



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Thursday, December 20, 1973

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Daily guide to wholesale prices and supply of basic food
commodities.

Release time: 7.30 p.m.

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STAMPS FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR

To Mark Year Of The Tiger

Two special stamps to mark the Lunar New Year 1974 will be placed on sale at all post offices on January 8, 1974.

The denominations will be 10 cents and \$1.30, and are the eighth in the series of Lunar New Year stamps.

The stamps, which commemorate the "Year of the Tiger", were designed in London.

Special First Day Covers will be on sale at all post offices from Friday, December 28 at 20 cents each, and the public are asked to obtain their requirements early to avoid disappointment.

Advance orders for servicing of First Day Covers will be accepted at the General Post Office, Pedder Street; Kowloon Central Post Office, Nathan Road and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Salisbury Road.

For this service, addressed First Day Covers must be handed-in with an order form together with a remittance to cover the cost. The charge will be \$1.50 per cover which includes the cost of two stamps together with a service fee of 10 cents. The covers must be fully addressed by the applicant and not less than 10 covers will be accepted with each order.

Order forms will be available at the General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on Friday, December 28.

Any person ordering serviced covers addressed to a local destination may collect them on January 9, 1974 from the office where the order was placed.

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Covers addressed overseas will be sent forward by ordinary post, surface mail, unless sufficient stamps are affixed to cover airmail and/or registration charges. The latest acceptance date for advance orders of serviced covers will be noon on Friday, January 4, 1974.

A service will be provided on Tuesday, January 8, 1974 at all post offices whereby First Day Covers will be accepted over the counter, impressed with the normal post office date stamp and handed back to the person presenting them.

No time type will appear in the postmark. The special conditions for this service are:-

- 1) only articles bearing an indication that they are "First Day Cover" will be so treated;
- 2) the articles must be addressed to a local address;
- 3) the articles must not bear any other cancellation;
- 4) no registered items will be processed by this method.

Special posting boxes will also be available at the General Post Office, Kowloon Central Post Office and Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office on January 8, 1974 for those who wish to have First Day Covers carefully hand-postmarked before despatch to the address on the cover.

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Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph of the stamps will be distributed separately in the press boxes this evening.

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NEW RICE IMPORT QUOTA

The rice import quota for the first three months of 1974 has been provisionally fixed at 72,000 metric tons, the Commerce and Industry Department announced today.

This represents a 20 per cent reduction on the normal basic quota of 90,000 metric tons.

Mr. M.D. Sargant, Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry, said that the quota has been reduced to take account of the relatively large stocks held by importers and the improved international supply position.

He said that rice stocks at present amount to approximately 100,000 metric tons.

"The department will continue to keep developments in the trade and the supply situation under close study," he added, "and a supplementary quota will be issued if the circumstances require it."

Since January this year Hong Kong has imported a total of 326,342 metric tons of rice.

Of this amount, China has supplied 43 per cent and Thailand about 29 per cent. The balance has been imported from the United States, Australia and Pakistan.

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CROWN LAND FOR SALE

Three lots of Crown land, with a total area of 85,390 square feet, will be put up for auction next month.

The auction, to be held on January 18 in the lecture room on the eighth floor of the City Hall, will start at 2.30 p.m.

Two of the lots are in Hong Kong and are for private residential purposes. One of them located at Braemar Hill Road measures 28,000 square feet and the other at Black's Link has an area of 41,000 square feet.

The Kowloon lot, located between Cheung Sha Wan Road and Lai Chi Kok Road, covers an area of 16,390 square feet and is for industrial and/or godown purposes.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from and sale plans inspected at the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing), ground floor, Hong Kong and at the Crown Lands & Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, 405, Nathan Road, 10th floor, Kowloon.

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KOWLOON BAY DEVELOPMENT

Work will begin shortly to excavate some 500,000 cubic yards of earth from a hillside near Cornwall Street in Kowloon Tong for the reclamation of Kowloon Bay.

To be carried out at the same time will be associated slope protection and drainage works.

On completion of the project, a piece of flat land, measuring about six acres, will be formed on the hillside.

This piece of land will be for future recreational use while the reclaimed land at Kowloon Bay will be used for building road connections to the east of the Airport Tunnel Road now under construction.

Work on the project is expected to start in the middle of next month and will take about 16 months to complete.

The project has been designed and work will be supervised by the Development and Airport Division of Civil Engineering Office of the Public Works Department.

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NEW REGISTRATION OF PERSONS SUB-OFFICE IN TAI PO

A new Registration of Persons Sub-office will open in Tai Po at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Friday) to serve the residents there and those in the surrounding areas of the New Territories.

