DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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XI YANG CASE UNDERLINES NEED TO SAFEGUARD FREEDOMS

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THE HANDLING OF THE XI YANG CASE UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING IT POSSIBLY COULD TO SAFEGUARD THE FREEDOMS THAT WERE ENSHRINED AND PROMISED TO HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER HER VISIT TO THE MAI PO MARSHES, MRS CHAN SAID: "THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG IS VERY UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED BOTH AT THE WHOLE TRIAL PROCESS OF XI YANG, AT THE JUDGMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, AT THE OUTCOME OF HIS APPEAL.

"THEY ARE ALL VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE APPEAL HAS FAILED."

MRS CHAN SAID THE VERY HEAVY SENTENCE IMPOSED UPON XI YANG HAD CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF HONG KONG JOURNALISTS WHO ARE DAILY OPERATING IN CHINA, GOING ABOUT THEIR LEGITIMATE BUSINESS OF NEWS COVERAGE.

"FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE CHINESE CAN, AT A VERY EARLY DAY, MAKE CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT THE RULES ARE SO THAT HONG KONG REPORTERS OPERATING IN CHINA CAN ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THESE RULES," SHE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON THE CHARGES MADE BY MR ALEX TSUI BEFORE A LEGCO PANEL ON THURSDAY, MRS CHAN SAID: "WE HAVE ALREADY ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY, IN WHICH WE MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THESE ARE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS MADE BY MR TSUI UNDER IMMUNITY GIVEN TO HIM.

"WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE ICAC OPERATES ENTIRELY WITHIN THE LAW."

REITERATING THAT THERE IS NO POLITICAL HIT LIST AND THERE ARE NO POLITICAL TARGETS, MRS CHAN SAID EVERY CASE OF CORRUPTION INVESTIGATED BY ICAC WAS CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE ICAC REVIEW COMMITTEE WITH EIGHT OF ITS 12 MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE PRIVATE SECTORS.

"IT ALSO SEEMS TO ME THAT THE VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT MR TSUI HAS BEEN MAKING IN HIS FIRST DAY OF TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PANEL IS STRAYING QUITE A BIT AWAY FROM THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE HEARING," SHE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING WAS TO ESTABLISH THE REASONS FOR MR TSUI'S DISMISSAL, MRS CHAN SAID: "I HOPE THAT THE LEGCO PANEL THAT IS CONDUCTING THIS ENQUIRY WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE VERY GOOD WORK AND THE VERY GOOD REPUTATION THAT ICAC HAS BUILT UP IN THE LAST 20 YEARS IS NOT UNDERMINED IN ANY WAY.

"I AM SURE THAT THE PUBLIC WILL NOT WISH TO SEE CONFIDENCE IN THE ICAC, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING CORRUPTION, UNDERMINED IN ANY WAY."

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TRANSCRIPT OF MEDIA SESSION BY CS
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN AFTER HER VISIT TO THE MAI PO MARSHES THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON:

CS: GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THIS VISIT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE VISITED MAI PO. I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ANNUAL BIRD RACING EVENT FOR FUND RAISING PURPOSES. YOU ARE ALL AWARE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT EDUCATING THEIR CHILDREN AND ABOUT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE. I THINK THIS WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTRE AND THE NATURAL RESERVE IS ONE OF THE ENVIES OF CONSERVATIONISTS ALL OVER THE PLACE. I UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY YEAR, WE HAVE ABOUT 30,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC VISITING THIS CENTRE. IN A WAY IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, I THINK IT'S SURPRISING TO REFLECT ON THE FACT THAT UNTIL ABOUT 13 YEARS AGO, WE HAD NONE OF THIS LOCAL EFFORT. SO, QUITE CLEARLY, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND HONG KONG BRANCH HAS ACTED AS A SORT OF FOCAL POINT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. I WANT TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE HONG KONG WORLD WILDLIFE FUND TRUSTEES, THEIR CORPORATE SPONSORS BUT ALSO THE MANY THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY MEMBERS THAT THEY HAVE WHO TAKE PART IN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ALSO TAKE PART IN HELPING TO RAISING FUNDS IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS VERY WORTHWHILE CAUSE GOING.

