



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of Governor's remarks

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The following is a transcript of what the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said to the media after attending the City University inauguration ceremony:

Governor: I just like to say how happy I am to have presided over this first congregation of the City University of Hong Kong. It's been an extremely good polytechnic. It will be a very fine university. Question: Mr Patten, can you comment on the case of Mr Li Kwan-ha...

Governor: No, I don't comment on individual cases.

Questions: As more and more high ranking Government officials are taking their retirements in these recent days. So according to Mr LI Kwan-ha's case, do you think it is necessary for the Government to strengthen the measures to prevent officials taking retirement ... prevent them from entering the private sector in order to protect the public interest?

Governor: Well, we always have to see what lessons we can learn from individual cases but I don't want to comment on an individual case because it is not fair on any one. Question: Are you going to meet directly with Mr Li so as to look into details...

Governor: Am I going to do what?

Question: Are you going to have a chat or some kind of a formal meeting with Mr Lee?

Governor: No. I have regular formal conversations with the present Commissioner of Police.

Question: Do you think there should be more... on the job description of high ranking civil servants...

Governor: I said earlier that we have to see what lessons we can learn from individual cases but I don't want to comment on this particular individual case.

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Prevention of Bribery Bill

A bill which seeks to amend the law as recommended by the report of the ICAC Review Committee, published in December 1994, will be gazetted tomorrow (Friday).

The proposed legislation, the Prevention of Bribery (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1995, will be introduced into the Legislative Council on May 17.

The aim of the review was to reaffirm the ICAC's mandate in the light of present day circumstances and the changing expectations of the people of Hong Kong 20 years after the establishment of the ICAC, a Government spokesman said.

"The Government's objectives are to strike a balance between two potentially conflicting views held in the community: that the ICAC needs to have sufficient powers to be effective in the continuing battle against corruption; and that it should be more accountable and transparent in the use of those powers," the spokesman added.

The Bill proposes amendments to the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance and the Magistrates Ordinance for various purposes.

"One important proposal is that certain of the powers at present vested in the Commissioner, ICAC should be vested in the courts. In particular, court approval will be needed in order for the ICAC to require a person to supply information under section 14 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance, to search premises (save in exceptional cases), or to prevent a suspect from disposing of property.

"Other provisions are designed to bring the law into line with the Bill of Rights Ordinance. For example, the presumption of corruption in section 25 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and the power of a court to comment on the failure of an accused to give evidence are to be repealed," the spokesman said.

Other proposed amendments will:

- (a) give the ICAC the same access to tax records as exists under the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance and the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance;

- (b) modify the power of the Commissioner ICAC to dismiss an officer under section 8(2) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance; and
- (c) make it possible for the ICAC not to keep a suspect on bail longer than necessary.

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AG calls for views on legal services consultation paper

The Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, today (Thursday) called on members of the public, who use and pay for legal services, to express their views on the Consultation Paper on Legal Services.

Addressing a joint luncheon meeting of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries, Mr Mathews said in drawing up the Consultation Paper, the guiding principle has been: what is in the public interest?

"We have been at pains in addressing that question to look at it not only from the view-point of the Administration and the legal profession, but also from the community - those who use and pay for legal services," he said.

Mr Mathews said the initial reaction to the report had been very positive. However, comments to date, noted in the media or obtained through the Government's community links, had tended to concentrate on the following four areas:

- * the proposed abolition of scale fees in conveyancing,
- * the proposal to prohibit joint representation in respect of all conveyancing transactions,
- * the proposal to allow solicitors to acquire extended rights of audience, and
- * the proposed introduction of contingency fees.

Mr Mathews said the Administration needed to receive feedback on the other provisional recommendations.

"As I have said earlier, it is vital that we should obtain the views of consumers," he noted.

He said the Consultation Paper was issued at the end of March, and the consultation period ends on 30 June.

"We are therefore almost halfway through that period. We are anxious to get as many responses to the paper as possible, since this is a genuine consultation exercise," he said.

