



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor's statement on John Major's candidacy
for the leadership of the Conservative Party

The following is the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's statement on the Rt Hon John Major's candidacy for the leadership of the Conservative Party today (Friday):

"John Major has made a brave, serious and sensible decision. It is intolerable that the good government of Britain should be held to ransom by abject party squabbles. I will of course have no vote in any contest should there (unwisely) be one. But speaking personally, I am sure that any Conservative MP intelligently concerned about the future of the country and the Conservative Party will give John Major the unequivocal support that he deserves for his record, his integrity, and his commitment to a decent and successful future for Britain."

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

Governor's statement on the Foreign Secretary's retirement

The following is the statement of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, on the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd's announcement of his retirement as Foreign Secretary today (Friday):

"Douglas Hurd has been an outstanding Foreign Secretary and a great supporter of Hong Kong. He has been one of my closest and best friends in politics and I shall obviously miss him. However, the Government's policy on Hong Kong - our commitment to standing up for the Joint Declaration and all that it means for the Territory - will continue, whoever replaces him.

I send Douglas and Judy my best wishes."

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

Proposals for dealing with traffic congestion

* * * * *

The Secretary for Transport, Mr Haider Barma, today (Friday) announced proposals for dealing with traffic congestion.

He pointed out that in putting together the package, the Government had taken into account comments received during the three-month public consultation exercise on the Report of the Working Group on Measures to Address Traffic Congestion.

"Some of the proposals made by the Working Group had been revised and a number of new initiatives emerging from the public consultation exercise have been included in the package," he added.

On fiscal measures, Mr Barma said if the numbers of new car registrations again exceeded the rate that our roads can accommodate, he proposed considering:

- * increasing First Registration Tax (FRT) for private cars by a rate sufficient to reduce the rate of growth in private car numbers to about two or three per cent per annum;
- * raising Annual Licence Fees (ALF) for private cars in line with inflation since last increase in 1991 (i.e. an overall increase of about 40 per cent).

Mr Barma explained that the increase in FRT for private cars was considered to be the most effective way of tackling congestion in the short term.

"However, the rate of growth in the number of private car has recently slowed down to a significant extent after an average annual increase rate of 10 per cent in the past three years.

"The rate of increase over the first five months of 1995 was five per cent and indeed the rate of increase for the last two months was negligible. But this cannot be taken as indicative of a long term trend.

"In view of this, increases on FRT cannot be justified on transport grounds for the time being, but we need to make the preparations now to be ready to propose an increase by the appropriate amount if the rate of car growth rises significantly beyond our target of two or three per cent a year," he said.

Mr Barma proposed to implement the following:

- * raising cross harbour tunnel tolls for private cars and taxis to \$30 between 7 am and 9 pm by increasing passage tax, (except on Sundays and Public Holidays), but retaining the \$10 toll overnight;
- * discontinuing deductions for company cars for profits tax purposes.

Mr Barma said all the proposed fiscal measures could not be implemented until the necessary legislative amendments were completed, hopefully in the first half of the 1995/96 Legislative Council session.

"If tax increases are introduced then some of the extra revenue will be allocated to a Transport Fund for use in improving transport services," he added.

Apart from the use of fiscal measures as an interim means to address traffic congestion, the Government will improve traffic management including giving greater priority to buses in the use of road space.

The Government is seeking funds to engage consultants to study the possibility of providing bus-only lanes throughout the territory.

With regard to longer term solutions of the problem, Mr Barma said the Government would study the introduction of Electronic Road Pricing (ERP), which had been widely supported by the public.

"Funds have been earmarked for a feasibility and technical study on ERP, and it is hoped that this will begin in early 1996.

"The Government will introduce ERP pilot schemes before considering implementing a full ERP system."

In addition, the proposed package includes the following ongoing measures:

- * constructions of new railways (i.e. planning for the implementation of the Railway Development Strategy);
- * commitment to building more roads (\$30 billion to be spent in the next five years);
- * improvements in the management of road openings; and
- * stricter enforcement of traffic legislation and to consider higher fixed penalties.

Mr Barma said the Government had also received a number of proposals emerging from the public consultation exercise and would consider implementing them. These new initiatives are:

- * provision of car parks at railway stations to facilitate "park and ride";
- * publicising the benefits of car pooling;
- * more pedestrianised areas; and
- * more "no stopping" restrictions in the busiest areas during peak hours.