TWO OTHER MATTERS ON WHICH I WANT TO COMMENT. FIRST OF ALL, YOU'LL NOT BE SURPRISED BUT YOU'LL ASK ME IF I DON'T COMMENT, SO I COMMENT FIRST AND THAT IS THE XI YANG CASE. THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG IS VERY UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED BOTH AT THE WHOLE PROCESS, THE WHOLE TRIAL PROCESS OF XI YANG, AT THE JUDGMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, AT THE OUTCOME OF HIS APPEAL. THEY ARE ALL VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE APPEAL HAS FAILED. AS I SAID, THESE CONCERNS ARE VERY UNDERSTANDABLE AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHARES THESE CONCERNS. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE CHINESE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THERE IS THIS CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY. I THINK THAT THE HANDLING OF THE XI YANG CASE UNDERLINES THE NEED FOR US TO DO EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY CAN TO SAFEGUARD THE FREEDOMS THAT ARE ENSHRINED AND PROMISED TO US IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. OBVIOUSLY, THE SENTENCE, THE VERY HEAVY SENTENCE IMPOSED UPON XI YANG HAS CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF HONG KONG JOURNALISTS WHO ARE DAILY OPERATING IN CHINA, GOING ABOUT THEIR LEGITIMATE BUSINESS OF NEWS COVERAGE. FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE CHINESE CAN, AT A VERY EARLY DAY, MAKE CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT THE RULES ARE SO THAT HONG KONG REPORTERS OPERATING IN CHINA CAN ENSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THESE RULES.

/FINALLY, I .....

FINALLY, I WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED CHARGES THAT MR ALEX TSUI HAS BEEN MAKING AS A RESULT OF THE QUESTIONING BY THE LEGCO PANEL, ENQUIRING INTO HIS DISMISSAL. WE HAVE ALREADY ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY, IN WHICH WE MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THESE ARE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS MADE BY MR TSUI UNDER IMMUNITY GIVEN TO HIM. NOW MR TSUI HAS IMMUNITY BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THE PEOPLE THAT HE HAS NAMED IN HIS CHARGES DO NOT HAVE IMMUNITY. SO WHO DO THEY APPEAL TO? WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE ICAC OPERATES ENTIRELY WITHIN THE LAW. THERE IS NO POLITICAL HIT LIST. THERE ARE NO POLITICAL TARGETS. EVERY CASE OF CORRUPTION INVESTIGATED BY THE ICAC IS CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE RELEVANT REVIEW COMMITTEE ON WHICH THERE ARE 12 MEMBERS OF WHICH EIGHT ARE DRAWN ON FROM THE PRIVATE SECTORS. IT ALSO SEEMS TO ME THAT THE VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS THAT MR TSUI HAS BEEN MAKING IN HIS FIRST DAY OF TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PANEL IS STRAYING QUITE A BIT AWAY FROM THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE HEARING. NOW, AS YOU ALL KNOW, THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING WAS TO ESTABLISH THE REASONS FOR MR TSUI'S DISMISSAL. BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, HE HAS BEEN MAKING QUITE A NUMBER OF VERY SERIOUS BUT TOTALLY UNFOUNDED AND UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS. I HOPE THAT THE LEGCO PANEL THAT IS CONDUCTING THIS ENQUIRY WILL HAVE REGARD TO THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE VERY GOOD WORK AND THE VERY GOOD REPUTATION THAT ICAC HAS BUILT UP IN THE LAST 20 YEARS IS NOT UNDERMINED IN ANY WAY. I AM SURE THAT THE PUBLIC WILL NOT WISH TO SEE CONFIDENCE IN THE ICAC WHICH IS PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING CORRUPTION, UNDERMINED IN ANY WAY.

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USA PLANE HELPS COLLECT METEOROLOGICAL DATA

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A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN HONG KONG TODAY (SATURDAY) TO TAKE METEOROLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS IN THE AIRSPACE AROUND THE SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE EXERCISE IS PART OF A CONSULTANCY COMMISSIONED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL WINDSHEAR WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE NEW AIRPORT.

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS ASSISTING IN THE CONSULTANCY.

THE AIRCRAFT WILL MAKE A NUMBER OF FLIGHTS OVER AND AROUND CHEK LAP KOK DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS TO COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT AIRFLOW PATTERNS AND ASSOCIATED METEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS.