Turning to the Consultation Paper itself, Mr Mathews said some concern had been expressed that an introduction of contingency fees would lead to ambulance-chasing and to other unethical practices.

He said: "This assumes that we would have a system similar to that in the United States. This is not the case."

He added that the Consultation Paper made it clear that, if contingency fees were allowed in Hong Kong, they would operate very differently.

He said: "Firstly, under our system of civil litigation, the losing party must normally pay the winning party's costs. This acts as a strong deterrent to speculative litigation. This principle does not apply in the United States.

"Secondly, it is proposed that, if contingency fees were allowed, there should be a code of practice in respect of contingency fees and there should be a limit on the amount by which a lawyer is able to increase his fees for working on a contingency basis."

Mr Mathews said at present, our law did not generally allow a lawyer to agree to charge a fee only if the case was successful.

However, the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme worked on a contingency basis and worked well, he said.

"Provided the amount chargeable on a contingency basis is adequately controlled, and provided contingency fees are not allowed in respect of certain types of proceedings (particularly criminal cases), there is a case for allowing them to be introduced in Hong Kong. This would increase access to the law for people who cannot now afford to bring legal proceedings," Mr Mathews said.

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AG's remarks on BMFL case

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The following remarks were made by the Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews, at a meeting of the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services today (Thursday) on the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance Limited case (Graham Grant's Fees):

Before Members conclude their deliberations on this matter, I would like to put to them some basic issues, which I would urge them to give careful consideration.

The basic questions to be addressed are these:

First - was the decision to brief Mr Grant when he left AGC a proper decision or was it a case of "jobs for the boys"?

The Report shows clearly that the decision was the right decision. There was no question of this being "jobs for the boys".

Second - were there inadequacies in our procedures in this case?

The Report reveals some inadequacies in our internal procedures and budgetary arrangements in respect of this case. We had already introduced some improvements and I have now proposed a Working Party to review the briefing out system. I am determined that we will have an efficient and cost-effective system of briefing out, with proper monitoring checks and balances.

Third - And this is, I think, the key issue - did the Government over-pay Mr Grant?

The Report said the fees agreed were "over-generous" and should have been capped. However, the former DPP, in his letter to the Panel, strenuously disputes this. We have sharply divergent views on this. You have pressed me to choose one of these views. So what does this mean? What would have been the right level of fees? There are no hard and fast rules. The Report is silent on this. We are now in the position of using hindsight to second guess the judgement of Mr Wood. On Mr Wood's formula Mr Grant was paid \$17.1 million for 33 months work. On the other hand, were Mr Grant's fees to have been capped after 6 months, Mr Grant might have received about \$16.2 million - a difference of about \$900,000. And we are not comparing like with like. I repeat what I said last week that "cap may not have been a panacea".

So was Mr Grant overpaid by \$900,000? The whole issue boils down to this. Was \$900,000 of taxpayers' money squandered?

The issue is one of fairness - fairness to the taxpayer, fairness to the community on whose behalf these criminal proceedings were instituted, fairness, ultimately, to the rule of law and the upholding of criminal justice. I know that the Panel will not fail to answer these basic issues in a fair and just manner.

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Survey starts on industrial production for 1994

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The Census and Statistics Department announced today that the Survey of Industrial Production for 1994 has started. The annual survey is part of a continuous programme to compile statistics on the structure and performance of various economic activities in Hong Kong.

The survey aims to obtain up-to-date statistical data for evaluating the contribution of various industrial activities to Hong Kong's gross domestic product and for ascertaining their cost structure, operating characteristics and output levels. The survey results are useful to both the Government and the private sector in formulating policies and making decisions.

The commissioner for Census and Statistics, Mr Frederick Ho, appealed to the managements of all sampled establishments to fulfil their legal and social responsibilities by returning promptly the completed questionnaires and co-operating with officers of the department in the course of the survey. He stressed that information relating to individual establishments would be treated in strict confidence under the Census and Statistics Ordinance. Only aggregate information that does not reveal details of individual establishments will be released.