Mr Barma emphasised that the package of proposals was aimed at restoring the balance between private car growth and traffic flow.

He noted that the proposals would be put to the Transport Advisory Committee for consideration. Thereafter, the Executive Council would be consulted.

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Corporate rescue procedure proposed

The Insolvency Sub-committee of the Law Reform Commission today (Friday) published a consultation paper containing proposals for the introduction of a comprehensive corporate rescue procedure in Hong Kong.

The Chairman of the Sub-committee on Insolvency, Professor Edward Tyler, said the need for such a procedure was widely accepted in the business community. Corporate rescue procedures, like the Administration procedure in the United Kingdom and Chapter 11 in the United States, are in place in many other jurisdictions.

The proposed rescue procedure, known as provisional supervision, would provide most companies in financial difficulties with court protection and time to put a proposal for a voluntary arrangement to creditors.

This would be achieved by the court providing the protection of a stay on all proceedings against the company, including winding up proceedings, while a proposal for a voluntary arrangement was being prepared. Court protection could last for up to six months, after which creditors could vote to extend the stay without court protection if a voluntary arrangement had not been finalised or the company had not gone into liquidation following a recommendation of the provisional supervisor.

A proposal for a voluntary arrangement would be put together by a solicitor or accountant, known as a provisional supervisor, who would usually be appointed by the company. The provisional supervisor would have to ascertain a company's trading position as soon as possible and put a proposal to creditors, if appropriate, in as short a time as possible. The initial stay period would be one month, after which the court could extend the stay for a further five months.

During the provisional supervision period, the provisional supervisor would control the company in place of the directors, but he could delegate powers of management back to directors where appropriate.

A company's main secured creditors would have the power to elect whether to participate in provisional supervision. If these major secured creditors elected not to participate, preferring perhaps to liquidate the company or appoint a receiver over its assets, it would probably cause provisional supervision to end. It is anticipated that, in most cases, major secured creditors would have agreed to participate prior to a company going into provisional supervision.

Ultimately, the creditors would vote on any proposal. It would require a majority in number and in excess of two thirds in value of creditors for a proposal to be accepted. This requirement should protect the different interests of smaller creditors, who would comprise the majority in number, and major creditors, who would have the greatest value of debt.

Once a proposal was accepted, a supervisor, probably the provisional supervisor, would oversee the implementation of the voluntary arrangement.

It is also proposed that directors and senior management of a company could be held personally liable to compensate a liquidated company for losses incurred by a company if it traded while insolvent.

The consultation period will end on August 31. Written submissions can be sent to the Law Reform Commission Secretariat before that date.

Copies of the consultation paper are available on request from the Law Reform Commission Secretariat, 20th Floor, Harcourt House, 39 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

\$50M research and development scheme launched

* * * * *

The Industry Department today (Friday) announced the launching of a \$50 million Co-operative Applied Research and Development Scheme (CARDS) aimed at encouraging manufacturers to leverage on the vast pool of research expertise in the tertiary institutions and research bodies in Hong Kong and China.

Speaking at a press conference, the Director-General of Industry, Miss Denise Yue, explained that the objective of the new funding scheme was to enhance the technological capability and competitiveness of the local manufacturing industry by increasing the number of applied research and product development projects that utilise the technological expertise of Hong Kong and China.

"It is hoped that this in turn will enhance technological collaboration between Hong Kong and China," she said.

"Companies incorporated under the Companies Ordinance of Hong Kong are eligible to apply and projects must involve a researcher of a local tertiary institution and a researcher of a tertiary or research institution in China.

"Projects should be market-driven and of a developmental nature. Deliverables of the project should be a new product or a new process which has good market potentials either in Hong Kong or elsewhere," she added.

She further said under CARDS, funding support up to 75 per cent of the fundable cost items of an approved project may be provided in the form of an interest-bearing loan or equity participation.

The Scheme will be administered by the Applied Research Council, formerly the Hong Kong Applied R&D Fund Company Limited, which also operates the Applied R&D Scheme.

The funding ceiling of the Applied R&D Scheme has also been similarly extended.

"The funding is intended to cover major cost items such as R&D manpower, equipment, consumables and marketing expenses," she added.

Application forms for the two schemes can be obtained from the Applied Research Council Secretariat at Room 1445, 14th floor, Ocean Centre, 5 Canton Road, Kowloon.

