saturday, November 11, 1995

The Weather of October

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October was the fifth wettest October since records began in 1884. On three days during the first week, daily rainfall exceeded 100 millimetres.

The total monthly rainfall of 476.9 millimetres was more than three times the normal figure of 144.8 millimetres. The accumulated rainfall so far this year amounted to 2,744.7 millimetres, 28 per cent above the average of 2,151.9 millimetres for the same period.

Typhoon Sibyl came close to Hong Kong in the beginning of the month, necessitating the hoisting of Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No 8.

The month started fine and sunny with the maximum temperature reaching 30.1 degrees on October 1, the highest for the month. However, on the following day, rainbands associated with Sibyl began to affect the territory.

Winds also strengthened from the east and on October 3, reached gale force strength with torrential rain amounting to 106.4 millimetres at the Royal Observatory.

With the dissipation of Sibyl on October 4, the weather turned sunny during the day and temperatures climbed to over 30 degrees again.

Convergence of airstreams over the coastal waters of Guangdong led to intense rain development near Hong Kong on October 5. The heaviest downpour occurred that night as rain clouds and thunderstorms moved across the territory.

The total rainfall recorded at the Royal Observatory on October 5 and 6 amounted to 261.2 millimetres.

Nearly 100 cases of flooding were reported. The most severe ones occurred in the northern part of the New Territories where the flood water was three metres deep.

About 200 people had to be evacuated. More than 400 hectares of agricultural land and 180 hectares of fish-ponds were flooded, causing damage amounting to $11 million. There were also 17 cases of landslips reported and two persons were injured.

Rain eased off on the afternoon of October 6 as a drier airstream arrived from the north.

The weather turned fine the next couple of days. Winds strengthened from the east on the evening of October 9, bringing some rain patches to the territory. The weather remained cloudy with some light rain the next few days.

Meanwhile, a ridge of high pressure persisted over China maintaining fresh northeast monsoon along the coast of southeast China.

Winds became strong offshore in Hong Kong during the night of October 10 and the Strong Monsoon Signal was hoisted for the following two and a half days.

A scaffolding in Central collapsed, damaging some tramway cables on the morning of October 12. Monsoon winds moderated during the day on October 13.

The remnant of Ted over western Guangdong brought periods of rain to Hong Kong the next two days. However, a dry continental airstream cleared the clouds and there were long periods of sunshine on October 16.

The weather remained sunny during the next seven days. Temperatures rose to above 30 degrees in the New Territories on October 20.

A rather dry airstream came over the territory on October 23 and winds turned northerly during the next day and freshened in the evening.

Clouds moved in and gave rise to light rain patches on the evening of October 25 and the next two days. Temperatures fell to 21.4 degrees, the lowest for the month, on the morning of October 26.

Under the influence of a dry continental airstream, clouds dispersed on October 28 and the weather became fine and sunny the rest of the month.

There were seven tropical cyclones over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normals of October are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in October 1995

Warnings / Signals		Effective date and time
Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals		
Name of T C	Signal No.	
Sibyl	1	1 Oct 1745 - 2 Oct 1230
	3	2 Oct 1230 - 3 Oct 0510
	8SE	3 Oct 0510 - 3 Oct 1130
	3	3 Oct 1130 - 3 Oct 2045
Strong Monsoon Signals		10 Oct 2300 - 13 Oct 1240
		14 Oct 0730 - 14 Oct 1900
		17 Oct 0710 - 17 Oct 0930
Rainstorm Warning		
Red		5 Oct 2215 - 6 Oct 0300
Landslip Warnings		3 Oct 0400 - 4 Oct 0830
		5 Oct 2200 - 6 Oct 1015
Flood Warnings		3 Oct 0330 - 3 Oct 1500
		5 Oct 1815 - 6 Oct 0905
Thunderstorm Warnings		5 Oct 1745 - 6 Oct 0900
		14 Oct 1345 - 14 Oct 1700
Fire Danger Warnings		
Yellow		22 Oct 0000 - 22 Oct 2315
		29 Oct 0000 - 29 Oct 2315
		31 Oct 0905 - 31 Oct 2400

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - October 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	155.1 hours; 39.9 hours below normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	12.11 MJ/SQM; 3.35 MJ/SQM below normal
Total Rainfall	476.9 mm; 332.1 mm above normal
Mean Cloud Amount	66%; 10% above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	78%; 5% above normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	27.2 Degrees Celsius; 0.7 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Air Temperature	25.3 Degrees Celsius; 0.1 Degree Celsius above normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	23.7 Degrees Celsius; 0.6 Degree Celsius above normal
Mean Dew Point	21.0 Degrees Celsius; 1.2 Degrees Celsius above normal
Total Evaporation	102.2 mm; 50.0 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park

End/Saturday, November 11, 1995

Special stamp issuing programme for 1996

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The acting Postmaster General, Miss Nancy Law, announced today (Saturday) the following special stamp issuing programme for 1996:

January 31 - Year of the Rat

This set of stamps, the 10th in the current series of Lunar New Year special stamps, will comprise four denominations. A souvenir sheet and a stamp booklet will also be released.

