



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 1992

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HK HAS RECORD FOR FAIR ELECTIONS: GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG HAS A RECORD FOR HOLDING FAIR ELECTIONS; FOR CONDUCTING THE WHOLE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS EQUITABLY AND IMPARTIALLY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING A POLLING STATION IN TUEN MUN DURING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION FOR NEW TERRITORIES WEST, MR PATTEN SAID: "I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I'VE SEEN THIS MORNING AND IT'S GOOD TO SEE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS BEING CONDUCTED SO WELL HERE IN HONG KONG."

"THIS IS THE FIRST ELECTION THAT'S BEEN HELD SINCE I BECAME GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG AND I WAS VERY KEEN TO SEE FOR MYSELF HOW THE ELECTION IN THIS CONSTITUENCY WAS BEING CONDUCTED," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON TODAY'S TURNOUT RATE, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IT'S A BIT EARLY TO SAY WHAT THE FINAL TURNOUT WILL BE. SO FAR IN THE CONSTITUENCY, I THINK ALMOST 9,000 PEOPLE HAVE VOTED AND THAT IS A HIGHER TURNOUT RATE THAN AT A SIMILAR TIME WHEN THE LAST BY-ELECTION HERE WAS HELD."

"BUT IT'S VERY DANGEROUS TO START SPECULATING ABOUT THE TURNOUT RATE AS I KNOW FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS A POLITICIAN. I MUST SAY THAT AS A DEMOCRATIC POLITICIAN THE DISTANT SOUND OF ELECTORAL BATTLE CONDUCTED FAIRLY AND VIGOROUSLY DID HAVE THE BLOOD RUNNING RATHER FASTER THROUGH MY VEINS WHICH IS ANOTHER REASON WHY I WANTED TO COME HERE AND SEE THINGS FOR MYSELF THIS MORNING.," HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN POINTED OUT THAT WHILE MOST PEOPLE WANTED TO SEE THE TURNOUT GRADUALLY INCREASE IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE WERE PLENTY OF EXAMPLES OF TURNOUT RATES ACROSS THE WORLD WHICH WERE NOT VERY HIGH.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY HE SAID: "I THINK THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD EXPECT ME TO HAVE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY BEFORE I SET OUT SOME OF MY THOUGHTS ON THE PACE OF DEMOCRATISATION, AND THE RIGHT TIME TO DO THAT IS AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION AT THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER."

"IT'S SENSIBLE BOTH TO HAVE WIDE RANGING DISCUSSIONS AND IT'S SENSIBLE TO GIVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHEN IT COMES BACK TO WORK, THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY OF HEARING MY VIEWS AND THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO," HE ADDED.

"THERE IS, OF COURSE, ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE FORWARD THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATISATION. THAT IS MADE CLEAR IN THE JOINT DECLARATION; IT'S ALSO MADE CLEAR IN THE BASIC LAW.

"EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1995 WITH OFFICIALS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. I WANT TO SEE OUR GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR AFFAIRS IN HONG KONG MORE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY AND I'M SURE THAT SHOULD BE AN AIM COMMON TO ALL OF US," MR PATTEN SAID.

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TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT BECOMES MORE POPULAR

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THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVED MORE COMPLAINTS IN 1991-92 LARGELY OWING TO INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE UNIT AND HIGHER EXPECTATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

THE UNIT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 8,843 COMPLAINTS IN 1991-92, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 13 PER CENT OVER 7,805 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 1990-91.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TCU SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE INCREASE INDICATED THAT THE PUBLIC WERE MORE WILLING TO COME FORWARD TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS.

"IT ALSO REFLECTED THAT THE PUBLIC HAVE HIGHER EXPECTATION ON THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

"THEY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE ROLE OF THE TCU AND ARE MORE READY TO USE THIS CHANNEL TO LODGE COMPLAINTS AND TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON TRANSPORT MATTERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN 1991-92, THE TCU COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS INTO 8,911 COMPLAINTS. OF THESE, 66 PER CENT WERE FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIATED.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION WAS TAKEN BY RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS/TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO EITHER ADDRESS THE COMPLAINTS OR TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

DURING THE YEAR, THE TWO MAIN AREAS OF COMPLAINT WERE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, ACCOUNTING FOR 58 PER CENT AND 17 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THESE WERE FOLLOWED BY COMPLAINTS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ROAD MAINTENANCE.

