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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Monday, June 12, 1995

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### Metro Broadcast and Wharf Cable warned

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At its meeting held on June 8, the Broadcasting Authority (BA) received a progress report from the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority on the mid-term review of the licence of Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Ltd (CRHK) and was generally pleased with the press coverage given to the results of the sound broadcasting survey.

A spokesman said BA was also happy with the attendance at the two public hearings: "The two public hearings held on May 9 and 18, 1995, were attended by more than 200 people with about 50 who stood up to speak and gave a point of view. A report on the public hearings will be published in due course."

BA is now studying the submissions from CRHK, the findings of the survey and the opinions collected at the public hearings. This information will be analysed and taken into account by BA in formulating its recommendations for submission to the Governor-in-Council in September this year.

During the meeting, BA had considered a number of complaints and decided to issue a serious warning to Metro Broadcast (MB) for the blatant breach of the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards in its programme "Kwok Talk" broadcast on FM Select on April 22.

The programme featured drug-taking and the conversations of the programme hostess with callers were found to have conveyed the message that drug-taking was acceptable.

"This is against the Programme Code which stipulates that addiction to drugs or narcotics should not be encouraged or presented as desirable or socially acceptable," the spokesman said.

This was the first time Metro Broadcast breached the code in question. While a first-time breach usually attracts a lesser sanction (eg advice), BA considered a serious warning to be appropriate in the present case in order to underline its strong disapproval of any message which might mislead the audience into underestimating the extremely harmful effect of drug-taking.

"In addition, the top management of Metro Broadcast had been made fully aware of the seriousness of the matter and had undertaken to take remedial steps to prevent recurrence. The BA would consider imposing a financial penalty in the event of any recurrence," the spokesman said.

BA accepted the topic of "drug-taking" need not be prohibited for broadcasts but should be treated with great care and the programme hosts, in particular, should not let their personal experience prevail and give listeners the impression that it is harmless to try drugs.

The programme under complaint was broadcast on a Saturday at 7 pm to 9 pm and it was likely to have a large group of young people in its audience.

Elaborating on BA's decision, the spokesman said: "programme hosts should consider the impact which a particular view point might have on impressionable youths."

BA also decided to issue a serious warning to Wharf Cable (WC) for the broadcast of an advertisement on its Women Channel.

This was not the first occasion that WC contravened the licence condition prohibiting broadcast of any advertising material on its subscription television service. BA took a very serious view of the matter and cautioned the licensee that any further breach of the same nature would trigger the consideration of a financial penalty.

Asia Television Ltd (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Ltd (TVB) were each given a strong advice for breaching the Commercial Television Code of Practice on Programme Standards.

BA did not accept ATV's argument that plot development justified the inclusion of an excessively violent fighting sequences in the drama "Midnight Lovers" shown on Home during the family viewing hours on April 7. Nor it was satisfied with TVB's explanation that the repeated utterance of a vulgar expression in the feature film "Crying Game" shown on Pearl on March 24 had escaped the station's attention because of its close resemblance to another commonly used expression.

BA also issued a strong advice to Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Ltd for the inclusion of an unsubstantiated superlative claim in the advertisement for a medical preparation. The licensee was strongly advised to discontinue the broadcast of the advertisement.

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### Incident at border involving HK officers

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In response to media enquiries, a Government spokesman gave an account of an incident at the border today (Monday) involving an ambulance officer from the Fire Services Department (FSD) and a Police officer.

"The Fire Services Department received a 999 call at 11.36 am today to convey from Lok Ma Chau to hospital a Hong Kong resident who had become ill in China," he said.

"An emergency ambulance and an emergency motorbike were despatched to the border to transfer the patient to a Hong Kong hospital.

"On arrival, an FSD ambulance officer on the motorbike and a Police escort officer crossed over the border. While the patient was conveyed by ambulance to Hong Kong immediately without delay, the officers returned in the early afternoon before 3 pm."

The spokesman said the Police Liaison Officer at the border had clarified the issue with the Chinese authorities and the matter was satisfactorily resolved.

"The patient is now receiving treatment at Tuen Mun Hospital," he added.

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### Tuen Mun Road bus-only lane modification

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The modification to the Tuen Mun Road bus-only lane trial scheme, involving the opening up of Sham Tseng Interchange to light vehicles and deletion of the bus lane east of the interchange, was implemented this morning (Monday).

Initial observations indicated that traffic joining Tuen Mun Road from Sham Tseng Interchange was reasonably smooth, with all the traffic signs and safety measures provided at the merging point.

About 400 vehicles per hour using the Sham Tseng Interchange approaching Tsuen Wan was recorded, compared with over 500 vehicles per hour before the interchange was closed.

Concerning bus services, the bus journey time was slightly longer. While this may be the result of the modification of the traffic management at Sham Tseng, however, there were a number of vehicle breakdown incidents this morning which also affected traffic flow.

Hence, it is too early to assess the impact of the scheme modification to bus operation at this stage.

