



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Saturday, December 3, 1994

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Five employee representatives elected to LAB	1
Precautionary measures against food-borne diseases	2
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	3

Sunday, December 4, 1994

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Common law system in HK to remain after 1997	4
First ODHC opens today	5
63 new building plans approved	6
Mai Po Marshes should be conserved	7
Integrated teams for youth services	9
TOC implementation on target	10
POA Registration	11
\$20,000-fine for unreported overtime work	12
Applications invited for mortgage interest subsidy scheme	13
Second heritage trail to open	13
Water cuts in Ma On Shan and Mong Kok	14

Five employee representatives elected to LAB

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Five employee representatives nominated by registered employee unions were today (Saturday) elected to the Labour Advisory Board for two years with effect from January next year.

They were:

- * Mr Poon Siu-ping (139 votes)
Hong Kong Store Houses and Transportation Staff Association
- * Mr Leung Fu-wah (206 votes)
Hong Kong and Kowloon Rubber and Plastic Workers' General Union
- * Mr Cheung Kwok-bui (152 votes)
Hong Kong Civil Servants General Union
- * Mr Leung Tsz-leung (113 votes)
Hong Kong Building Construction Workers' General Union
- * Mr Chu Ming (96 votes)
Hong Kong Prosthetists and Orthotists Association

At today's election at Haking Wong Technical Institute in Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon, 251 registered employee unions turned out to vote, while 251 votes cast were declared valid.

The election was supervised by Acting Assistant Commissioner for Labour Mr Yeung Chi-kin, who acted as the Returning Officer.

The votes were counted in the presence of Mr Raymond Fan who represented the Secretary for Education and Manpower, and Mr Tong Moon-chi from the Registrar of Trade Unions.

Meanwhile, nominations of employer representatives for the LAB closed today and the results will be announced at a later date.

end/Saturday, December 3, 1994

Precautionary measures against food-borne diseases

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The Department of Health today (Saturday) called on members of the public to adopt proper food hygiene practices when having hot pots in winter.

In making the appeal, the Assistant Director of Health (Hygiene), Dr Mahommed Bin Ali, warned the general public of the possible food-borne diseases such as food poisoning and Hepatitis A.

"Staff of food establishments should always observe hygiene practices in preparing food for hot pots," Dr Ali said.

"Customers, on the other hand, should make sure that food items are thoroughly cooked before consumption."

Housewives should also observe good hygiene practices when preparing hot pots at home.

Dr Ali advised the public to observe the following precautionary measures:

For shellfish

- (a) Use only wholesome and preferably live ones;
- (b) Remove the dirt with a brush and rinse shellfish thoroughly in clean water;
- (c) Discard the intestines and other dubious or inedible parts such as shells;
- (d) Cook thoroughly before consumption; and
- (e) Keep under refrigeration if not for immediate consumption.

For vegetables

- (a) Do not patronise illegal hawkers;
- (b) Do not buy those with an obvious strange smell;
- (c) Remove the outer leaves;

- (d) Wash well in clean water and immerse in water for one hour;
- (e) Or use boiling water to blanch the vegetable for one minute. Water used for blanching should be discarded; and
- (f) Cook thoroughly.

"Wholesome raw materials, proper washing and handling, and thorough cooking are the best measures against gastro-intestinal diseases. Members of the public should observe these hygiene practices at all times," Dr Ali added.

end\Saturday, December 3, 1994

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

* * * * *

	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	1,746	09:30	NIL
Closing Balance in the account	1,556	10:00	NIL
Change Attributable to:		11:00	NIL
Money Market Activity	NIL	11:30	NIL
Laf Today	-190	15:00	

Laf Rate 3.75% Bid/ 5.75% Offer TWI 122.0 *+0.2* 3.12.94.

end/Saturday, December 3, 1994

Common law system in HK to remain after 1997

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The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The continuation of the existing common law system in Hong Kong after 1997 is a striking manifestation of the one country two systems principle which underpins the Basic Law, the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice Power, said today (Sunday).

In delivering his welcoming speech at the Eighth International Conference of the Society for the Reform of the Criminal Law held in Hong Kong this evening, Mr Justice Power said, although Hong Kong would become a part of China after 1997, it would at the same time remain part of the great common law family.

Noting that the maintenance of Hong Kong's law and judicial system beyond 1997 is the most significant element for the future, Mr Justice Power said: "The system is guaranteed by the Basic Law for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region."

Highlighting the key provisions of the Basic Law which relate to Hong Kong's law and courts, he said: "The common law system which has served Hong Kong so well for the past 150 years will remain. The courts will continue to exercise judicial power independently. The principle of trial by jury will remain.