The Year of the Rat Electronic Postage Labels (Frama Labels) will be released on February 28.

March 20 - 1996 Olympic Games

This set will comprise four stamps featuring various sports, namely, gymnastics, diving, athletics and basketball. A souvenir sheet will also be released.

June 26 - Archaeological Finds of Hong Kong

The set will comprise four denominations featuring four artefacts found in Hong Kong. They are: painted pottery basin from Chung Hom Wan; stone "yue" from Yung Long, Tuen Mun; stone "ge" from Tai Wan, Lamma Island; and pottery tripod from Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb.

September 11 - Hong Kong Mountains

This set will comprise four stamps depicting four well-known mountains in Hong Kong - Pat Sin Leng, Ma On Shan, Lion Rock and Lantau Peak.

November 20 - Hong Kong Urban Heritage

This set of stamps will depict several historical buildings in the urban area of the territory.

Further details of each stamp issue will be announced closer to the date of issue.

End/Saturday, November 11, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change ($ million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,047	09:30	+170
Closing balance in the account	1,468	10:00	+170
Change attributable to:		11:00	+170
Money market activity	-170	11:30	+170
LAF today	-749	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 122.2 *+0.2* 11.11.95

End/Saturday, November 11, 1995

UN consultative meeting on drug control

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The Government Laboratory is co-orgainising an expert group meeting with the Vienna-based United Nations Drug Control Programme starting tomorrow (Monday).

The five-day round table meeting will bring together fourteen eminent forensic toxicologists from around the world.

The meeting will discuss developments in the control and analysis of two important classes of abused hypontic drugs, the barbiturates and Benzodiazepines, in biological specimens.

A spokesman for the Government Laboratory said: "The meeting is particularly relevant for Hong Kong as there has been a rapidly rising trend in benzodiazepine abuse over recent years.

"Seizures of two class drugs, midazolam and flunitrazepam, have increased by 400 per cent over the past four years."

Control in this aspect was stepped up substantially in 1992 by placing 35 benzodiazepine class substances under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance.

This has demonstrated the Government's firm resolution to react swiftly to the changing patterns of drugs abuse.

A handbook summarising the deliberations of the group will be published for distribution through UN member agencies.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

New Insider Dealing Tribunal Chairman appointed

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The Government announced today (Sunday) that the Governor has appointed Mr Justice Yam to be the Chairman of the Insider Dealing Tribunal.

The appointment is for a period of two years starting from tomorrow (Monday).

Mr Justice Yam's immediate task is to conduct an inquiry into certain dealings involving shares of CNPC (Hong Kong) Ltd (formerly known as Paragon Holdings Ltd).

Mr Justice Yam, aged 47, first joined the Judiciary as a District Judge in 1987. He was appointed High Court Judge in April last year.

He succeeds Mr Justice Stock as Chairman of the Tribunal.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

Teachers required in government secondary schools

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The Education Department is inviting applications for teaching posts of Assistant Education Officer (AEO) in government secondary schools.

A spokesman for the department said today (Sunday) applicants for the AEO post should be holders of a Hong Kong university degree or equivalent; or a postgraduate Certificate in Education from a Hong Kong university and a degree. They should also have a grade E or above in Chinese Language and English Language (Syllabus B) in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination or equivalent.

Final year students taking their degree examination in summer 1996 may also apply, the spokesman said.

The pay scale for the post is between $18,145 and $38,210 per month. Entry point depends on experience.

Applicants should mark clearly in the application form the major and minor subjects in their degree courses and the specific post apply for. Application forms are available at District Offices of the Home Affairs Department and the Labour Department's Local Employment Service offices.

Completed application forms should reach the Education Department's Appointment Registry, Appointments and Personnel Sub-division, Room 1631, 16th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai on or before November 24.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

Rat prevention campaign launched

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The Department of Health is now launching a territory- wide education campaign to remind the public of the importance of rat prevention and to provide them with some basic knowledge on the subject.