More detailed surveys will be carried out in the coming two weeks when motorists are fully aware of the revised traffic arrangements.

The modification shall be experimented for no more than six weeks. The situation will be closely monitored by the Transport Department and an assessment of the modification shall be made after obtaining traffic data in the first three weeks.

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#### Hong Kong's external trade statistics for April

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The Census and Statistics Department today (Monday) released detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for April.

The value of re-exports continued to increase notably, by 13% over a year earlier to \$84.6 billion in April.

Comparing April 1995 with April 1994, the value of re-exports to all of the main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+24%), France (+21%), China (+17%), South Korea (+16%), Taiwan (+13%), Japan (+13%), the Netherlands (+11%), the United States (+8.5%), the United Kingdom (+5.3%) and Germany (+1.9%).

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to ten main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports in the first four months of 1995 was \$324.6 billion, 19% higher than that in the same period in 1994.

Comparing the first four months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of re-exports to all main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes : Singapore (+29%), Japan (+26%), France (+22%), Taiwan (+21%), China (+21%), the Netherlands (+19%), the United States (+17%), South Korea (+17%), the United Kingdom (+7.1%) and Germany (+3.2%).

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first four months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$9.4 billion or 41%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$8.9 billion or 32%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$6.5 billion or 62%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$6.2 billion or 21%); textiles (by \$6.2 billion or 27%); and photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$2.7 billion or 23%).

Over the same period, re-exports of clothing fell by \$904 million, or 3.4% over a year earlier.

The value of domestic exports in April this year, at \$16.9 billion, increased slightly by 1.5% over a year earlier.

Comparing April 1995 with April 1994, increases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Taiwan (+28%), Canada (+9.0%), the Philippines (+8.4%), Singapore (+5.2%), the Netherlands (+3.4%), Japan (+2.7%) and the United States (+0.8%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany, the United Kingdom and China decreased by 8.1%, 4.9% and 1.5% respectively.

Changes in the value of domestic exports to ten main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first four months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes : Japan (+27%), Taiwan (+22%), the Philippines (+14%), the Netherlands (+12%), Singapore (+11%), Canada (+11%), the United States (+8.1%), China (+7.0%) and the United Kingdom (+3.8%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased by 3.3%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first four months of 1995, at \$67.5 billion increased markedly, by 9.9% over the same period in 1994.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first four months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases in the value of domestic exports were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$1.6 billion or 23%); clothing (by \$1.6 billion or 9.3%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$1.3 billion or 26%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$743 million or 17%); and plastics in primary forms (by \$357 million or 31%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$147 million or 4.2%); and machinery specialised for particular industries (by \$136 million or 13%).

The value of imports continued to increase substantially, by 20% over a year earlier to \$122.8 billion in April 1995.

Changes in the value of imports from ten main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing April 1995 with April 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes : France (+138%), Malaysia (+44%), the United States (+35%), Germany (+33%), Singapore (+30%), Taiwan (+23%), South Korea (+17%), Japan (+16%), China (+12%) and the United Kingdom (+8.9%).

Comparing the first four months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+103%), Singapore (+49%), Malaysia (+43%), South Korea (+32%), the United States (+31%), Taiwan (+27%), Japan (+22%), Germany (+21%), China (+20%) and the United Kingdom (+16%).

The value of imports in the first four months of 1995, at \$449.0 billion, increased markedly, by 25% over the same period in 1994.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of ten principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first four months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases were recorded in the value of imports of all principal commodity divisions. More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$15.1 billion or 39%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$9.6 billion or 28%); textiles (by \$7.5 billion or 22%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$7.0 billion or 55%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$4.8 billion or 20%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$3.7 billion or 23%); and general industrial machinery and equipment, and machine parts (by \$3.0 billion or 25%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for April 1995 will be released in early July 1995.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/ territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The April issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in April will be available for sale at \$122 per copy around June 22.

The report can be purchased at either (i) the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or (ii) the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department (Tel 2582 4915).

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TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	APR 95 OVER APR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-APR 95 OVER JAN-APR 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	31,214	+ 17.4	115,786	+ 20.6
UNITED STATES	17,158	+ 8.5	64,456	+ 17.5
JAPAN	5,097	+ 12.8	19,792	+ 26.3
GERMANY	3,160	+ 1.9	13,155	+ 3.2
TAIWAN	2,118	+ 12.9	8,374	+ 21.3
UNITED KINGDOM	2,118	+ 5.3	8,370	+ 7.1
SINGAPORE	1,858	+ 23.7	7,460	+ 28.6
SOUTH KOREA	1,587	+ 15.7	6,041	+ 16.6
FRANCE	1,365	+ 21.4	4,977	+ 21.7
NETHERLANDS	1,241	+ 11.5	4,962	+ 18.8