Mr Ho also pointed out that audited accounts are not essential for the supply of income and expenditure data required in the survey. The Census and Statistics Department accepts figures based on preliminary accounts or estimates which are correct to the best of the respondents' knowledge at the time of submission of the questionnaire, if audited accounts are not yet available.

About 6,500 establishments will be enumerated in the present round of the survey, covering the following industrial activities: manufacturing; mining and quarrying; and electricity, gas and water.

Information to be sought in the survey includes: type of ownership, origin of investment, floor area, employment, compensation of employees (i.e. wages, salaries and other employee benefits), payments for industrial work and industrial services, value of purchases and other expenses, sales and other receipts, capital expenditure and stocks and other related information on the business operation of the establishments.

The survey is conducted under the Census and Statistics (Annual Survey of Industrial Production) (Amendment) Order 1995, which was made under the Census and Statistics Ordinance (Chapter 316) and issued as Legal Notice No. 76 in the Hong Kong Government Gazette on February 17.

Survey questionnaires have been mailed to the sampled establishments. These establishments are required by law to complete and return the questionnaires to the Census and Statistics Department by July 31. If required, officers of the department will visit individual establishments and assist them in completing the questionnaires. These officers will each carry a Government Identity Card and a certificate for conducting the survey whilst on duty, which are available for inspection.

Any enquiries regarding the survey may be directed to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2839 3230 or 2805 6441.

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Public access and broadcasting services channels rejected

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The Governor-in-Council, having considered the report of the inter-departmental Working Group on Government Broadcast Channels, has decided that neither a public access service nor a public broadcasting service on Wharf Cable's network, should be pursued.

The provision of up to three broadcast channels for Government use by Wharf Cable is stipulated in the latter's subscription television licence granted in June 1993.

A spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch explained today (Thursday) that a public access service was in effect a channel allowing members of the public to air their own programmes while a public broadcasting service would be an extension or elaboration, on a dedicated channel, of RTHK's existing programmes broadcast by ATV and TVB.

However, he noted that there were at present ample opportunities and avenues on existing television and radio channels, whether provided by commercial licensees or by RTHK, for community groups and individuals to air their views, voice their opinions and grievances, and obtain public information and knowledge.

"There are nearly 165 hours of such television and radio programmes being aired each week," he stated, adding that public access television was not the only means to achieve the broad objective of providing the public with a forum for the free flow of information and expression.

"These existing means and avenues which is broadcast free, unlike cable television which has a much smaller audience reach, continue to serve the community well.

"Having regard to the available avenues to the public, the Governor-in-Council considered that both the public access service and public broadcasting service did not justify priority spending on a resource allocation basis," he said.

The spokesman said public access television was not found anywhere in Asia. Even in western countries, such as the United States and Canada, the experience has not been entirely a satisfactory or happy one.

More importantly, there are serious practical difficulties involved in establishing and running a public access service in Hong Kong. These are:

- * the Administration is obliged to maintain the same quality and standards as existing TV broadcasting licensees to ensure that the service would not be misused for political, commercial or pornographic purposes;
- * there would be difficulties in relying on post-broadcast sanctions for persons who might make use of a public access service to defame others, infringe copyright or seriously offend public morals or sensitivities. Pre-screening or pre-censoring of programmes, on the other hand, would have Bill of Rights implications for freedom of opinion and expression;

- * to enforce programme standards and protect the service from use by commercial or other undesirable users, it would be necessary to restrict access to identifiable entities that can be traced for post broadcast sanctions or to registered "bona fide" non-profit organisations only; but this would run contrary to the spirit of having a public access service, namely free access to all, and might have Bill of Rights implications;
- * for such a service to operate effectively, it would need legal powers. However, setting up a statutory body would not be cost effective for the sole operation/regulation of one channel. Also, this body might duplicate or conflict with the authority of the Broadcasting Authority especially in areas such as imposing standards and sanctions; and
- * experience elsewhere shows that the lack of a sustained public demand for such a service beyond the initial novelty stage might lead to the service being dominated by a few consistent users, thus defeating the purpose of true public access.