THERE WAS AN 11% INCREASE IN COMPLAINTS ON BUS SERVICES, RISING FROM 1,994 CASES IN 1990-91 TO 2,217 IN 1991-92. MOST OF THE COMPLAINTS WERE RELATED TO INADEQUATE SERVICE AND STANDARD OF SERVICE.

OF THE COMPLAINTS ON INADEQUATE SERVICE, 98 WERE AGAINST THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY (CMB) WHICH HAS A BUS FLEET OF 964, AND 524 WERE AGAINST THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY (KMB), WHICH HAS A FLEET OF 3,036.

MOST OF THESE COMPLAINTS WERE ABOUT FREQUENCY OF BUS SERVICES OR ROUTINGS, PARTICULARLY TO NEW TOWNS.

IN 1990-91, 106 AND 459 COMPLAINTS AGAINST CMB AND KMB WERE RECEIVED.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE 125 COMPLAINTS ON CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES, COMPARED WITH 110 RECEIVED LAST YEAR.

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REGARDING COMPLAINTS ON THE STANDARD OF FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES INCLUDING FAILURE TO ADHERE TO SERVICE SCHEDULES AND UNSATISFACTORY BEHAVIOUR OF DRIVERS, THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS INCREASED BY 92 TO 467 FOR CMB AND BY 66 TO 715 FOR KMB AS COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR.

ON CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES, THERE WERE 202 COMPLAINTS, COMPARED WITH 209 LAST YEAR.

ON TAXI SERVICES, A TOTAL OF 2,070 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED IN 1991-92, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 36 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 2,009 OR 97% WERE RELATED TO TAXI DRIVER MALPRACTICES. THE MAJOR CAUSES OF COMPLAINT WERE OVERCHARGING (34 PER CENT) AND REFUSING HIRE (23 PER CENT).

THE UNIT RECEIVED 1,543 COMPLAINTS ABOUT TRAFFIC CONDITIONS, OF WHICH 752 WERE RELATED TO ROAD CONGESTION.

SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE ROAD CONGESTIONS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TOTALLED 1,009 CASES AS COMPARED WITH 993 CASES IN 1990-91.

THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT SET UP UNDER THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVES AND MONITORS COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON TRANSPORT MATTERS.

IT ALSO TAKES STOCK OF CURRENT OPINION ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE INTERNAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND RESEARCHES INTO CASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

VERY OFTEN, STAFF OF TCU HANDLING COMPLAINTS HAVE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THE COMPLAINANTS AND CONDUCT SITE VISITS BEFORE PROCESSING THE COMPLAINTS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS OR LODGE COMPLAINTS COULD DIAL THE TCU HOTLINE ON 577 6866 WHICH PROVIDES ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICES.

AFTER INVESTIGATION, THE UNIT WOULD GIVE THE COMPLAINANT A VERBAL OR WRITTEN REPLY AS APPROPRIATE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR DISTRICT OPEN SPACE WORKS

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'S SOUTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DISTRICT OPEN SPACE NEAR PO LAM ESTATE IN AREA 12, TSEUNG KWAN O.

THE PROJECT IS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE BUILDING OF AN 11-A-SIDE SOCCER/HOCKEY GROUND, A SEVEN-A-SIDE FOOTBALL PITCH, SIX TENNIS COURTS, THREE TENNIS PRACTICE COURTS, CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS, SITTING-OUT AREAS, A JOGGING TRAIL WITH FIVE FITNESS STATIONS, VIEWING PAVILIONS AND SEVERAL LANDSCAPE AREAS.

IT ALSO COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE BUILDING WITH PARK MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND TOILET FACILITIES, CHANGING ROOM, REST ROOM AND STORE ROOM.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT'S NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER DISTRICT OPEN SPACE IN TAI PO.

FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE PROJECT IS PART OF A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW TOWN.