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	APR 95 OVER APR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-APR 95 OVER JAN-APR 94 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	9,838	+ 10.2	36,319	+ 20.6
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	8,303	+ 7.0	36,119	+ 32.5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	7,832	+ 29.3	32,425	+ 41.1
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,065	+ 12.8	29,123	+ 27.1
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,224	- 2.8	25,649	- 3.4
FOOTWEAR	4,436	+ 8.7	18,643	+ 14.4
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	5,279	+ 91.6	16,888	+ 61.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,941	+ 15.6	14,677	+ 23.0
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	3,012	+ 17.2	10,585	+ 18.0
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	2,666	+ 5.7	9,518	+ 18.1

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	APR 95 OVER APR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-APR 95 OVER JAN-APR 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,147	- 1.5	18,846	+ 7.0
UNITED STATES	4,188	+ 0.8	16,406	+ 8.1
SINGAPORE	958	+ 5.2	4,077	+ 11.2
JAPAN	835	+ 2.7	3,903	+ 26.8
GERMANY	729	- 8.1	3,317	- 3.3
UNITED KINGDOM	650	- 4.9	2,879	+ 3.8
TAIWAN	649	+ 28.3	2,291	+ 21.6
NETHERLANDS	300	+ 3.4	1,457	+ 11.6
CANADA	266	+ 9.0	1,217	+ 11.0
PHILIPPINES	257	+ 8.4	1,030	+ 14.3

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	APR 95 OVER APR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-APR 95 OVER JAN-APR 94 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,483	+ 7.5	18,615	+ 9.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,335	+ 13.9	8,945	+ 22.5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,449	+ 4.2	6,443	+ 26.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,521	- 7.4	5,969	+ 1.6
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,343	+ 11.0	5,209	+ 16.6
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,206	- 9.8	4,376	- 2.7
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	742	- 27.5	3,359	- 4.2
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	402	+ 24.5	1,494	+ 31.5
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	320	- 18.3	1,378	- 2.5
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	283	+ 4.0	898	- 13.2

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	APR 95 OVER APR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-APR 95 OVER JAN-APR 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	41,222	+ 12.1	156,572	+ 20.3
JAPAN	19,886	+ 15.9	71,188	+ 21.8
TAIWAN	10,787	+ 23.0	39,084	+ 27.0
UNITED STATES	9,088	+ 34.6	33,036	+ 31.2
SINGAPORE	6,485	+ 29.7	24,115	+ 48.9
SOUTH KOREA	6,224	+ 17.5	22,846	+ 32.2
FRANCE	4,043	+137.9	10,473	+102.8
GERMANY	2,748	+ 33.2	10,056	+ 21.2
UNITED KINGDOM	2,225	+ 8.9	8,722	+ 15.9
MALAYSIA	2,526	+ 43.7	8,575	+ 42.7

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	APR 95 OVER APR 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-APR 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-APR 95 OVER JAN-APR 94 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	14,081	+ 34.4	53,564	+ 39.3
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	10,629	+ 7.6	43,964	+ 28.0
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	11,902	+ 5.2	42,261	+ 21.5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	7,871	+ 14.8	28,437	+ 20.4
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,261	+ 2.0	27,537	+ 2.6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	6,236	+ 68.9	19,817	+ 54.5
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	5,199	+ 22.2	19,683	+ 23.0
FOOTWEAR	4,128	+ 11.1	16,661	+ 15.0
ROAD VEHICLES	4,599	+ 12.0	15,764	+ 6.5
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	4,531	+ 15.9	14,917	+ 24.8

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### Volunteers on last military exercise

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The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) conducted its last military exercise in the New Territories over the past three days (June 9, 10 and 11).

More than 600 soldiers participated in this annual exercise.

The main areas of activities were in Tai Lam Chung, Shing Mun, Sek Kong, Lam Chuen and Cloudy Hill.

The exercise scenario was that groups of religious extremists had infiltrated the above areas and were trying to establish bases there.

The Volunteers were called out to destroy these fanatics.

The activity in each of the above locations were limited to small areas. Blank ammunition and pyrotechnics were also used.

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment will become non-operational on July 1 and disband on September 3 this year.

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### Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 63.8 per cent of capacity or 373.648 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 379.729 million cubic metres of water, representing 64.8 per cent of capacity.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

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Tender date	12 Jun 95
Paper on offer	EF notes
Issue number	5006
Amount applied	HK\$2,030 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$500 MN
Average price (yield) accepted	99.03 (6.95 PCT)
Lowest price (yield) accepted	99.01 (6.95 PCT)
Pro rata ratio	About 30 PCT
Average tender price(yield)	98.88 (6.99 PCT)

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	883	0930	+1,651
Closing balance in the account	770	1000	+1,631
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,631
Money market activity	+1,632	1200	+1,632
LAF today	-1,745	1500	+1,632
		1600	+1,632

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.4 \*+0.0\* 12.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.55	2 years	2705	6.40	100.71	6.09
1 month	5.60	3 years	3804	6.90	101.72	6.33
3 months	5.63	5 years	5003	7.75	103.85	6.90
6 months	5.67	5 years	M501	7.90	102.23	7.49
12 months	5.80					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$ 10,810 million

Closed June 12, 1995

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