Wage limit for severance and long service payments raised

* * * * *

The wage limit for calculating severance payment (SP) and long service payment (LSP) under the Employment Ordinance has been increased from \$15,000 to \$22,500 per month.

The revised wage limit was gazetted today (Friday) and will take immediate effect. The adjustment was proposed in a resolution which was passed by the Legislative Council on June 21 (Wednesday).

"With this revision, SP and LSP are payable to monthly rated eligible employees at the rate of two-thirds of the last full month's wages or two-thirds of \$22,500, whichever is the less, for each reckonable year of service," a spokesman for the Labour Department said.

"For daily-rated or piece-rated employees, the calculation of SP and LSP will be 18 days' wages or two-thirds of \$22,500, whichever is the less, for each reckonable year of service," he said.

The total amount payable should not exceed a statutory maximum, which is currently \$210,000.

The wage limit for calculating the two payments was last revised in 1990.

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Bill to safeguard press freedom gazetted

* * * * *

The Governor-in-Council has endorsed a Bill which provides additional safeguards to protect journalistic material from being searched for and seized arbitrarily by law enforcement agencies, the Government announced today (Friday).

The Interpretation and General Clauses (Amendment) Bill 1995 was gazetted today.

A Government spokesman said the Bill addressed criticisms that the powers of search and seizure of the police were too wide and that such powers, if abused in relation to journalistic material, might threaten press freedom.

Under section 50(7) of the Police Force Ordinance, a magistrate may issue a warrant to a police officer if the magistrate is satisfied there is reasonable cause to suspect that there is in any place any document which is likely to be of value to the investigation of any offence.

The spokesman pointed out that the Governor, in his 1994 Policy Address, undertook to take action to amend certain provisions which imposed legal restrictions on press freedom by the end of this legislative session, and that section 50(7) of the Police Force Ordinance was one of these provisions.

He said that, in addition to the Police Force Ordinance, there were 108 other pieces of legislation which contained similar provisions.

"Rather than simply amend the Police Force Ordinance, as we had been asked, we decided to amend the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance, so as to deal with all of the legislation at the same time," the spokesman said.

He said the Bill proposed amendments to restrict the statutory powers to enter premises for the purpose of searching for, or seizing, journalistic material.

"This general restriction applies not only to the police, but also to other law enforcement agencies and government departments," he said.

The Bill will specify that an officer has to apply for a warrant before he can be authorised to enter premises to search for or seize journalistic material.

Such an application has to be approved personally by a directorate disciplined officer specified in the Bill before it can be made to a District Court or High Court judge.

The spokesman said the judge would have to be satisfied that a number of conditions were met before a warrant could be issued.

The conditions include: an arrestable offence has been committed; the journalistic material to be searched for is likely to be of substantial value to the investigation or relevant in the proceedings for the offence; other methods of obtaining the material may compromise the investigation; and it is in the public interest that a warrant should be granted.

He stressed that the amendments would not impair the ability of the law enforcement agencies to conduct criminal investigations, although a higher burden of proof would be required in the warrant application procedure.

"The proposal strikes a balance between the protection of press freedom and the need to maintain law and order," the spokesman said.

"Freedom of the press and expression is one of the most important aspects of Hong Kong's way of life which makes the territory a success.

"The Bill is a further step to demonstrate our strong commitment to a free and vigorous press," he said.

The Bill is expected to be introduced into the Legislative Council on June 28.

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Emergency regulations to be repealed

* * * * *

The Governor-in-Council has decided on June 20 this year that the regulations under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance should be repealed, but that the Ordinance itself should be left unchanged, a government spokesman said today (Friday).

The spokesman said the regulations dated back to the late 1940s and 1960s and were made to deal with events in that particular period of Hong Kong's history.

"They have no relevance to Hong Kong today," he said.

The repeal of the regulations will not affect Hong Kong's capacity to deal with an emergency.

"The power to make regulations under the ordinance will be unchanged. Fresh, modern regulations could be introduced quickly in the unlikely event of an emergency," the spokesman said.

"We believe that the approach we have adopted will enable us to protect the public in any emergency situation in a way which is compatible with the Bill of Rights Ordinance and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong," he added.