The campaign, bearing the theme "Clean environment keeps rat away", was organised with the sponsorship of the Urban Council and the Regional Council.

"Rats are carriers of infectious diseases such as plague and murine typhus. They can also indirectly transmit gastro-intestinal diseases such as food poisoning," a spokesman for the department said today (Sunday).

"Besides, rats can gnaw on home fittings and furniture causing financial loss and may occasionally bite people of lower mobility," he added.

The spokesman said the fundamental method in rodent control was to improve the sanitation of the environment.

During the campaign period, printed educational handouts such as posters, advisory letters and leaflets will be distributed to building management offices, incorporated owners, mutual aid committees, food premises, housing estates and schools to appeal for their adoption of rat prevention measures.

A 24-hour hotline 2723 0013 will also be in operation to provide the public a pre-recorded message in Cantonese on rat prevention.

Members of the public can contact the Pest Control Units of respective district offices of the Urban Services Department or the Regional Services Department.

Meanwhile, the spokesman advised the public to take the following precautionary measures to prevent rat infestations:

* Keep the premises clean. Store all food properly and put all refuse and food remains into a proper dustbin so as to leave no food for rats.

* Seal off any holes on ceilings, walls and floors. Inspect regularly the bottom and back of bulky furniture and concealed places so as to eliminate breeding places for rats promptly.

* Keep drain gratings in good repair. Render all ventilation openings rat-proof by installing strong wire nettings with narrow gauges to keep rats away from the premises. Affix metal plates to the lower part of wooden doors to keep away rats.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

Design for special school wins architectural award

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The architectural design for the Special School for Moderately Mentally Handicapped Children in Kwai Chung has been selected as the best to win 1994 Architectural Services Department Annual Award.

Three other projects were also chosen to receive the certificates of merits. These were the Correctional Services Department Staff Club in Lai Chi Kok, the renovation of the Environmental Resource Centre in Wan Chai and Wai Tsuen Indoor Recreation Centre in Tsuen Wan.

The winners were selected from 11 entries by a panel of judges comprising the Director of Architectural Services, Mr Kenneth Chan; the Chairman of the Regional Council, Mr Daniel Lam; and the President of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Mr Chung Wah-nan.

The architectural team should be congratulated on their efforts and thoughtfulness in producing an excellent design for the special school for moderately mentally handicapped children, said Mr Kenneth Chan.

"The panel of judges paid a high regard to the courtyard approach of the design which creates an inward looking environment which is both friendly and protective.

"The domestic and family scale of the building is successfully and carefully carried down to all architectural elements devoid of any institutional touches.

"The overall environment is helped by the use of warm colours that are cheerful and hopeful," he said.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

First Southern District Sports Festival

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The Home Affairs Department will continue to promote community participation projects to give the public opportunities to get to know more about local administration and strengthen their sense of belonging by taking part in district activities, the Director of Home Affairs, Mrs Shelley Lau, said today (Sunday).

Mrs Lau made the remarks at the eye-dotting ceremony for the first ever Southern District Sports Festival at Repulse Bay before a huge crowd of participants and spectators.

The festival was jointly organised by the Southern District Recreation and Sports Council and the Urban Council with the Southern District Office's assistance. It was sponsored by the Southern District Board.

Scheduled festival sports events, which will run until December 3, include ping pong, basketball, soccer and sand carving.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

Education staff awarded for good service

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The Director of Education, Mr W K Lam, recently presented the Fourth Quarterly Award and Annual Award for the 1994-95 school year to Mr Du Hey-choy and four other staff members for their excellent and quality service.

Miss Wong Siu-hing, Clerical Office I at Mong Kok District Education Office, was another Annual Award winner under the Staff Incentive Award Scheme.

Presenting the awards to the winners, which comprised a certificate of merit and a watch embossed with the department's logo, Mr Lam praised them for their outstanding performance.

The Annual Award winners were also presented a 999.9 golden card whereas all Quarterly Award winners were given a photo-stand as souvenir.

Other winners for the Fourth Quarterly Award including an education assistant at the Secondary School Places Allocation Section, Mr Leung Wan-kuen; a clerical officer I at Jockey Club Government Secondary Technical School, Mr Tong King-keung; and an office assistance at Tuen Mun Government Secondary School, Miss Lai Pui-lin.

Mr Du, a senior assistant master at New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District Secondary School, was awarded because of his sincere and conscientious contribution to the school and the society.