THE DATA WILL BE ANALYSED WITH A VIEW TO DESIGNING A WINDSHEAR WARNING SYSTEM, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMES, SUITED TO LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

"WINDSHEAR INVOLVES SUDDEN CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION OR SPEED OF WIND WHICH CAN OCCUR AT MOST AIRPORTS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

/"THE WARNING .....

"THE WARNING SYSTEMS INVOLVE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, AND NEED TO BE SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR INDIVIDUAL AIRPORTS IN ORDER TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FACTORS SUCH AS THE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE," HE SAID.

THE STUDIES WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (NCAR) AND THE AIRCRAFT IT IS USING IN HONG KONG HAS FLOWN MANY SUCH DATA-COLLECTION MISSIONS IN AMERICA IN THE PAST. IT IS EQUIPPED WITH INSTRUMENTS TO MEASURE WIND, TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND PRESSURE.

SIMULTANEOUS MEASUREMENTS WILL BE MADE BY RADAR AND AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS OPERATED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AS WELL AS OTHER EQUIPMENT SET UP ON LANTAU ISLAND AND OTHER PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

DATA WILL ALSO BE COLLECTED BY A LASER RADAR SYSTEM SET UP ON CHEK LAP KOK BY NCAR AND THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

THE UNIVERSITY'S WORK INCLUDES PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF DATA AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMES FOR LOCAL NEEDS.

THE CONSULTANCY WAS COMMISSIONED IN OCTOBER 1993 AT A COST OF $118 MILLION FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 1997.

IN ADDITION TO COLLECTING THE NECESSARY METEOROLOGICAL DATA, THE CONSULTANTS WILL CARRY OUT SCIENTIFIC STUDIES LEADING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPERATIONAL WINDSHEAR WARNING SYSTEM, DESIGN AND PRODUCE THE SOFTWARE, ADVISE ON THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT REQUIRED AND TRAIN PERSONNEL OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT IN THE APPLICATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM.

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SPECIAL STAMPS MARK POLICE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED ON MAY 4 TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE, THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MISS NANCY LAW, ANNOUNCED TODAY (SATURDAY).

THERE WILL BE SIX DENOMINATIONS: $1, $1.20, $1.90, $2, $2.40 AND $5.

THE STAMPS ARE DESIGNED BY MR KEN LI AND PRINTED BY JOH ENSCHEDE OF HOLLAND.

THE FOREGROUND OF THE STAMPS SEPARATELY FEATURES POLICE OFFICERS IN UNIFORMS OF 1900, PRE-1920, CIRCA 1950 AS WELL AS THE PRESENT.

THE BACKGROUND OF THE STAMPS ILLUSTRATES HISTORICAL POLICE BUILDINGS, OLD STANLEY POLICE STATION, CENTRAL POLICE STATION, MARINE POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND OLD PING SHAN POLICE STATION AS WELL AS THE MODERN POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND POLICE TACTICAL UNIT HEADQUARTERS.

/FOR ADVANCE .....

FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC, THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE FROM WEDNESDAY (APRIL 20).

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT $1 EACH AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE, FROM APRIL 20.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS AT $16.50 EACH (AFFIXED WITH A SET OF THE SPECIAL STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARK) WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE, FROM APRIL 20 TO 26.

THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE.

SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS WILL ALSO BE PLACED ON SALE AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES FROM MAY 4:

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE OF THE SPECIAL STAMPS, EACH CUSTOMER CAN GET NOT MORE THAN TWO SHEETS OF STAMPS OF EACH DENOMINATION (100 SETS).

HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS AND PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING "FIRST DAY" INDICATION ON THAT DAY AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE WILL ALSO ISSUE SOUVENIR COVERS MATCHING THIS SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS.

THESE COVERS WILL BE SOLD BY POLICE STAFF AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE FROM APRIL 20.

POLICE SOUVENIR COVERS AFFIXED WITH A SET OF THE SPECIAL STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARK WILL BE SOLD BY POLICE STAFF AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON MAY 4.

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102 CAUGHT IN OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A 24-HOUR OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE TERRITORY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 102 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

/THE 99 .....

THE 99 PERSONS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

THE OTHER THREE PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 14) AND ENDED AT 5 AM YESTERDAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 25,441 PERSONS, 2,771 VEHICLES AND 384 VESSELS WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,447 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 8,512 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

TWENTY-FIVE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES FOR INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO $250,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO THREE YEARS IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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CS SUPPORTS 1994 BIG BIRD RACE

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, VISITED THE MAI PO MARSHES THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON TO GIVE HER SUPPORT FOR THE 1994 BIG BIRD RACE TAKING PLACE THERE.

