



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK-Guangdong talks on boundaries of administration

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Further discussions on matters relating to the boundaries of administration between Hong Kong and Guangdong will take place in Hong Kong on Wednesday to Friday (September 4 to 6) between the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong provincial authorities, a government spokesman said today (Monday).

The Deputy Political Adviser, Mr John Ashton, will lead the Hong Kong team.

The Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangdong Provincial Government, Mr Xiao Jinzhe, will lead the Guangdong team.

End

Pilot control scheme for publicity materials display

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A trial scheme to control the display of publicity materials in public places will be launched in Wan Chai in November for six months.

From November 1, the display of publicity materials in the district would be confined to 100 suitable spots identified and designated for this purpose, a spokesman for the Lands Department said today (Monday).

Plans showing the location of these spots will be displayed at the District Lands Office/Hong Kong West, 19th floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, and the Public Enquiry Service Centre of Wan Chai District Office, ground floor, 2 O'Brien Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, from today.

The spokesman said the pilot scheme was aimed at addressing the problem of proliferation of unauthorised publicity materials.

"Any publicity materials displayed outside these spots will be considered unauthorised by definition and will be removed immediately once identified," he said.

Before the start of the scheme, a large scale clearance operation will be launched by the Urban Services Department from October 21 to clear all display materials in the district.

Applications for display of publicity materials should be made on the standard application forms designed to include appropriate indemnity and disclaimer provisions.

The form can be obtained from today at the District Lands Office, Hong Kong West, and the Public Enquiry Service Centre of Wan Chai District Office.

Completed forms should be returned on or before October 1 to the District Lands Office for processing. An open ballot with applicants or their representatives' present will be held on October 14 at the Wan Chai District Board Conference Room on the 21st floor, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong, to select successful applicants.

After the ballot, the spokesman said, a list of successful applicants would be displayed at the District Lands Office and the Public Enquiry Service Centre of Wan Chai District Office. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified separately.

Vacant spots after balloting will be allocated to post-deadline applications on a first-come-first-served basis. The approved period for display will be one month from the first day of the month less the last two days.

"Upon expiry, the publicity materials must be removed within two days, and unmoved banners will be cleared and disposed of by the Government which reserves right to claim removal costs and prosecute offenders," said the spokesman.

The spots have been chosen to ensure that traffic and pedestrian safety will not be compromised.

"The pilot scheme is not applicable to properties managed by the Housing Authority and the Urban Council which already have their own control system," he added.

A review will be conducted at the end of the trial period.

End

Tai A Chau Detention Centre to close

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All the Vietnamese migrants (VMs) on Tai A Chau (TAC) will be moved to Whitehead Detention Centre (WHDC) starting from September 16, the Government announced today (Monday).

As at today, there are about 5,500 VMs on TAC.

A government spokesman said three ferries, each with a capacity of about 350, would be hired for the transfer.

"Every day these ferries will take about 550 VMs and their belongings from TAC to HMS Tamar, where they will be transferred to WHDC by truck.

"The VMs have been fully briefed on the arrangements, and they have indicated willingness to co-operate.

"We hope the operation will go smoothly and peacefully and can be completed in about 10 days," he said.

As is the practice for such operations, the whole transfer exercise will be observed by independent monitors.

The spokesman added that works to strengthen security measures in WHDC and High Island Detention Centre (HIDC) were mostly completed.

There are now about 550 southerners in WHDC (excluding the VMs in the voluntary departure centres), and 4,100 northerners in HIDC, after a series of camp transfers in the past two months.

end

Textbooks to split into volumes

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In response to press reports today (Monday) on the weight of Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) textbooks and schoolbags, a spokesman for the Education Department said:

"Publishers have responded to a call by the Education Department and are splitting textbooks into separate volumes to reduce their weight.

"As far as TOC is concerned, learning materials of each term are in turn split into two volumes. Students are required to carry to school only one volume at any time.

"As the average weight of each volume of TOC textbook is not much different from that of conventional textbooks, and in some cases even lighter, the new curriculum initiative should not create a significant effect on the weight of schoolbags.

"Meanwhile, the Education Department has so far installed more than 232,000 lockers in primary schools at a total cost of \$16.5 million. Pupils with the help of parents are encouraged to make full use of the lockers to avoid making schoolbags unduly heavy."

End

Buildings Ordinance discussed

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The Land and Building Advisory Committee had discussed the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 1996 and building site safety today (Monday).

Chaired by Dr Cheng Hon-kwan, the Committee noted the amendments brought about by the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 1996.

A new registration system had been worked out based on the provisions of the ordinance. There would be two types of contractors, namely registered general building contractors and registered specialist contractors. Only the latter would be permitted to carry out specialised works. This would enhance the quality of building works requiring specialist expertise.

An Authorised Persons Registration Committee and a Registered Structural Engineers Registration Committee would be formed to assist the Building Authority in considering applications for inclusion in the appropriate registers.

The Committee also noted that the Buildings Department had carried out some 2,400 inspections of construction and demolition sites between October 1995 and July 1996.

There were 422 cases of irregularities. All of them were quickly rectified after inspections.

Further measures would be taken to enhance the safety of works sites. These included increasing resources to enable more inspection; organising seminars for contractors to promote the general awareness of the importance of site safety; encouraging self-regulation by building professionals and contractors; and liaising closely with Labour Department on site safety matters.

When briefed on the land supply and requirements in the next 10 years, the Committee suggested giving more consideration to converting industrial land for residential development. The Planning Department was looking into this as one of the means to identify more land for residential development.

The Committee was also briefed on the performance of the property market in the first half of 1996. The number of property transactions had substantially increased during the period.

End

Safety auditors accredited

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The Secretary for Works, Mr Kwong Hon-sang, today (Monday) presented accrediting certificates to the first batch of eight safety auditors and two safety auditing assistants on their successful completion of their training.

The accrediting will enable them to conduct safety audits for public works projects under the Independent Safety Audit Scheme introduced by the Works Branch to further strengthen worksite safety.

Mr Kwong noted that safety audits were indispensable in ensuring that good safety standards were achieved at construction sites.

He urged the construction industry to co-operate with these auditors to develop a safety culture in the works sector by further enhancing safety and health management practices.

End

Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 95.8 per cent of capacity or 561.379 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 555.232 million cubic metres of water, representing 94.7 per cent of capacity.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,469	0930	-511
Closing balance in the account	1,898	1000	-511
Change attributable to :		1100	-511
Money market activity	-511	1200	-511
LAF today	-60	1500	-511
		1600	-511

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.0 *+0.0* 2.9.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.09	2 years	2808	6.00	99.34	6.46
1 month	5.08	3 years	3907	6.80	100.15	6.85
3 months	5.21	5 years	5106	7.23	99.57	7.47
6 months	5.40	7 years	7308	7.24	97.65	7.83
12 months	5.80	5 years	M503	7.35	98.67	7.82

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$7,888 million

Closed September 2, 1996

End