As regards the proposal related to the public broadcasting service, the Governor in Council considered that, given the claims for new or additional funding in competing programme areas, further allocation of an additional \$61 million in recurrent and another \$61 million in capital to establish a dedicated channel could not be justified, particularly in view of the limited reach of Cable, even on full development.

The RTHK, which is funded by the Government under a recurrent provision of \$373 million for 1995-96, is already providing a series of public affairs programmes.

The Broadcasting Authority has been consulted and agreed with the recommendations of the Working Group.

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Shenzhen River Works Stage I Entrustment Agreement signed

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The Hong Kong Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government signed an agreement on the Stage I works of the Shenzhen River Regulation Project today (Thursday) in Hong Kong.

The two Governments were represented by Mr Mak Chun-fong, acting Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands; and Mr Yaozhi Tang, Deputy Secretary-General, Shenzhen Municipal Government.

The works will begin on May 19 for completion in May 1997.

The works involve the straightening of two meandering sections of the Shenzhen River near Liu Pok and Lok Ma Chau to alleviate the risk of flooding in the areas on both sides of the river.

The cost of the works will be shared equally between the Hong Kong Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government.

The works will be wholly entrusted to the Shenzhen Municipal Government. A Joint Working Group has been set up with representatives from both sides, for the river regulation project.

The Joint Working Group has agreed on the detailed arrangements for financial control, payment procedures, site security requirements, and construction and environmental management in relation to the works.

The contractor responsible for the works is a joint venture comprising the China Shenzhen International Co-operation (Group) Company Limited, the China Water and Water Power 13th Engineering Bureau, and the Fourth Harbour Engineering Bureau of the Ministry of Communications.

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Air Traffic Control Panel meeting

The Air Traffic Control (ATC) Panel of the Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee held its first full meeting in Hong Kong today (Thursday).

The Panel members visited the new airport site at Chek Lap Kok this morning and were given a briefing on the progress made in the Airport Core Programme projects. In the afternoon the Panel met and was given a briefing by Director of Civil Aviation regarding future air traffic control procedures for the Chek Lap Kok Airport.

The meeting has further strengthened the communication and understanding between the two sides.

The Panel agreed to report the outcome of this meeting to the Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee. Thereafter arrangements will be made for a second meeting.

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Grading of beach water quality

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced grades on the bacteriological water quality of all bathing beaches in Hong Kong.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

The grading is based on the most recent data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme.

It gives an estimate on the risk of contracting some minor skin or gastrointestinal illnesses resulted from swimming at a beach with some degree of pollution.

The estimate is based on a large scale epidemiological study carried out in Hong Kong in the past bathing seasons.

The grading of some beaches fluctuates during the summer. In most cases, this represents a natural fluctuation in the bacteriological quality of bathing waters as rain and tides bring more or less pollution to the beaches.

Beaches with highly developed hinterlands are likely to be more polluted than the grades suggested during and after heavy rain.

Principal Environmental Protection Officer Dr. Malcolm Broom said: "Bathers should avoid swimming at such beaches for two to three days after a storm, or even longer if the weather remains overcast, shorter if there is strong sunshine."

However, the biweekly grades give a general picture of the most recent water quality at bathing beaches at the time of reporting and form the best available forecast for the immediate future.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows :

Grade "1" indicates that the water quality is good. The E. coli count is no more than 24 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected risk of minor illness to swimmers is undetectable.

Grade "2" indicates that the water quality is fair. The E. coli count is no more than 180 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 10 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "3" indicates that the water quality is poor. The E. coli count is no more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is no more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

Grade "4" indicates that the water quality is very poor. The E. coli count is more than 610 per 100 millilitres at each beach so graded, and the expected health risk is more than 15 cases of minor illness per 1,000 swimmers.

The decision whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban or Regional Council if a grade "4" occurred repeatedly, so that the average health risk over the bathing season exceeded 15 cases per 1,000 swimmers.