"Judges will continue to enjoy immunity while performing their judicial office. They will continue to enjoy security of tenure - a prerequisite of the independence of the Judiciary."

Mr Justice Power said: "Judges will continue to be selected by an independent body which will look, as it does now, at their integrity and ability. Judges will continue to be recruited from other common law jurisdictions after 1997."

On criminal law enforcement in Hong Kong, Mr Justice Power said Hong Kong had an extraordinarily low level of crime -- lower than almost all other cities.

"The crime rate in 1993 fell to its lowest level in 10 years. Indeed our crime level is only one-tenth of that of an average large American city and this has been achieved in an urbanised, fast moving and cosmopolitan community," he concluded.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

First ODHC opens today

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About 100 overseas domestic helpers were given the opportunity to spend their day off at an activity centre at the Clementi Secondary School in North Point today (Sunday).

The Deputy Director of Home Affairs, Mr Philip Chok, said the centre was the first of seven to be set up in the next six to eight months.

A non-profit making organisation, the Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust (the Trust) is responsible for the financing of the entire overseas domestic helper centre (ODHC) scheme and the operation and management of all the centres.

"So far the Trust has raised a total of \$4 million, including a donation of \$1 million from the Jockey Club, to finance the whole project," Mr Chok said.

A great deal of effort had been made to ensure that the centre would be used in an orderly and acceptable manner, he added.

Only those who participate in the activities would be allowed to go into the centre and passes were issued in advance.

To dispel fears of hygiene and traffic problems in the vicinity, Mr Chok pointed out that the Trust had employed a cleaning company to provide cleaning services to the centre and that transport was provided for the helpers to and from Star Ferry and the centre today.

As to the Steering Committee which will monitor the use of the ODHCs, Mr Chok said it was formed in November and a meeting had already been held.

Members of the Committee include the District Board member of the constituency concerned; representatives of relevant Government Departments, including the Police, the Urban Services Department, the Transport Department and the Education Department; as well as representatives from the Trust, Parent-Teacher Associations and relevant Consulates.

The formation of the Committee was to make certain that these centres run smoothly and to quickly resolve any problems that might arise.

Mr Chok pointed out that four more centres were expected to be opened between January and March next year.

They are the Ho Tung Technical School for Girls, the Jockey Club Government Technical School, the Kowloon Technical School and the Po Leung Kuk Yu Lee Mo Fan Memorial School.

Acknowledging the valuable and significant contribution of these helpers, Mr Chok said the community should do something for them so that they could spend their rest days in suitable activities venues.

In this connection, he said the Home Affairs Department would continue identifying more suitable sites for ODHCs.

"I thought the participants had a good time today and made full use of the venue which would otherwise have been left empty," Mr Chok said.

"More importantly, I hope people can now see that the centres can operate without causing nuisance and problem to residents nearby, he added.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

63 new building plans approved

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The Buildings Department approved 63 new building plans in September this year.

Of the plans, 24 are for Hong Kong Island, 18 for Kowloon and 21 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 22 for apartment and apartment/commercial development, 18 for commercial development and seven for factory and industrial developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 29 building projects, which involve 88,241 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 78,894.1 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about \$1,005 million.

Of the buildings certificated for occupation in the month, usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 64 892.2 square metres and 42 665.9 square metres respectively.

In the same month, the department issued 22 occupation permits - five for Hong Kong Island, seven for Kowloon and 10 for the New Territories.

In addition, 33 demolition consents involving 82 buildings were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 702 complaints of unauthorised building works, carried out 1,674 inspections and issued 272 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

The department's dangerous buildings section also inspected 997 buildings and obtained four Emergency Closure Orders from the court.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

Mai Po Marshes should be conserved

As the Mai Po Marshes is an ideal place for bird watching, field studies and researches, it is crucial that this valuable natural habitat be conserved for the present and future generations.

This was stated by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Lawrence Lee, when addressing the opening ceremony of this year's "Discover Mai Po" project at the nature reserve in the Northwest New Territories.

Apart from the government's efforts, Dr Lee stressed, public awareness and support for wetland was of equal importance in ensuring the long term success in protecting it.

"Mai Po Marshes (and Inner Deep Bay) is a wetland of international importance, as its ecosystem comprises the largest colony of dwarf mangroves in Hong Kong, intertidal mudflats, shallow waters, fish ponds and gei wais.

"It is home to many species of birds and a range of local wildlife such as leopard cats and otters, and an important stopover and 'refuelling' station for thousands of migratory birds including rare species as Blackfaced Spoonbills, of which only about 350 remain in the world and 25 per cent of them wintering at Mai Po.

