



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, March 11, 1974

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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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RICE IMPORT QUOTA RAISED

The Commerce and Industry Department is raising the rice import quota for the second quarter of 1974 to ensure that Hong Kong continues to have abundant stocks available.

An Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Frances Hsiung, said that the quota for the second quarter has been provisionally fixed at 112,500 metric tons -- 25 per cent above the basic quarterly quota of 90,000 metric tons.

Mrs. Hsiung stressed that present rice stocks, amounting to 75,000 metric tons, are ample to meet Hong Kong's needs, and the increased quota would provide an even bigger margin of reserves.

She said that the department will continue to keep developments in the rice trade under close review and will issue a supplementary quota during the quarter if circumstances require it.

In the first two months of this year, Hong Kong imported a total of 52,871 metric tons of rice, of which China supplied 48 per cent and Thailand about 41 per cent. The remainder was imported from Australia, the United States, Burma and Taiwan.

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MORE LAND FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Reclamation works are to be carried out at Cheung Sha Wan in two stages within the next few years to provide land for additional community services.

The first stage comprises the proposed reclamation of 14 acres on the seabed fronting the Cheung Sha Wan Sand Depot to provide a building site for the new permanent wholesale market complex.

The works, which are expected to start some time this year, will involve the construction of a 1,500-foot seawall, and the use of 750,000 cubic yards of filling material.

Cargo handling facilities for the market complex will be located on the seawall.

With the completion of the new wholesale market, the site of the nearby temporary wholesale market at Hing Wah Street will be released for government, institutional and community purposes.

The future market complex will provide for centralised wholesale facilities for dealing with imported vegetables, fruit, poultry, fresh-water fish, crustacea and flowers.

The second stage of the proposed reclamation will take place at a later date, and this will join the completed first stage to the Sham Shui Po reclamation situated to the north of the Sham Shui Po Ferry Pier.

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The second reclaimed area will be about 43 acres, with a 1,670-foot seawall about 1,000 feet off the existing seawall.

The major portion of this reclamation will be used for government, institutional and community uses to offset the present land shortage for such purposes in New Kowloon West.

One feature to be provided on this reclamation is a section of a road which will form a part of the West Kowloon Corridor road project. This section of the road is intended to link Cheung Sha Wan with Tai Kok Tsui.

A notification in both English and Chinese has been posted near the sites, requesting members of the public who have objections or claims of private right in respect of the proposed reclamations to write to the Director of Public Works within two months.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

An extensive traffic diversion scheme will be introduced in the Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po areas on Wednesday (March 13) to facilitate the construction of an elevated road from Prince Edward Road to Lai Chi Kok Road.

The scheme will involve a number of traffic re-routings or prohibitions on vehicle movement.

It is being implemented because the eastbound carriageway of Prince Edward Road, between Lai Chi Kok Road and Yuen Ngai Street will be temporarily closed to all vehicular traffic.

Under the scheme, Prince Edward Road and Boundary Street will serve as a complementary system with the section of Prince Edward Road between Fa Yuen Street and Lai Chi Kok Road re-routed one-way westbound and the section of Boundary Street between Portland Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street re-routed one-way eastbound.

Eastbound traffic from the Sham Shui Po area, presently using Prince Edward Road, will be diverted to Boundary Street via Lai Chi Kok Road.

Westbound traffic coming from the Kowloon City area presently using Boundary Street will be diverted to Prince Edward Road via Fa Yuen Street.

Motorists will no longer be able to make a right turn from Nathan Road eastwards into Prince Edward Road. The alternative routing for this traffic will be via Boundary Street by way of a "G-turn" through Playing Field Road and Portland Street.

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In addition, the right-turning movement by northbound traffic on Sai Yee Street into Prince Edward Road will be not be permitted. Instead traffic will have to turn left into Prince Edward Road then travel via Tung Choi Street and Boundary Street.

Wong Chuk Street will be re-routed one-way north-bound to facilitate access into the area north of Boundary Street and to relieve any likely congestion on Cheung Sha Wan Road and Nam Cheong Street.

At the junction of Lai Chi Kok Road/Wong Chuk Street/Boundary Street both the straight ahead and right-turning movements from the eastern approach of Boundary Street will be prohibited. The alternative will be via Tai Nan Street and Nam Cheong Street.

The section of Boundary Street between Lai Chi Kok Road and Tai Kok Tsui Road will be re-routed one-way westbound. The alternative route for eastbound traffic will be via Hoi Tan Street and Nam Cheong Street.