The Emergency Regulations (Repeal) Order 1995, the Emergency (Deportation and Detention) (Forms) (Repeal) Order 1995, the Emergency (Deportation and Detention) (Advisory Tribunal) (Repeal) Rules 1995, the Appointment of Places of Detention (Consolidation) (Repeal) Notice 1995, the Emergency (Requisition) (Repeal) Order 1995 and the Defences (Firing Areas) Ordinance (Amendment of First Schedule) Order 1995 are gazetted today.

They will be tabled in the Legislative Council next Wednesday (June 28).

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Legal services consultation period extended

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The Attorney General has decided to extend the consultation period for the Consultation Paper on Legal Services for one month till the end of July because the Law Society and the Bar Association have requested more time for their members to study the issues before they submit their comments, the Solicitor General, Mr Daniel Fung, QC, said today (Friday).

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club Hong Kong Northeast, Mr Fung said this would also enable the Government to solicit as many responses as possible from members of the community.

He said since the consultation paper was introduced at the end of March, the initial reaction had been very positive. However, he said comments to date, noted in the media or obtained through the Government's community links, had tended to focus on the following four main 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 Fung called on members of the public to give their views on the other provisional recommendations contained in the consultation paper as the approach adopted throughout the document was to consider legal services from the angle of the consumer - the man and woman in the street who used and paid for the legal services.

He noted that there were many aspects of professional practice that were obsolete or obsolescent and had been abandoned in common law jurisdictions elsewhere; many restrictions on the ways in which legal services might be offered; and many practices that were non-competitive or conflict with the public interest.

Mr Fung said as Hong Kong prepared to enter the twenty-first century, steps must be taken to ensure that the legal services available were the best that could be provided in this dynamic, international city.

He also said the preservation of the rule of law was essential to Hong Kong's way of life.

"This will be made easier if those who are served and protected by the legal system have faith and confidence in it. A system that is remote, inaccessible and overly expensive will only promote suspicion and may not endure.

"Questions of accessibility, cost-effectiveness and efficiency therefore need to be considered alongside questions of quality, independence and the attainment of justice. Only in this way we can seek to develop legal services that are truly responsive to the needs of the community," Mr Fung said.

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Employment and vacancies survey

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The Census and Statistics Department has just started the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies to collect data on employment and vacancies in major sectors of the economy in respect of June this year. This survey is conducted quarterly and the survey results are useful in serving as short-term economic indicators and providing information on the latest changes in the labour market.

This round of the survey covers about 68,000 establishments which are drawn from various sectors including the industrial sector (mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity and gas), the distributive trades sector (wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels) and the services sector (transport, storage and communication; financing, insurance, real estate and business services; community, social and personal services). Information on number of persons engaged and vacancies as at June 30 will be sought from each sampled establishment.

Questionnaires are being mailed to sampled establishments. In accordance with the Census and Statistics (Quarterly Survey of Employment & Vacancies) Order, these establishments are required to complete and return the questionnaires to the Census and Statistics Department within the specified period. If they have difficulties in completing the questionnaires, they may contact the department for assistance on 2582 5076.

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Mobile exhibitions on LegCo elections

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A series of mobile exhibitions to promote the polling arrangements for the September Legislative Council Elections will be staged in the coming two-and-a-half months at over 40 convenient locations throughout the territories.

The first of the series will begin tomorrow (Saturday) at New World Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui and on Sunday (June 25) at Times Square in Causeway Bay.

The mobile exhibitions, organised by the Information Services Department, aimed at educating the public on the new electoral arrangements of the forthcoming LegCo Elections and encouraging voters to support the elections.

The exhibition with the aid of attractive graphic and photos helps to explain main functions of the Legislative Council; the new features and functional constituencies of the coming Legislative Council Elections; as well as the simple voting procedure.

The exhibition which is informative as well as interesting, contains information which will be of interest to the public.

The exhibition will be displayed simultaneously in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories at various shopping centres, MTR and KCRC stations, public housing estates, and government offices buildings.