At present four gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Castle Peak, Old Cafeteria, and Rocky Bay, are closed to swimmers. The decision to close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1994. The public are advised not to swim at these beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below :

Beach	Previous Grading (as at 27.4.95)	Present Grading (as at 11.5.95)
Hong Kong South		
Big Wave Bay	3	2
Chung Hom Kok	1	1
Deep Water Bay	1	2
Hairpin	1	1
Middle Bay	1	1
Repulse Bay	1	1
Shek O	2	2
South Bay	1	1
St. Stephen's	1	1
Turtle Cove	1	1
Stanley Main	2	2
Rocky Bay	X	X
To Tei Wan*	1	1
Tuen Mun District		
Golden Beach	3	2
Old Cafeteria	X	X
New Cafeteria	3	3
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie	3	2
Butterfly	3	3

Sai Kung District

Campers	1	1
Clear Water Bay	1	1
1st Beach		
Clear Water Bay	1	2
2nd Beach		
Hap Mun Bay	1	1
Kiu Tsui	1	1
Pak Sha Chau	1	1
Silverstrand	2	2
Trio (Hebe Haven)	1	1

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	2	2
Discovery Bay*	2	2
Hung Shing Yeh	1	1
Kwun Yam Wan	1	1
Tong Fuk	1	1
Lo So Shing	1	1
Pui O	1	2
Silvermine Bay	2	2
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau	1	2
Tung O*	1	1

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	4	4
Casam	3	3
Gemini	3	3
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido	3	3
Ting Kau	4	4
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note:

"X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

* Non-gazetted beaches.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion:

Big Wave Bay, Golden Beach and Kadoorie from "3" to "2" and Deep Water Bay, Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach, Pui O and Tung Wan of Cheung Chau from "1" to "2".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

Attention News Editors :

For further enquiries, please contact Dr Malcolm Broom, Principal Environmental Protection Officer of EPD, on 2835 1234.

End/Thursday, May 11, 1995

38 VMs transferred to Victoria Prison

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A group of 38 Vietnamese Migrants (VMs), selected for return on an Orderly Repatriation Programme flight next Wednesday (May 17), were transferred from the High Island Detention Centre to Victoria Prison today (Thursday).

Earlier this morning, some 60 VMs climbed on to the rooftop of five huts in the Detention Centre. They set fire to blankets and dropped buckets of hot water, burning charcoal, broken glasses, stones and other hard objects on the officers of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) who entered the camp at 9 am.

Other VMs prevented CSD officers from entering their huts by throwing hard objects.

A total of 44 CSD officers and three Police officers sustained injuries in the five-hour transfer operation, which ended around 2 pm.

As at 3 pm, eight VMs were found to have injuries, of whom two were transferred to hospital.

The Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Brian Bresnihan, said CSD and Police officers had exercised great restraint in carrying out today's operation, which was monitored by representatives of non-government organisations (Oxfam and Christian Action) and non-official Justices of the Peace.

"Since Monday (May 8) CSD had done everything possible to persuade those selected for repatriation to come forward voluntarily.

"Forty-three had done so by yesterday afternoon. However, tension mounted in the camp with some 30 VMs climbing on to the rooftops.

"We do not like having to use force but we remain determined to resolve the VM problem as soon as possible. Today's exercise is a measure of that determination," Mr Bresnihan said.

End/Thursday, May 11, 1995

Lantau Fixed Crossing marine traffic arrangements

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Special marine traffic arrangements will be implemented by the Marine Department at the Kap Shui Mun Channel and the Ma Wan Channel when lifting operations of decks unit of the Kap Shui Mun and Tsing Ma Bridges commence on May 22 and June 30 respectively.

Speaking at a press conference on the special marine traffic arrangements today (Thursday), Senior Marine Officer/Airport and Port Co-ordination, Mr John Lambourn, said the lifting operations for both bridges would be co-ordinated so that they did not take place on the same day.

For the Kap Shui Mun Bridge, a barge starting at each end of the bridge span and transporting the deck units will anchor in the channel under the location where the unit is to be fitted to the bridge.

Mr Lambourn said the anchoring pattern would be four anchors arranged in a 250 metre square configuration.