THE EVENT, NOW IN ITS 11TH YEAR, IS ORGANISED BY THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE HONG KONG (WWFHK) TO RAISE FUND FOR ENHANCING NATURE CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN MAI PO.

/ACCOMPANIED BY .....

ACCOMPANIED BY THE WWFHK CHAIRMAN, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND WWFHK FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR VICTOR FONG, MRS CHAN WAS TAKEN ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE MAI PO MARSHLAND ALONG A CONSERVATION TRAIL AND SAW AN EXHIBITION INSIDE THE MAI PO WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTRE.

SHE WAS ALSO SHOWN THE MAI PO WATERFOWL COLLECTION ADJACENT TO THE WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTRE.

AS A FIRST-TIME VISITOR TO MAI PO, MRS CHAN EXPRESSED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF WATERFOWL COLLECTED.

MRS CHAN LATER MET COMPETING TEAMS AND CORPORATE SPONSORS OF THE RACE AND GAVE THEM HER SHARE OF MORAL SUPPORT.

MORE THAN 60 KNOWLEDGEABLE BIRD WATCHERS IN 16 TEAMS ARE COMPETING IN THE RACE. IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH SPONSORSHIP TO THE TEAMS, $2 MILLION WILL BE RAISED TO HELP THE WORK OF WWFHK IN MAI PO.

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REGISTER AS VOTERS: DO

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THE NORTH DISTRICT OFFICE TODAY (SATURDAY) LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE 1994/95 DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AT METROPOLITAN PLAZA, SHEUNG SHUI.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, ACTING NORTH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANDREW LAI CHI-WAH, SAID THE CAMPAIGN AIMED TO ENCOURAGE THOSE AGED 18 AND ABOVE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

HE HOPED THE TARGET OF TWO MILLION VOTERS TERRITORY-WIDE WOULD BE REACHED.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL LAST THREE MONTHS AND WILL INCLUDE HOUSEHOLD VISITS AND THE SETTING UP OF MOBILE REGISTRATION POINTS.

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WEATHER OF MARCH

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LAST MARCH WAS DOMINATED BY LATE-SEASON NORTHEAST MONSOON, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY REPORT BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

THE MONTHLY MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,018.5 HECTOPASCALS WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH.

THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY COOLER AND CLOUDIER THAN NORMAL.

IT WAS A RELATIVELY DRY MONTH BOTH IN TERMS OF HUMIDITY AND PRECIPITATION. THE MONTHLY RAINFALL TOTAL OF 26.5 MILLIMETRES WAS ONLY ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF THE MARCH NORMAL OF 66.9 MILLIMETRES.

/RAINFALL IN .....

RAINFALL IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 AMOUNTED TO 77 MILLIMETRES, 44 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 138.3 MILLIMETRES FOR THE PERIOD.

THE COOL AND OVERCAST WEATHER OF LATE FEBRUARY CONTINUED ON THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF MARCH. NIGHTS WERE COLD IN MOST PLACES OF THE TERRITORY.

THE MONTH'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 11.4 DEGREES WAS RECORDED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 1 AND 3.

WITH DRY AIR IN SUFFICIENT DEPTH, CLOUDS DISSIPATED ON MARCH 3 AND GAVE WAY TO FINE WEATHER.

WINDS TURNED EASTERLY AND APART FROM SOME DRIZZLE AT NIGHT, THE WEATHER REMAINED SUNNY OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

CLOUDY WEATHER RETURNED ON MARCH 6.

A LULL IN THE NORTHEAST MONSOON ALLOWED A MOIST MARITIME AIR MASS TO MOVE INTO THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG, KEEPING THE WEATHER WARM.

WITH HUMIDITY ALSO INCREASING, CONDITIONS BECAME MISTY AND FOG PATCHES HOVERED OFFSHORE ON MARCH 8.

TWO CHINESE CREWMEN WERE KILLED AFTER THEIR SAND BARGE COLLIDED WITH A CONTAINER SHIP IN POOR VISIBILITY IN EAST LAMMA CHANNEL THAT MORNING.