The dates and locations are as follows:

Hong Kong Island

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>
Times Square	June 25 to 30
Queensway Government Offices Building (High Block)	July 3 to 7
Landmark	July 10 to 12
Shun Tak Centre	July 15 to 16
Pacific Place	July 22 to 25
Marine Square West Centre	August 4 to 6
Immigration Tower	August 7 to 11
Admiralty MTR Station	August 17 to 19
Kornhill Plaza (South)	August 26 to 28
HongKongBank Headquarters	Sept 4 to 7
Cityplaza	Sept 9 to 10
Central MTR Station	Sept 11 to 13
Siu Sai Wan Estate	Sept 15 to 17

Kowloon

New World Centre	June 24 to 25
On Kay Court	June 26 to 30
Kowloon City Plaza	July 1 to 7
Dragon Centre	July 10 to 12
China HK City	July 15 to 16
Tak Tin Estate	July 17 to 21
Whampoa Garden Shopping Centre	July 22 to 30
Mong Kok Government Offices Building	August 7 to 11
Oi Man Estate	August 12 to 13
Trade Department Tower	August 14 to 18
Choi Hung MTR Station	August 21 to 24
Ocean Terminal	August 26 to 28
Lok Fu Estate	Sept 1 to 8
Kwun Tong Government Offices Building	Sept 11 to 15

New Territories

Shatin New Town Plaza	June 26 to 29
Tai Wai KCRC Station	July 1 to 2
Tai Wo KCRC Station	July 3 to 7
Tin Yiu Estate	July 8 to 14
Cheung Ching Estate	July 15 to 21
Sha Tin KCRC Station	July 24 to 25
North District Government Offices Building	August 5 to 11
Wo Che Estate	August 12 to 18
Tuen Mun Town Plaza	August 19 to 20
Sai Kung Government Offices Building	August 21 to 25
Metroplaza	August 26 to 28
Sheung Shui KCRC Station	Sept 2 to 7
Tai Po Plaza	Sept 8 to 10
Tsuen Wan Government Offices Building	Sept 11 to 15

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

Shark vigil remains in force

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Beach goers are advised to remain vigilant and stay away from beaches in the Sai Kung area following the reported sighting of sharks near Clear Water Bay First Beach this (Friday) morning by Regional Services Department staff, although the Marine Police launch patrolling the area could not subsequently confirm the sighting.

Shark warning flags have been hoisted since June 2 at the Campers, Clear Water Bay First, Clear Water Bay Second, Hap Mun Bay, Kiu Tsui, Pak Sha Chau, Silverstrand and Trio beaches.

"We are not considering lowering the warnings at present because we cannot be sure that the sharks have moved on," a spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Friday).

"We are therefore appealing to the public once again not to go into the water in Sai Kung over this weekend, not to hunt sharks and not to seek to observe them at close quarters because all of these activities are dangerous.

"Furthermore, people should not dump bait into the water because by doing so would-be shark hunters and observers are likely to entice sharks to remain and to attract others to the area."

Members of the public are urged to make use of the 27 public swimming pools managed by the two municipal councils, some of which are open from 6.30 am to 10 pm daily.

If the public wish to swim in the sea, they should only consider going to those gazetted beaches in the other parts of the territory where shark warnings are not in force and where lifeguard services are provided.

Even so, the spokesman warned, due caution and personal responsibility for safety must be exercised by all members of the public because, whilst measures are being taken to reduce levels of risk as far as possible, their safety from sharks cannot be guaranteed when they swim in the sea.

The Government Flying Service will resume its dawn surveillance programme tomorrow (Saturday) and this will continue on Sunday. Marine police will continue to patrol the Sai Kung coast and to issue warnings should a shark sighting take place. Lifeguards at all gazetted beaches will also remain vigilant.

Meanwhile, the inter-departmental working group is continuing to work with various experts to gather data and to study the various factors that might be contributing to sharks being present in Hong Kong waters and to their attacks on people.

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Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations

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The Government has amended existing regulations to extend the requirement for compulsory fitting and wearing of seat belts to include the rear seats of private cars, and any middle front seats in private cars, taxis, light buses and goods vehicles.

New requirements have also been introduced for the wearing of child safety restraints.

Details of the new requirements are contained in the Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations 1995 which was gazetted today (Friday).

The new requirements will take effect on June 1, 1996 so as to provide sufficient time for vehicle manufacturers to meet the new requirements and to allow time to publicise the need to wear the seat belts.

A spokesman for the Transport Branch said there was a clear evidence that the wearing of seat belts would reduce the number and severity of injuries suffered in traffic accidents.

Statistics showed that the number of injuries to drivers and front seat passengers in private cars fell by 28 per cent in the year after seat belt wearing was made compulsory in 1983. Fatal and serious injuries dropped by 51 per cent.