"The figures of annual bird counts also show a rising trend from some 20,000 birds 10 years ago to over 50,000 last winter, pointing to the increasing importance of this wetland for migratory birds," he said.

Mai Po is not just a good exhibit of the great mother nature, Dr Lee said, adding that it also offers excellent learning opportunity for those who were interested in conservation and the environment.

Noting that over 35,000 visitors coming to Mai Po every year, including students from 350 schools, he believed the visits not only gave them enjoyable outdoor recreation and enriched their understanding of Mai Po but also helped spread the message of nature conservation.

The Director also thanked the World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong), which had managed Mai Po since 1984 and been working closely with his department for many years to conserve the Mai Po Marshes and to promote conservation education in the area.

On the "Discover Mai Po" project, Dr Lee said it had grown from strength to strength. Last year alone, the project raised more than \$750,000.

"The fact that so many participants have come to join this event today shows that more and more people care for the environment and are eager to contribute their efforts in improving our environment," he added.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

Integrated teams for youth services

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The Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee has endorsed a proposal of setting up 10 integrated teams to provide better and co-ordinated services for young people in the territory.

Preparation works for the establishment of these teams are in full swing and it is expected that they will all become operational within the current 1994/95 financial year, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said today (Sunday).

Of the 10 integrated teams, two are located in Sham Shui Po, two in Wong Tai Sin/Sai Kung, and one each in Tuen Mun, Sha Tin, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan/Kwai Tsing, Eastern/Wan Chai and Kowloon City.

"The proposal of setting up integrated teams is one of the recommendations by the Report on Review of Children and Youth Centre Services which was released to the public earlier this year.

"The report recommended that services for young people should be integrated and provided in a specific catchment area by a team of social workers under one management structure.

"The services to be integrated are children and youth centres, outreaching social work, school social work and, where appropriate, family life education," the spokesman said.

To implement the recommendations of the report, the SWD has invited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing services for young people to set up integrated teams. A total of 37 applications from 21 NGOs have been received so far.

In consultation with the Steering Committee on the Implementation of Integrated Team of Children and Youth Services, the SWD recommended that as a start, 10 integrated teams should be set up in 1994/95.

"However, the SWD and the Steering Committee will continue to examine the rest of the applications submitted with a view to forming more integrated teams in the coming years," the spokesman said.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

TOC implementation on target

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The Education Department has so far received applications from 69 primary schools, including government schools, aided, private and special schools, to join the first phase of implementation of the Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) in September 1995.

"The applications came from an array of sponsoring bodies," a spokesman of the Education Department said.

"A few more schools have notified the department that their forms are on the way or that they are awaiting the endorsement of their management committees. The total number of applications is therefore likely to exceed the target of 70 schools.

"The department will still entertain requests from those who had already notified the department of their intention but whose forms have not yet been received," he said.

He pointed out that staff of the participating schools would be given priority in the teacher education programme to ensure that they were well- equipped for full implementation of TOC in September 1995.

"Staff of the Education Department will be available to help these schools solve their teething problems, if any, when called upon to do so," he added.

The spokesman suggested schools which have not joined the first phase of full implementation to prepare for the second phase in 1996/97, for example, through using the materials provided by the Education Department or trying out target-oriented task-based teaching.

"More back-up materials are being developed and will be displayed at the TOC resource centre at the Government Offices in To Kwa Wan. Teaching and learning packages produced by educational publishers will be available around April next year," he said.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

POA Registration

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The Education Department reminds parents to register with the schools which offered their children a discretionary Primary 1 place tomorrow (Monday) and on Tuesday during school hours.

About 40,000 out of 66,700 applicants have succeeded in obtaining a discretionary Primary 1 place at government and aided primary schools for the 1995/96 school year.

A spokesman for the Education Department advised parents to note carefully the registration procedures and requirements of individual schools, such as a parent's copy of the Application Form for Admission to Primary One and the number of photos to be brought along to the school.

Parents should notify the schools or through the Primary One Admission Unit of the Education Department on tel 572 4383 for alternative arrangements if they have difficulties in registering their children with the school during the specified period.

"If parents fail to do so, they will be deemed to have given up the discretionary place offered by the school," the spokesman said.

Children who have not secured a discretionary place at this stage can take part in the central allocation. Parents of these children will receive a letter in late February or early March 1995 from the department requesting them to go to a specified distribution and collection centre for choice of schools.