To minimise congestion on Nathan Road between Prince Edward Road and Boundary Street, the picking up and setting down of passengers by public light buses along this section will not be permitted between 7 a.m. and midnight daily. Similar restrictions will apply in Playing Field Road between Nathan Road and Portland Street, Portland Street between Playing Field Road and Boundary Street and on Boundary Street between Nathan Road and Fa Yuen Street.

However, a PLB stand will be set up in Yu Chau Street near its junction with Portland Street.

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A Transport Department spokesman said that to assist traffic flow around the diversion, the method of traffic control will be modified at six junctions where traffic light signals are now in operation. In addition, traffic lights will be in operation at the junctions of Boundary Street with Tung Choi Street and Prince Edward Road with Fa Yuen Street.

Traffic signs will also be erected and police officers will be on hand to advise and assist motorists during the initial phase of the implementation of the diversion.

The construction of the \$25 million elevated road is scheduled for completion in June next year.

The Traffic Police and the P.W.D. will keep a close watch on the effect of the temporary traffic diversions, and modifications will be made if these prove necessary. By these means it is hoped to keep disruption of traffic to a minimum and to carry out flyover construction as quickly as possible.

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Note to Editors: Photographs of a map of the diversion are now available for collection from the GIS Press room.

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BUS ROUTES AFFECTED BY FLYOVER DIVERSION

Seven bus routes will be affected by the major traffic diversion being introduced in the Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po areas on Wednesday (March 13).

The changes involve routes 1, 1A, 13, 2C, 4A, 12A and the Cross Harbour route 104. Bus stops will be moved to new locations in accordance with the diversions and commuters are advised to carefully note the arrangements.

Because of the diversion, routes 1, 1A and 13 travelling northbound on Nathan Road will turn left into Playing Field Road, right into Portland Street, right into Boundary Street, right into Fa Yuen Street, and left into Prince Edward Road to continue along the normal route. There will be no change in these services operating in the opposite direction.

Route number 2C will travel northwards via Sai Yee Street, turn left into Prince Edward Road, right into Tung Choi Street, right into Boundary Street, left into Tai Hang Tung Road, then travel along the normal route.

In the opposite direction from Tai Hang Tung Road, the buses will turn right into Boundary Street, left into Fa Yuen Street, left into Prince Edward Road, right into Sai Yee Street, left into Argyle Street, then along the normal route.

Route 4A will only be affected on journeys from Tai Hang Tung. Buses will operate from Tai Hang Tung right into Boundary Street, left into Fa Yuen Street, right into Prince Edward Road, left into Lai Chi Kok Road, right into Shanghai Street, then normal route.

Buses travelling to the Sham Shui Po Ferry on route 12A will operate via Prince Edward Road then turn right into Tong Mi Road, left into Lai Chi Kok Road, then continue along the normal route.

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On the 104 Cross Harbour Service, buses travelling northbound on Nathan Road will turn left into Playing Field Road, right into Portland Street, right into Boundary Street, left into Tai Hang Tung Road to proceed on the normal route.

In the opposite direction route 104 buses will turn right from Tai Hang Tung Road into Boundary Street, left into Fa Yuen Street, right into Prince Edward Road, left into Nathan Road, then normal route.

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PACKAGING EXHIBITION

Note to Editors: The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. David Jordan, will open an exhibition of consumer packaging from Japan at the Ocean Terminal main concourse at 12 noon tomorrow (Tuesday).

The exhibition is organised by the Hong Kong Packaging Council and the Japan External Trade Organisation.

Reporters and photographers are welcome to cover the opening ceremony.

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FISHERIES SUPERVISOR RETIRING

Mr. Tang Kim-ying, a Senior Fisheries Supervisor, will retire soon after over 21 years in the public service.

Mr. Tang joined the Agriculture and Fisheries Department as a Fisheries Supervisor Class II in 1953, and was promoted to the post of Senior Fisheries Supervisor in 1968.

In recent years, he has been Secretary of both the Fisheries Development Loan Fund Advisory Committee and Fish Marketing Advisory Board.

During his career in the department, Mr. Tang performed a diversity of duties, including supervision of fishing gear construction and fishing operations and the processing of loan applications and repayment.

He has also acted as an adviser to fishermen on their problems and played an active part in fisheries extension work including the preparation of the popular "Fishermen's Half Hour" radio programme.

On behalf of his colleagues and friends, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. E.H. Nichols will present him with a farewell memento on Wednesday (March 13).

Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation ceremony which is to take place at 4 p.m. on Wednesday (March 13) in the Conference Room of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department Headquarters on the 14th Floor of the Canton Road Government Offices.

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VISITS BY LADY MACLEHOSE

Lady MacLehose will visit two member agencies of the Community Chest of Hong Kong tomorrow morning (Tuesday) in her capacity as President of the Chest.

The two agencies are both located in Kowloon -- the Society for the Blind Training Centre and the Workers Tours and Travel Service.

Accompanied by Miss Susan Hume, Social Secretary of Government House, and Mr. Colin Morrison, Executive Director of the Chest, Lady MacLehose will first visit the Training Centre which offers rehabilitation services as well as vocational training for the blind.

Vocational training provided includes training in telephony and piano tuning. Individual courses are conducted to help the blind familiarise themselves with daily living routines, such as cooking, and communications skills, including braille, typing and writing.

A braille and "talking book" library is also located in the Centre for the recreation and reference of the trainees.

Lady MacLehose will next visit the Workers Tours and Travel Service which aims to encourage workers employ their leisure time in healthy and worthwhile activities.

The Travel Service operates low-cost tours on weekends and holidays to the outskirts and places of interest in Hong Kong, as well as organising picnics, hiking, camping, swimming and other sporting events.

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Visiting tours are also conducted to government departments, film studios, large industrial concerns, welfare organisations and so on.

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Note to Editors: Reporters and photographers are invited to cover the visit at the Society for the Blind Training Centre. The Centre is located on the 7th floor of the Lutheran World Service Building, 33 Granville Road. Press representatives are requested to arrive at the Centre at 10 a.m. Miss Brigitta Wong, Administrative Assistant to the Chest, will be on hand to assist them.

The Workers Tours and Travel Service is located at 1 Dyer Avenue, Hung Hom.

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BETTER COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AT HOUSING ESTATES

Construction will shortly be carried out at four public housing estates to provide internal roads and open areas for use as carparks, bus termini and recreation grounds.

The estates are Lek Yuen San Tsuen in Shatin, Kwai Shing, Lai King and Lei Muk Shue.

At Lek Yuen, there will be about 1,200 metres of internal roads, eight open car parks, one public light bus terminus, one KMB terminus, and 3,000 square metres of recreation area.

Work is expected to start in May and take about 18 months.

At the other three estates, a total of 1,500 metres of internal roads will be built and surfaced, together with two public light bus termini, one KMB terminus, 18 open car parks, and 5,900 square metres of recreation ground.

This work is also due to start in May and is expected to take about 19 months to complete.

The projects are designed by the Highways (New Territories) Division of the Highways Office, which will supervise the construction works.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Monday) 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	1.96
- new crop		2.0
S.C.Jion - new crop	Good	1.94
Po Ngai	Good	1.63
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.91
10-15% Broken	-	-
A1 Super Extra	-	-
A1 Super	Good	1.52
Whole Glutinous	-	-
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.82
<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	4.0	2.5	3.2
Big-Eyes	Good	2.4	0.6	1.8
Squid	Limited	6.0	3.2	4.0
Hair-Tails	Good	2.4	1.1	2.0
Lizard Fishes	Normal	2.45	1.2	1.8
Croakers	Limited	1.6	1.2	1.5
Conger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.3	1.7	2.0
Melon Coat	-	-	-	-
Breams	Normal	4.8	4.0	4.5
Yellow Belly	Good	1.2	0.8	1.5
Mackerels	Good	4.0	3.2	3.5
Red Goat Fish	Good	2.2	0.7	1.5
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.5	0.8	1.4
Horse-Head	Good	5.5	3.0	4.5
Melon Seed	Limited	2.2	1.5	2.0
Pomfrets	Limited	10.0	7.5	8.5
Garoupas	Good	7.0	5.0	6.0
Yellow Croaker	Normal	6.5	5.0	5.5

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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	Normal	1.4	0.5	1.0
White cabbage	Normal	0.8	0.3	0.5
Chinese Lettuce	Normal	0.8	0.2	0.5
Chinese Kale	Normal	0.85	0.3	0.5
Spring onion	Good	0.6	0.2	0.4
Spinach	Normal	1.2	0.4	0.8
Water cress	Normal	0.8	0.2	0.5
Leaf mustard cabbage	Limited	0.8	0.3	0.6
Tomato	Limited	1.6	0.5	1.0

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	300

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