Meanwhile, traffic accident statistics for 1994 showed that 1,424 rear seat passengers in private cars (mainly unbelted) were injured in traffic accidents.

"Rear seat passengers in private cars are therefore an at-risk group to whom compulsory seat belt wearing should be extended," he added.

For children who are two years of age or less and are sitting in the rear seats, the spokesman said the new regulations required that they should wear a child restraints when one was available.

"An extensive publicity campaign will be mounted when the new regulations come into effect. This will include advice to parents of young children that they should install and use approved child restraints," he added.

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Last turn-over at HMS Tamar

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Royal Navy Commander Ross Thoburn assumes command today (Friday) of HMS Tamar, the naval base on Stonecutters Island, from Commander Berry Reeves who leaves after two and a half years in Hong Kong.

Commander Thoburn will be the 25th and the last commanding officer of HMS Tamar since the name was adopted by the Royal Navy's Hong Kong base after the Second World War. HMS Tamar will be taken over by the new Hong Kong Government Dockyard in 1997.

Commander Thoburn joined the Royal navy in the early 1970s and trained as an observer officer responsible for operating helicopter radar, sonar and weapons systems. During his career he has spent two years flying with the Royal Netherlands Navy, and commanded the offshore patrol vessel HMS Alderney for 18 months.

He has recently completed just over two years as Senior Naval officer in Northern Ireland where he was responsible for Royal Navy operations to prevent arms smuggling.

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Planning Department to survey on shopping habits

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The Planning Department will conduct a survey on shopping habits from next week.

Part of a consultancy study on "Shopping Habits and Revision of Chapter 6 (Retail Facilities) of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG)", the survey will focus on general expenditure patterns, shopping characteristics and aspiration of households.

"The survey results will be used to revise the existing planning standards and guidelines for retail facilities in Chapter 6 of the HKPSG," a spokesman for the department said today (Friday).

Starting at the end of this month, the survey will take one month to complete.

"About 2,000 households from the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, all new towns and selected housing developments in the New Territories, including Hong Lok Yuen, Fairview Park, Marina Cove, Discovery Bay and Palm Springs, have been selected for interviews," the spokesman said.

"Notification letters will be sent to all selected households, requesting them to participate in the survey. Individual information collected in the survey will be kept confidential," he added.

Enquiries on the survey can be directed to the Planning Department at 2848 6231.

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Three Gurkha soldiers commissioned

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Commander British Force Hong Kong, Major General Bryan Dutton, will commission three soldiers of 67 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron, Queen's Gurkha Engineers (67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn, QGE), as lieutenants at a parade to be held at Sek Kong on Monday (June 26).

About 90 members of 67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn, QGE, will be on parade under the command of their Officer Commanding, major Alistar Sheppard, Royal Engineers. The soldiers will be commissioned in the order:

* Warrant Officer Class Two Krishnadhaj Sahi, MBE:

Warrant Officer Krishnadhaj Sahi was enlisted on January 17, 1978, and after basic training joined the Queen's Gurkha Engineers on November 27 the same year. He has served in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brunei, Nepal and the Falkland Islands. He is married with two children and now assumes the appointment of A Troop's Queen's Gurkha Officer.

* Staff Sergeant Dilparsad Limbu:

Staff Sergeant Dilparsad Limbu was enlisted on January 20, 1979, and after basic training joined the Queen's Gurkha Engineers on October 10 the same year. He has served in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, Brunei, Kenya, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands. He is married with two children and now assumes the appointment of B Troop's Queen's Gurkha Officer.

* Staff Sergeant Chitrabahadur Gurung:

Staff Sergeant Chitrabahadur Gurung was enlisted on January 17, 1978, and after basic training joined the Queen's Gurkha Engineers on November 27 the same year. He has served in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Brunei, Belize, Nepal, the United States and the Falkland Islands. He is married with three children and now assumes the appointment of C Troop's Queen's Gurkha Officer.

67 Gurkha Indep Fd Sqn, QGE originated as 67 Gurkha Fd Sqn on October 1, 1949, one of the first two Gurkha engineers units to be raised by the British Army, and first moved to Hong Kong in 1950. After service in many parts of the world, the Squadron will disband next year, leaving just one remaining Gurkha engineer squadron, which is serving in Britain.