The Education Department will then allocate a Primary 1 place to their children within their home district in accordance with the parents' choices as far as possible.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

\$20,000-fine for unreported overtime work

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The Labour Department today (Sunday) urged factory proprietors and employers to comply with labour law and stop engaging women to work outside their normal permitted period of employment.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions) Miss Rita Ma said factory proprietors and employers had to submit applications of overtime work for woman workers to the Labour Department if they wanted to engage women to work overtime.

In a recent court case, the employer of Draper Company Limited in Kwai Chung was fined a total of \$20,000 at the Tsuen Wan Magistracy for engaging women in unreported overtime work on two separate occasions.

The case was detected when Labour inspectors of the Labour Department conducted their routine inspections.

On the first occasion, the company was found to have engaged 12 women in unreported overtime work. On another occasion, 10 women were found working overtime illegally.

A maximum fine of \$10,000 was imposed for each of the two summonses.

Miss Ma pointed out that it was an offence under the Women and Young Persons(Industry) Regulations for an employer to change the fixed working hours of women in industry or to engage them in overtime work without notifying the Labour Department beforehand.

"The law also requires the employer to display in a conspicuous place in the factory a prescribed notice setting out the period of employment, intervals for meals or rest, and rest day for woman workers," she said.

She advised employers to adhere strictly to the permissible hours of work set out in the prescribed notice.

Any employer who breaches the regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

Applications invited for mortgage interest subsidy scheme

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The Education Department is inviting eligible full-time employees holding subvented posts in aided and per caput grant schools to apply for assistance under the 1994/95 Mortgage Interest Subsidy Scheme (MISS).

A spokesman for the Education Department said today (Sunday) that eligible staff are:

- * Those receiving a monthly basic salary equivalent to Master Pay Scale point 22 or above (\$20,955 or more) and having a minimum of 10 years' continuous recognised service as at October 31, 1994; or
- * Those receiving a monthly basic salary below Master Pay Scale point 22 who have a minimum of 20 years' continuous recognised service as at October 31, 1994.

The closing date for submitting applications is January 15, 1995.

"Circulars, application forms and relevant information leaflets have been sent to heads of schools. Under the scheme, successful applicants will receive a monthly subsidy for payment of interest on their home mortgage loan," the spokesman said.

Enquiries about the scheme should be directed to the Mortgage Interest Subsidy Scheme Section on 961 7406, 961 7409 or 961 7412.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

Second heritage trail to open

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The Government has plans to open a second heritage trail in the New Territories after the first which opened in Ping Shan a year ago.

Disclosing this today (Sunday) during the unveiling ceremony of an ancient study hall in Kam Tin, Yuen Long, the Commissioner for Recreation and Culture, Mrs Rachel Cartland, said the Government had been striving strenuously in the past decades to preserve cultural heritage and promote public awareness of its importance.

She said: "The establishment of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust and the opening of the first heritage trail in Ping Shan are two distinguished examples.

"I sincerely hope that a new heritage trail will be opened in Kam Tin to cater for public interest in local heritage."

Since its opening in December last year, the Ping Shan Heritage Trail has been exceedingly well patronised by both tourists and locals. An average of 25,000 visitors has been recorded every month.

The study hall opened today, Yi Tai Shue Yuen (literally meaning study hall of the two immortals (the Man Cheong and Kwan Tai, literary god and martial god respectively), is the first declared building in Kam Tin area.

Yi Tai Shue Yuen was built during the Daoguang Reign (1821-1850) and was used as a venue for educating the youngsters of the Shui Tau Tsuen where it is located.

The structure was restored with the full support of the Tang clan from the area.

Solely funded by the Government, the restoration project was supervised by the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch and the Antiquities Section of the Architectural Services Department.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994

Water cuts in Ma On Shan and Mong Kok

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Flushing water supply to some premises in Ma On Shan will be temporarily suspended from 8 am to 8 pm on Tuesday (December 6) to facilitate the checking of the water supply system.

The affected areas include Yiu On Estate, Hing On Temporary Housing Area, Kam Hay Court, Fok On Garden, Sunshine City, Fu Fai Garden, Bayshore Towers, Ma On Shan Centre, Kam Ying Court, Villa Athena, Saddle Ridge Garden, Kam Lung Court, Lee On Estate as well as all the premises at Ma On Shan Road, On Shan Lane and to the north of Hang Hong Street.

Meanwhile, fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will also be cut off from 11 pm on Wednesday (December 7) to 7 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises bounded by Shanghai Street, Prince Edward Road West, Tong Mi Road and Mong Kok Road.

end/Sunday, December 4, 1994