He was an enthusiastic teacher. Apart from imparting musical knowledge to students during lessons, he also spent a lot of time after school to conduct classes in musical instruments for students.

His colleagues were also impressed by his volunteer service to the residents of the nearby villages and the neighbouring islands.

Miss Wong was nominated because of her high quality customer service. She assisted new immigrants and local students who enquired school placement service.

She also contributed to the data conversion/preparation exercise for the School Information Management System of the Integrated Students and Schools Applications.

Mr Leung possessed a thorough knowledge of the Secondary School Places Allocation system. Being an experienced officer, he was always able to give assistance to members of the public on education matters.

Mr Tong was highly praised by his school principal for his contributions to the pilot scheme on Performance Pledges in government schools which had made it a great success.

Miss Lai was commended for her patience, friendliness and positive working attitude. She could always finish her tasks efficiently and ahead of schedule.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

Flag days in 1996

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A total of 50 organisations will hold flag days to raise funds on Saturdays next year, starting from January 6, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Sunday).

The last flag day this year will be held on December 28. Members of the public can call the department's hotline 2343 2255 or SWD headquarters on 2892 5315 for enquiries.

The spokesman appealed to organisers to take precautions against any possible fraud.

"Sellers should display the permit in permanent counters or carry copies of the permit for inspection upon request," he said.

The spokesman also advised them to prepare guidelines for sellers, setting out the places and time for selling and the collection points for bags.

Organisers should inform the Police in case of loss of property, and seek their help when fraudulent acts, such as tampering of collection bags or making unauthorised selling, are found.

The flag days for 1996 are as follows:

Date	Organisation
January 6	Oxfam Hong Kong
January 13	Hong Kong Playground Association
January 20	The Mong Kok Kai-fong Association Ltd
January 27	Chai Wan Baptist Church
February 3	Yan Oi Tong
February 10	KELY Support Group
February 17	Pok Oi Hospital
February 24	Project Orbis
March 2	Fung Kai Public School
March 9	The Lok Sin Tong Benevolent Society, Kowloon
March 16	Hong Kong Association of the Blind
March 23	The Salvation Army
March 30	Hong Kong PHAB Association
April 6	Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association
April 13	Hong Kong Red Cross
April 20	The Society for the Relief of Disabled Children (The Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital)

April 27	Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children
May 4	Breakthrough Ltd
May 11	Christian Family Service Centre
May 18	United Christian Medical Service
May 25	Wu Oi Christian Centre Ltd
June 1	The Society of Homes for the Handicapped
June 8	The Methodist Church, Hong Kong (Methodist Epworth Village Community Centre)
June 22	Maryknoll Medical and Welfare Association (Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital)
June 29	The Hong Kong Cheshire Home Foundation
July 6	The Hong Kong Adventure Corps
July 13	Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong
July 20	Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong
July 27	Sheng Kung Hui Lady MacLehose Centre
August 3	Yan Chai Hospital
August 10	The Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod
August 17	The Road Safety Association Ltd
August 31	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong
September 7	The Hong Kong Society for Child Health and Development
September 14	Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth

September 21	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals
September 28	Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped
October 5	The Boys' and Girls' Association of Hong Kong
October 12	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
October 19	Po Leung Kuk
October 26	The Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod
November 2	The Hong Kong Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association
November 9	The Royal British Legion (Hong Kong and China Branch)
November 16	Haven of Hope Hospital
November 23	The Community Chest of Hong Kong
November 30	Hong Kong AIDS Foundation Ltd
December 7	The Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped
December 14	Hong Kong Kidney Foundation Ltd
December 21	Tsuen Wan Ecumenical Social Service Centre
December 28	Hong Kong Childhealth Foundation

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995

Salt water cut in Tsz Wan Shan and Wong Tai Sin

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Flushing water supply to some premises in Tsz Wan Shan and Wong Tai Sin will be temporarily suspended from 9 pm on Wednesday (November 15) to 6 am the following day to facilitate watermains work.

The suspension will affect Tsz Wan Shan Estate, Fung Wong San Tsuen, Chuk Yuen South Estate,Chuk Yuen North Estate, Tin Ma Court, Tsui Chuk Garden, Pan Ching Court, Tin Wang Court, Harbour Garden, King Ngai Court, Fung Tak Estate, Lung Poon Court, Shatin Pass Road, Diamond Hill MTR Station, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, Wong Tai Sin Hospital, Wong Tai Sin Infirmary and Chi Lin Temple.

End/Sunday, November 12, 1995