Situated at 89-91 Wan Tau Street, the new office will deal with the registration of children for juvenile identity cards and the re-registration of holders of juvenile identity cards for adult identity cards at the age of 18.

Notifications of changes in registered particulars will also be processed in the new office.

The telephone number of the new office is 12-666545.

Registration of new arrivals and applications for replacement identity cards due to loss, defacement or changes in registered particulars will continue to be dealt with at the branch offices of the Registration of Persons Department listed below:-

New Territories Branch Office,
Far East Bank Building,
Ground floor,
Tsuen Wan

Kowloon Branch Office,
Canton Road Government Offices,
2nd floor, Kowloon

Hong Kong Branch Office,
Causeway Bay Magistracy Building,
3rd floor, Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong

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BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR OLD PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

The Housing Department is continuing its efforts to improve the environment of the older public housing estates by providing extra amenities.

At Kwai Chung Estate, two concrete Ping Pong tables have been built in an internal courtyard playground near Block 27.

In addition, two swings and a see-saw as well as a number of benches have been installed within the estate.

"These added amenities have proved to be very popular to the children," said Mr. Norman Haw, Estate Manager.

At Chai Wan Estate, flowers and shrubs will shortly be planted by staff of the Urban Services Department to beautify the area.

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WATER CUT

Water supply to parts of Aberdeen on Hong Kong Island and Ho Man Tin Hill in Kowloon will be turned off for five hours from 1 a.m. on Saturday (December 22).

The temporary stoppage will enable the Waterworks Office staff to carry out leakage tests in the areas.

In Hong Kong, the area affected will be Aberdeen Main Road from Aberdeen Trade School to Aberdeen Dock, including Old Main Street, Wu Nam Street, Wu Pak Street, Tung Sing Road, Chengtu Road, Sai On Street, Lok Yeung Street and Tsung Man Street.

In Kowloon, the area affected is bounded by Argyle Street, Peace Avenue, Ho Man Tin Street, Princess Margaret Road, Ho Man Tin Hill Road and Soares Avenue.

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MARINE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES TO STEAM AT REDUCED SPEEDS

Another Measure To Save Fuel

In a further measure to save fuel, the Marine Department has instructed that all its launches are to steam at reduced speeds.

A spokesman for the department said today that although exact savings in respect of each launch have yet to be work out, it is expected there will be an overall saving of diesel fuel of some 20 to 25 per cent.

He emphasised, however, that the instructions would not apply during emergency conditions.

At the same time, government officers requesting the use of Marine Department pool launches to destinations served by ferries are being required to use public transport. The sharing of launches for essential duties has also been implemented where possible.

The spokesman said that contingency plans were being drawn up for the operation of the department's launches in the event of the fuel situation worsening.

Commenting on these instructions, a spokesman for the Oil Supplies Department said that other boat owners should follow the example set by the Marine Department and adopt similar economy measures.

"If everyone co-operated in this respect it would lead to a considerable saving in diesel fuel," he said.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Thursday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mew -- old crop	Good	1.64
-- new crop		1.72
S.C.Jion -- old crop	Good	1.58
new crop		1.66
Po'ngai	Good	1.42
Chu Cho	Good	1.22
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.52
10-15% Broken	Good	1.50
A1 Super Extra	Good	1.45
A1 Super	Good	1.37
Whole Glutinous	Limited	1.52
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.62
<u>Australian Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.2	2.8	3.5
Big-Eyes	Good	2.5	0.6	1.5
Squid	Normal	5.5	2.5	4.0
Hair-Tails	Good	1.2	0.5	0.8
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.3	0.8	1.7
Croakers	Good	1.7	0.6	1.2
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.4	1.8	2.2
Melon Coat	Normal	2.2	1.4	1.8
Breams	Limited	4.0	3.2	3.5
Yellow Belly	Good	1.2	0.55	0.8
Mackerels	Normal	3.5	2.5	3.0
Red Goat Fish	Good	1.4	0.6	1.2
Fork-Tail	Good	1.1	0.5	0.8
Horse-Head	Normal	4.8	3.0	3.8
Melon Seed	Normal	2.5	1.5	2.0
Pomfrets	Scarce	7.8	6.0	7.0
Groupas	Normal	5.5	4.5	5.0
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Limited	2.2	0.8	1.5
White cabbage	Normal	0.6	0.25	0.45
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.6	0.2	0.4
Chinese Kale	Normal	0.65	0.2	0.4
Spring onion	Normal	1.4	0.5	1.0
Spinach	Normal	1.4	0.5	1.0
Water cross	Normal	1.0	0.35	0.65
Leaf mustard cabbage	Normal	0.5	0.2	0.35
Tomato	Normal	1.6	0.8	1.2

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	285

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