"Since this will block the majority of the 350 metre wide Kap Shui Mun Channel, the channel will be closed whilst lifting operations are in progress," Mr Lambourn said.

It is expected to occur at a frequency of one day per week for about 11 months and there will be one back up day allocated per week to provide an alternative if there are delays or other reasons why the allocated day cannot be used.

Lifting operations are expected to be carried out between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm on week days only.

Mr Lambourn noted: "Traffic which normally uses the Kap Shui Mun Channel will be diverted to use the Ma Wan Channel. This is not expected to create any marine traffic problems."

He added that there would be two Marine Department and two Marine Police launches on site to assist marine traffic to divert to the Ma Wan Channel.

A trial will be carried out on May 15 and this will involve a barge anchoring on one side of the Kap Shui Mun Channel but will not require the channel to be closed.

For the Tsing Ma Bridge, starting in the middle of the bridge span a barge transporting the deck units will anchor in the channel under the location where the unit is to be fitted to the bridge.

The anchoring pattern will be four anchors arranged in a 250 metre square configuration.

"Since this will only cause a partial obstruction to the about 1,200 metre wide Ma Wan Channel, the channel will remain open for marine traffic, but large ocean-going vessels under pilotage will be affected for the first two months of lifting operations for the Tsing Ma Bridge," said Mr Lambourn.

These operations will be for two days per week for about six months. Lifting operations which must start at low water will be carried out according to tidal conditions which may mean that either the start or completion will not be possible in daylight.

This will affect vessels calling at the Pearl River ports of Chi Wan, Ma Wan and Shekou plus coal deliveries to Tap Shek Kok Power Station.

There may be some rearrangements necessary for vessel movements associated with the floating dry docks at North Lantau and oil tankers calling at Nga Ying Chau on Tsing Yi Island.

Mr Lambourn said: "The arrangements are not expected to create problems."

There will be two Marine Department and two Marine Police launches on site to ensure that there are no marine traffic problems.

A trial will be carried out in early June and this will involve a barge anchoring in the Ma Wan Channel but will not result in disruption to marine traffic.

Mr Lambourn said the programme to fix the dates for lifting operations for both bridges will be announced one month in advance.

Notices To Marines, Marine Department Notices and radio announcements will be issued at monthly intervals informing the days when the Kap Shui Mun Channel will be closed and navigation through the Ma Wan Channel will be affected.

The programme of announced dates will be changed at short notice when disrupted by adverse weather and the passage of typhoons.

Briefings on the arrangements are being given to users of Hong Kong waters.

The Guangzhou Harbour Superintendency Bureau was briefed in January when a Marine Department delegation visited Guangzhou especially to discuss the arrangements.

Mr Lambourn said the barges involving in the lifting operations would display international signals and the anchor positions would be prominently marked with buoys and lights.

When operations are completed for the day, the barge and its anchors will be removed from the channel. The Marine Department will make an announcement on radio and marine traffic can return to normal movements.

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CS visits Industry Department and factory

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The Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Thursday) visited the Industry Department at the Quality Services Division offices in Wan chai and also visited a major electronics factory in Yau Tong.

At the Industry Department, Mrs Chan was briefed on the organisation and work of the department.

Accompanied by the Director-General of Industry, Miss Denise Yue, she then toured the Standards and Calibration Laboratory and Product Standards Information Bureau.

The laboratory maintains Hong Kong's primary standards of measurement and provides calibration and measurement services. The bureau provides information and technical advice on standards requirements for industry.

Mrs Chan then departed for Maxtor (Hong Kong) Ltd, a major producer of high-tech surface mount printed circuit boards assemblies for hard disc drives.

The Company won the Governor's Award for Industry in 1993 in both the Productivity category and the Quality category.

At Maxtor, Mrs Chan was briefed by the Managing Director, Mr K W Tse, on the factory's production and products, and toured its production lines on printed circuit board assembly.

End/Thursday, May 11, 1995

City University - a university for the future: Governor

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Universities play an important role of training the intellect of students to help them comprehend the world they live in and to contribute to its development, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said.