EASTERLIES FRESHENED EARLY ON MARCH 9 AND IN ADDITION TO THE PREVAILING MIST, THERE WAS ALSO FREQUENT DRIZZLE THAT MORNING. THE DRIZZLE THICKENED INTO LIGHT RAIN DURING THE NIGHT AND THE WEATHER WAS CLOUDY AND MUCH COOLER THE NEXT DAY.

RAIN ABATED ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 12 BUT VISIBILITY REMAINED POOR THAT DAY AS MISTINESS PERSISTED. WITH WINDS MODERATING, DAYTIME CONDITIONS WERE GENERALLY MILDER.

FRESH EASTERLY WINDS SET IN AGAIN EARLY ON MARCH 13 AND TEMPERATURES GRADUALLY FELL DURING THE DAY. DRIZZLE STARTED ROUND ABOUT NOON TIME AND CONTINUED INTO THE EVENING.

COOLER AIR FROM THE NORTH ARRIVED THAT NIGHT, LEADING TO A FURTHER DROP IN TEMPERATURES THE NEXT DAY.

THE WEATHER REMAINED COOL AND OVERCAST ON MARCH 14 AND 15 WITH LIGHT RAIN AT NIGHT OR IN THE MORNING.

FOLLOWING A MILD DAY ON MARCH 16, ANOTHER COOL NORTHERLY REPLENISHMENT REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST THE NEXT MORNING.

RAIN WAS LIGHT DURING THE LATTER PART OF MARCH 18 BUT BECAME HEAVIER ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 19.

SOME SUNNY INTERVALS EMERGED DURING THE DAY BEFORE THE WEATHER FINALLY TURNED FINE ON MARCH 20 AFTER A FORTNIGHT-LONG CLOUDY SPELL.

/CLOUDY WEATHER .....

CLOUDY WEATHER RETURNED ON MARCH 21 AND THERE WERE PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN THE NEXT DAY AS ANOTHER REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST.

UNLIKE THE EARLIER REPLENISHMENTS, DRY CONTINENTAL AIR FOLLOWED THROUGH AND BROUGHT FINE WEATHER ON MARCH 23.

HUMIDITY CONTINUED TO FALL OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS DESPITE AN INCREASE IN CLOUDINESS.

HILL FIRES, FANNED BY THE STRONG AND GUSTY EASTERLY WINDS WHICH SET IN ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 26, AFFECTED SEVERAL AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ON MARCH 26 AND 27.

WINDS MODERATED ON MARCH 28 AND APART FROM SOME OCCASIONAL DRIZZLE AND OFFSHORE MIST IN THE MORNING AND EVENING, THE WEATHER STAYED MAINLY FINE TILL MARCH 30.

THE HIGHEST TEMPERATURE IN THE MONTH, 25.3 DEGREES, WAS RECORDED DURING THAT PERIOD ON MARCH 29. CONDITIONS WERE NOT AS WARM ON MARCH 30 AND 31 AS EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED AGAIN.

THE MONTH ENDED CLOUDY WITH MORNING MIST AND LIGHT RAIN IN THE EVENING.

NO TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA LAST MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH, TWO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR MARCH 1994 ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN MARCH 1994

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	MAR 26 1930 - MAR 28 0440
FIRE DANGER WARNINGS	
YELLOW	MAR 6 0615 - MAR 6 2310 MAR 20 0615 - MAR 20 1745
RED	MAR 24 0750 - MAR 27 2305
GAS HEATER ALERTS	FEB 27 1630 - MAR 2 1630 MAR 2 1950 - MAR 3 1630

/TABLE 1.2 .....

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - MARCH 1994

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	72.7 HOURS; 23.7 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	10.01 MJ/SQM; 1.23 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	26.5 MM; 40.4 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	84 % ; 8 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	77 % ; 4 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	20.1 DEGREE CELSIUS; 1.2 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	17.8 DEGREE CELSIUS; 0.7 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	15.8 DEGREE CELSIUS; 0.7 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	13.4 DEGREE CELSIUS; 1.6 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	66.5 MM; 25.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

REMARKS: ALL MEASUREMENTS WERE MADE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY EXCEPT SUNSHINE, SOLAR RADIATION AND EVAPORATION WHICH WERE RECORDED AT KING'S PARK.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE ($ MILLION)
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,885	0930	+300
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,690	1000	+300
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+300
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+300	1200	
LAF TODAY	-1,495	1500	
		1600	

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 125.4 *+0.0* 16.4.94

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