Attention News Editor:

You are invited to send representatives to cover the commissioning parade which starts at 1.45 pm. The parade will last for 45 minutes.

Members of the press should arrive at the main gate of Prince of Wales Barracks in Central no later than 12.15 pm. Transport will be provided to take them to Borneo Lines, Sek Kong. Transport will return to Central, via Kowloon Tong, at 2.45 pm, arriving at about 4 pm.

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Financial aid for livestock farmers

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Livestock farmers in certain restriction areas who wish to apply for financial assistance under the Livestock Waste Control Scheme should do so by the end of this month.

The areas include parts of Yuen Long, Tin Shui Wai, San Tin, Sai Kung, Outlying Islands, Long Harbour and Starling Inlet.

Acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer of the Environmental Protection Department, Mr Wong Ho-yan, said: "Existing livestock farmers in these restriction areas who wish to continue their business can apply for capital grants (CG) and low interest loans to cover the cost of waste treatment system in order to comply with the regulatory requirement, while those who prefer to cease business can apply for ex-gratia allowance (EGA)."

Letters had been sent in August last year to all affected farmers informing them the deadline for applications.

So far, \$740 million of EGA and \$8 million of CG had been given to eligible farmers since the Livestock Waste Control Scheme was implemented in phases in 1988.

Operators of livestock farms in the affected areas that have not received the letters should contact EPD on 2650 6844. Application forms are obtainable from the department's Local Control Office (Territory North) on ground floor, On Wo House, Tai Wo Estate, Tai Po.

Late applications will not be accepted.

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Pre-qualification invited for North Point Government Offices

The Architectural Services Department is inviting contractors to participate in a pre-qualification exercise for the design and construction of the North Point Government Offices at Java Road.

The project comprises the design and construction of a 26-storey government office complex with a single-storey basement to provide office accommodation for various government departments currently accommodated on leased premises.

Works are scheduled to start in January next year for completion in October, 1997.

Only contractors who are on the Approved Contractor for Public Works List I in Group C for Building Works or on the List II for Building Works, and have undertaken a design and build contract of not less than \$150 million in value in Hong Kong and/or overseas can apply for pre-qualification.

Interested parties can write to the Chief Architect/4, Architectural Services Department, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway for pre-qualification documents.

The deadline for submission of applications is noon on July 17, and tenders will be invited from the pre-qualified contractors in September.

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

Capping and management of mud pit at Sha Chau

The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for the capping and management of Mud Pit III at the East of Sha Chau.

The project comprises the management of contaminated mud disposal at Mud Pit III and the subsequent capping of the pit with sand and clean mud.

Works are expected to commence in August and will take 18 months to complete.

The works have been designed by the Fill Management Division of Geotechnical Engineering Office and will be supervised by the Port Works Division of Civil Engineering Office, Civil Engineering Department.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Chief Engineer, Port Works Division, Civil Engineering Office, fifth floor, Civil Engineering Building, 101 Princess Margaret Road, Kowloon.

Tender offers will close at noon on July 14.

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

Pok Oi Hospital directors visit SWD

The new Board of Directors of the Pok Oi Hospital today (Friday) paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Mrs Louise Wong, and discussed with her the development plans for various welfare services of the organisation.

The vice-chairman of the new Board of Directors, Mr Au Weng-hei, said apart from upgrading its existing services, the hospital would introduce new services to cater for the needs of various sectors of the community.

He also thanked the SWD for its assistance and guidance to the hospital in the past years.

End/Friday, June 23, 1995

Firing practice in June

An extra day of firing practice for this month will take place at the Ha Tsuen/Castle Peak Range from 9 am to 5 pm next Thursday (June 29).

The public is advised not to enter the area when the red flag is hoisted.

End/Friday, June 23, 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	1,959	0930	+552
Closing balance in the account	2,365	1000	+552
Change attributable to :		1100	+549
Money market activity	+534	1200	+549
LAF today	-128	1500	+549
		1600	+534

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.4 *+0.1* 23.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.25	2 years	2705	6.40	101.34	5.72
1 month	5.35	3 years	3804	6.90	102.51	6.01
3 months	5.43	5 years	5006	6.60	100.24	6.65
6 months	5.45	5 years	M501	7.90	103.64	7.13
12 months	5.51					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,784 million

Closed June 23, 1995

End/Friday, June 23, 1995