Officiating at the City University Inauguration Ceremony today (Thursday), the Governor also said the University, essentially a university for the next century, would be an exciting place to develop concerns for academic, cultural and social values to stimulate the enquiring minds of its students.

To accomplish these objectives, Mr Patten said the City University would have to apply scholarly activities for its students to meet the needs of society in Hong Kong.

"It implies being responsive to changing concepts, to technical processes and development, to the changing needs of industry and commerce, and to the changing requirements of the students themselves," he said.

He said the University will also have to educate its students to come to terms with the problems facing society at large in the next century.

These problems include the depletion of natural resources, the growth in population, the revolution in forms of communication and travel, and the intrusion of new technologies into people's lives.

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Agricultural delegation departs for Australia on Saturday

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A 29-member delegation will depart for Australia and New Zealand on Saturday (May 13) to study agricultural production technology and marketing facilities and services in these two countries.

The two-week long visit is an annual study programme organised since 1977 jointly by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department (AFD), Vegetable Marketing Organisation (VMO) and the Federation of Vegetable Marketing Co-operative Societies (Federation).

To mark the occasion, AFD's Director Dr Lawrence Lee presented a banner to the delegation at a ceremony held at the department's headquarters this (Thursday) morning.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Lee said the objective of the annual event was to offer local farmers an opportunity to study modern techniques and systems of overseas countries' agricultural production and marketing.

He said: "By participating in the delegation, farmers would be able to exchange experience with these countries' agricultural organisations with a view to upgrading farming knowledge and promoting each others' agricultural development."

In the past years, study visits have been organised to countries with advanced agricultural technology and systems, including Japan, Australia, the United States, Britain, France, Holland, Belgium and Israel etc.

Areas to be studied in the forthcoming visit include: vegetable growing techniques and variety selection, post-harvest processing and packaging of vegetables, production and quality control of seeds, control of pests and weeds, as well as facilities and operation of vegetable wholesale markets.

Dr Lee thanked the Australian and New Zealand trade commissions in Hong Kong for assisting in the organisation of the study visit.

Led by the Federation's Chairman Mr Yung Tin-tack and accompanied by AFD's Senior Agricultural Development Officer Mr Chan Chi-chiu, the delegation comprises of three other Marketing Advisory Board members, a VMO manager and 23 local farmers.

The group will visit horticultural and research centres, universities, agricultural product wholesale markets, production areas, and farmers' organisations in cities such as Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland and Wellington.

The delegation is expected to return to Hong Kong on May 27.

End/Thursday, May 11, 1995

Reduction of paging licence fee

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With a resolution under the Trading Fund Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council yesterday (Wednesday), the Office of the Telecommunications Authority Trading Fund will be established with effect from June 1, 1995.

In order to rebalance income from different categories of telecommunications fees and charges, the Director-General of Telecommunications has announced that paging operators, with effect from June 1, 1995, will be invited to convert their current radio paging system licence into public radiocommunications service licences.

The licence fee for each radio pager under the public radiocommunications service licence will be \$75, whereas that for a radio paging system licence is \$80.

"Most customers of paging service will benefit from this reduction of fee," a spokesman for the Office of the Telecommunications Authority said.

"Operators will not be allowed to collect a licence fee higher than that specified in the law. Where the licence fees are absorbed by some operators, we will encourage them to pass the benefit back to the customers."

End/Thursday, May 11, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,404	0930	+109
Closing balance in the account	2,506	1000	+109
Change attributable to :		1100	+129
Money market activity	+132	1200	+129
LAF today	-30	1500	+132
		1600	+132

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.2 *+0.2* 11.5.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.59	19 months	2611	6.90	101.19	6.16
1 month	5.59	22 months	2702	7.50	102.21	6.26
3 months	5.68	30 months	3710	7.25	101.87	6.52
6 months	5.78	36 months	3804	6.90	100.82	6.70
12 months	5.91	59 months	5003	7.75	102.74	7.20

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$19,515 million

Closed May 11, 1995

End/Thursday, May 11, 1995