TO BE BUILT AT THE SOUTH OF TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE FRONTING TOLO HARBOUR, THE OPEN SPACE WILL INCLUDE OF A WATERFRONT PROMENADE, A CYCLING TRACK, A JOGGING TRAIL, SITTING-OUT AREAS, GARDENS AND PUBLIC TOILETS.

IN ADDITION, A 500-SEAT SPECTATORS STAND WILL ALSO BE BUILT.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE. HOWEVER, THE SPECTATORS STAND WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR.

TENDER FORMS AND OTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FOR THE TWO PROJECTS, EARTHASIA LIMITED, IN ROOM 2001, CAMERON COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 458-468 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE TENDER CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH PROJECTS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 18.

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NEW CARD-OPERATED PARKING METERS TO BE INTRODUCED

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A NEW TYPE OF CARD-OPERATED ELECTRONIC PARKING METER WILL BE TESTED IN TSIM SHA TSUI FROM NEXT MONTH AS PART OF A TRIAL SCHEME CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS THE APPLICABILITY OF NEW ON-STREET PARKING DEVICES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE NEW METERS WILL BE POWERED BY SOLAR BATTERIES SUPPLEMENTED BY BACK-UP BATTERIES.

ALL 94 EXISTING COIN-OPERATED PARKING METERS AT MODY ROAD, CORNWALL AVENUE, HANOI ROAD AND HART AVENUE WILL BE REPLACED BY CARD-OPERATED METERS FOR A YEAR FROM WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 2).

THESE METERS ARE FOR PARKING SPACES FOR PRIVATE CARS AND LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID MOTORISTS SHOULD PURCHASE IN ADVANCE A STORED-VALUE CARD KNOWN AS "PARKCARD" FOR \$250 EACH, INCLUDING A REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$50.

"EACH CARD CARRIES 100 UNITS OF \$2 PER HALF-HOUR PARKING TIME," HE ADDED.

ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE SALE OF THESE CARDS AT THE OUTLETS OF THE CIRCLE K CONVENIENCE STORES AT 6-6A HART AVENUE; 12 ASHLEY ROAD; 6-10 MAN WAI STREET, YAU MA TEI; AND 519 SHANGHAI STREET, MONG KOK.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT AFTER INSERTING THE CARD INTO THE METER, THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF PARKING UNITS WOULD BE DEDUCTED AND THE REMAINING AMOUNT WOULD BE DISPLAYED ON THE METER.

"THE USER CAN THEN RETRIEVE THE CARD AND THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR WHICH PARKING IS ALLOWED WILL BE SHOWN," HE ADDED.

"FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, CAN BE FOUND ON THESE METERS," HE NOTED.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS SO FAR BEEN CONDUCTING TESTS ON TWO NEW PARKING DEVICES, CARD-OPERATED ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS AND "PAY AND DISPLAY" TICKETING MACHINES, ON 50 PARKING SPACES IN LO TAK COURT IN TSUEN WAN AND 111 PARKING SPACES IN CAUSEWAY BAY SINCE APRIL AND JULY RESPECTIVELY.

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PROPRIETOR FINED FOR ENGAGING WOMEN IN OVERTIME WORK
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY) REMINDED FACTORY PROPRIETORS NOT TO ENGAGE WOMEN IN WORK OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL, PERMITTED PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT.

THE ADVICE WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING A CASE IN WHICH NEW BRIGHT INDUSTRIAL COMPANY LIMITED IN KOWLOON BAY WAS GIVEN THE MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 BY A KWUN TONG MAGISTRATE FOR ENGAGING WOMEN IN UNREPORTED OVERTIME WORK.

DURING A VISIT TO THE FACTORY, LABOUR INSPECTORS FOUND 73 WOMEN WORKING OUTSIDE THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT STATED IN A NOTICE OF PERMISSIBLE HOURS OF WORK POSTED IN THE FACTORY.

"UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, IT IS AN OFFENCE FOR AN EMPLOYER TO CHANGE THE PRESCRIBED WORKING HOURS OF WOMEN IN INDUSTRY OR TO ENGAGE THEM IN OVERTIME WORK, WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT BEFOREHAND," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR INSPECTION), MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN, SAID.

"THE LAW ALSO REQUIRES AN 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 WOMEN WORKERS," HE SAID.

"EMPLOYERS SHOULD STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE PERMISSIBLE HOURS OF WORK SET OUT IN THE PRESCRIBED NOTICE," MR CHAN SAID, ADDING THAT YOUNG PERSONS SHOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED TO WORK OVERTIME IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

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FARE INCREASE FOR TWO KOWLOON GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT FROM TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 1), THE FARE OF KOWLOON GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 7 - KOWLOON CITY (WYLER GARDENS) TO TSIM SHA TSUI EAST (SCIENCE MUSEUM SQUARE) (CIRCULAR) - WILL BE RAISED FROM \$3.80 TO \$4.30 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

WHILE THE FULL FARE AND SECTION FARE OF GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 16 - JAT'S INCLINE (CHOI WAN ESTATE) TO PING SHEK ESTATE (CIRCULAR) - WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1.40 TO \$1.60 AND FROM \$1.30 TO \$1.40 PER SINGLE JOURNEY RESPECTIVELY.

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TOLO HARBOUR SWIMMING COMPETITION

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THIS YEAR'S CROSS TOLO HARBOUR SWIMMING CONTEST WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11.

THE COMPETITION, TO BE ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SPORTS ASSOCIATION, WILL BEGIN AT SHA LAN BEACH IN SHUEN WAN AND END AT TAI MEI TUK WATER ACTIVITIES CENTRE, COVERING A DISTANCE OF 2,400 METRES.

THERE WILL BE A MEN'S DIVISION AND A WOMEN'S DIVISION. ANY PERSONS AGED ABOVE 12 ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RACE.

THE FIRST 10 WINNERS IN EACH DIVISION WILL RECEIVE PRIZES, WHILE THOSE WHO FINISH THE RACE WITHIN ONE-AND-A-HALF HOURS WILL BE AWARDED CERTIFICATES.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S LI FOOK LAM INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE AT 2 ON CHEUNG ROAD, TAI PO.

COMPLETED FORMS, TOGETHER WITH A \$15 APPLICATION FEE, SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE ASSOCIATION BY POST OR IN PERSON BY SEPTEMBER 18.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 664 8661.

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FLAG DAYS LINED UP FOR COMING FOUR MONTHS

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SIXTEEN MORE ORGANISATIONS WILL HOLD FLAG DAYS TO RAISE FUNDS ON SATURDAYS IN THE REST OF THE YEAR, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255 IN CASE OF DOUBTS ABOUT ANY WELFARE ORGANISATION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO FLAG DAY ORGANISERS TO ADOPT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE FRAUD.

"THEY SHOULD EXERCISE GREATER CARE IN MONITORING THEIR FLAG-SELLING ACTIVITIES," HE ADDED.

HE ADVISED ORGANISERS TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, SETTING OUT THE PLACES AND THE TIME FOR SELLING, AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR BAGS.

"FLAG DAY ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF FLAGS OR COLLECTION BAGS, AND SEEK THEIR HELP WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND," HE SAID.

THE FLAG DAYS ARE:

| DATE ----- | ORGANISATION ----- |
|---------------|---|
| SEPTEMBER 5 | SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND |
| 12 | HONG KONG PHAB ASSOCIATION |
| 19 | PO LEUNG KUK |
| 26 | TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS |
| OCTOBER 3 | HONG KONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED |
| 10 | SOCIETY OF HOMES FOR THE HANDICAPPED |
| 17 | MONGKOK KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION |
| 24 | HONG KONG FEDERATION OF HANDICAPPED YOUTH |
| 31 | BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB ASSOCIATION |
| NOVEMBER 7 | ROYAL BRITISH LEGION |
| 14 | SALVATION ARMY |
| 21 | YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG |
| 28 | HONG KONG OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL |
| DECEMBER 5 | COMMUNITY CHEST OF HONG KONG |
| 12 | SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DISABLED CHILDREN (DUCHESS OF KENT CHILDREN HOSPITAL) |
| 19 | HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION |