



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Expert talks on the Court of Final Appeal

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The fifth round of talks between experts of the British and Chinese sides of the Joint Liaison Group on matters relating to the Court of Final Appeal will be held in Hong Kong tomorrow (Friday).

The British team will be led by British Representative Mr Alan Paul. The Chinese team will be led by Chinese Representative Mr Chen Zuo'er. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

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COMAC is entirely independent

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten hoped that the expert talks on the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) tomorrow would give an early indication of the sort of progress that could be made.

In reply to questions by reporters on the talks after visiting Tung Tau Estate this (Thursday) afternoon, Mr Patten said if both sides were able to co-operate in establishing the Court of Final Appeal, it would help to confirm views about future commitments to the rule of law.

He added that everyone knew that the CFA was one of the important foundation stones for Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

When asked about the COMAC report, the Governor pointed out that COMAC was entirely independent.

"COMAC is independent, has always been independent, and will always be independent," he stressed.

"I don't see his reports before they are published, the Chief Secretary doesn't see his reports before they are published, nor would we ever seek to do so.

"It is exceptionally important that the Commissioner operates independently as a check on government and that we are absolutely determined he will continue to do so," he said.

"Any suggestion to the contrary is totally, a 100 per cent, without foundation."

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after visiting Tung Tau Estate in Kowloon this (Thursday) afternoon.

Governor: I am very pleased to have been able to see with Rosana Wong, the Chairman of the Housing Authority, this afternoon some more examples of the work of the Housing Authority, the work in particular that they are doing to refurbish some of their older property. And I am also very pleased to see the excellent work being done by the Hong Kong Society for the Mentally handicapped and the Hong Kong Down Syndrome Society, both of which do superb job in Hong Kong. And I am pleased that the community, I think, has a better understanding and appreciation now of the very important role which they play. So it's been a great pleasure to see the work of those two non-governmental organisations once more. And I'd like to thank all those who work for them for their dedicated and professional work for Hong Kong.

Question: Did you aware that when you crossed that way somebody dropped an egg?

Governor: Yes, I think that somebody from one of the flats up above did so. As I understand it, when the Hong Kong Society for the Mentally Handicapped opened their hostel, there was a certain amount of hostility from some of the neighbours. I think that has largely disappeared over the months and years that the hostel has been operating. I think people recognise that it brings an important community facility to the neighbourhood. But there are obviously one or two people who still resent it being here.

Question: So you don't take that action a personal one?

Governor: The view of the people who run the hostel is that it wasn't personal.

Question: Sir, Mr Lu has said in America that any talks he might have with you should be fruitful before he enters into them. What's your reaction to that?

Governor: I think my reaction is the same as the community's reaction. I think most people believe that the reason for having talks is to try to reach agreement, and to try to reach fruitful outcomes. If that wasn't the situation, talks would be merely for show rather than to try to achieve results. I think there is an overwhelming view in Hong Kong that it would be valuable and important for us to meet and talk and discuss the future of the community. I've made it absolutely clear that whenever Director Lu would like to come to Hong Kong, he would be an extremely welcomed visitor here. And that I would clear anything in my diary, and so would my senior officials, in order to have discussions with him. If you only had discussions when you were guaranteed an outcome, then I think a lot of people would wonder whether you ever have discussions at all. But I hope that we can have meetings and discussions and that they will help to increase greater understanding, greater awareness of the shared interest we have on the shared problems that we have to solve together. Perhaps I can just add one other thing. Director Lu is undertaking what I am sure will be an important visit around the United States. I think that everyone in Hong Kong, certainly myself and the Hong Kong Government, wish him well in his trip and hope that it provides a great deal of reassurance about the future. Both the Chief Secretary and I have been to the United States ourselves in the past to talk about Hong Kong. I hope that our trips have provided a good deal of reassurance. There has been occasionally a bit of background music when we've been on our visits. I can assure you the only background music for Director Lu's visit is the hope from me and from my senior officials and from the whole community that he and his colleagues do provide some reassurance about the situation after 1997.

Question: You say talks are not meant for show and the JLG expert are going to resume talks on the Court of Final Appeal tomorrow, do you expect your differences will be resolved this time?

Governor: I am not sure what the differences are. In fact, I think like many of my senior colleagues, I scratch my head sometimes to wonder what there is still to have an argument about, not only on the Court of Final Appeal, but on other things as well. We reached an agreement with Chinese officials in 1991. We've tried to implement that agreement in good faith, translating it into legislative form, and we put that legislation to Chinese officials last May. Now it is true that we've proposed some technical amendments, but we gave those to Chinese officials in January. And I don't think that they should delay things very much. We've had three sets of questions from Chinese officials, all of which we have answered promptly and comprehensively. So I do hope that the expert talks tomorrow will give us an early indication of the sort of progress that we can make because I think it would help to confirm views about future commitments to the rule of law, if we were able to co-operate in establishing the Court of Final Appeal which everyone knows is one of the important foundation stones for Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

Question: It's reported that Mr Wiggham in America turned down an invitation from Mr Lu, can you explain the reasons why he did that?

Governor: I don't think that the Commissioner in Washington had an invitation from Director Lu. I think you will find that he was invited by an institute to which Director Lu was speaking. So there was no snub meant to Director Lu and I am sure that no snub was taken.

Question: What do you think about Mr James So's retirement because he is the third secretary level official to leave the civil service in two years. Do you think it's a serious blow to the civil service?

Governor: Well, of course, one of the reasons why there have been changes at the top of our civil service is because we have been completing, as I promised we would, the localisation of senior posts in the civil service as rapidly as possible. That isn't, of course, the reason for the retirement of Mr James So. We knew of his intention to retire some time ago. He will be retiring in September, until then he'll be continuing with his work and part of his work will be to help us in learning lessons from the COMAC report and in applying those lessons and ensuring even better co-ordination within the Government and between the Government and the Urban Council.

Question: When did you learn about his intention to retire?

Governor: Several weeks ago.

Question: Is that before the report?

Governor: Yes, it is before the report, and just to make one thing clear, COMAC is entirely independent. I do not see COMAC's reports before they are published. I did not see this report before it was published and I am sure COMAC himself would make that absolutely clear. COMAC is independent, has been, is and will remain independent.

Question: But it did cause some embarrassment?

Governor: It's certainly ensured that the government will have to look very carefully at the way we co-ordinate our activities, particularly those with the Urban Council.

Question: Would you appoint a Chinese official to replace Mr So?

Governor: Of course.

Question: This week's speculation is to the haste in which Mr So decided to retire, the fact that no replacement was named immediately, can you explain the reason for that?

Governor: Mr So has been going to retire, as I said for sometime. It is not unusual for somebody's retirement to be announced before a replacement is named, particularly in the case of somebody who is not retiring until the autumn. But Mr So thought that yesterday was a sensible time to announce his retirement. One more.

Question: Mr So Kwok-wing said this morning that his report is not meant for reading by the governor or by Mrs Anson Chan, so does that mean ... we should remain independent, does that mean the report from now on would not be read by you, or you will not.....

Governor: You must understand what the situation is. COMAC is independent, has always been independent, and will always be independent. I don't see his reports before they are published. The Chief Secretary doesn't see his reports before they are published, nor would we ever seek to do so. It is exceptionally important that the Commissioner operates independently as a check on government and that's we are absolutely determined he will continue to do. And any suggestion to the contrary is totally, a 100 per cent without foundation. I hope that is clear, totally and a 100 per cent without foundation. Thank you very much.

End/Thursday, March 23, 1995

SFS on mandatory provident fund scheme

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The Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Michael Cartland, today (Thursday) urged employers and the insurance and trust management industries to co-operate with the Government to make the mandatory provident fund (MPF) system work effectively.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Po Leung Kuk Directors, Mr Cartland said the Government aimed to have the law for the MPF in place within the current legislative session.

"The Government will certainly take into account the views of the public, legislators and the Chinese authorities in the process.

"The result should be the development of a system which would enable employees to retire in dignity in a manner consistent with the independent self-reliant traditions which have served Hong Kong so well," he said.

Expanding on some of the features of the MPF, Mr Cartland said the Government considered the minimum obligatory contribution from employer and employee essential.

He said it was because the Government believed that the purpose of a mandatory retirement protection system should be to ensure that all those in the workforce had adequate basic financial protection upon retirement.

By requiring a minimum obligatory contribution from both parties, Mr Cartland said the Government would ensure that even those at a relatively low income level were protected.

Other essential features of the scheme would include a benefits-qualifying age of 65, preservation of benefits until the qualifying age and the portability of benefits from one employer to another.

"As you may appreciate, the main object of any system of retirement protection is to provide workers who have reached a certain age with a reasonable level of financial security.

"This can be achieved only if there is preservation of retirement benefits upon a change of job, and an arrangement for transfer of accrued employee benefits from one scheme to another."

Mr Cartland said to cater for the large numbers employed by small-scale employers and the self-employed, the Government also intended to establish residual pooling arrangements.

"A competitive, private-sector, solution with sufficient participation to minimise administration costs, is being sought to provide for these groups," he said.

On the issue of a Government guarantee, he said the Government's role under the proposed MPF would be to ensure prudential supervision and regulation of scheme administrators, and to minimise risk due to fraud or other unlawful activities in connection with the operation of these schemes.

"Within the MPF, we are considering the development of a scheme that would compensate for benefit losses due to fraud or other unlawful activities.

"A Government guarantee for investment management is not appropriate because it could encourage aggressive or imprudent fund management. It would also produce an immense contingent liability for the taxpayer," he added.

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Call on public to report child abuse

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The Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok, today (Thursday) appealed to the public not to turn a blind eye when they see a young boy or girl badly bruised or hurt.

They should also not turn a deaf ear to the screams of a child at night and must act if they suspect a child needs help.

"It is important that all who come into contact with children remain alert to the problem of child abuse and report what we see or hear to the authorities - to the Police or local social welfare workers.

"This problem more than many others is one that is often difficult to detect. Once detected, you may rest assured that we are doing all we can to ensure that both the abused and the abuser are given all the assistance they deserve," she said.

Mrs Fok was speaking on the topic "Facing up to Child Abuse" at the Rotary Club of Kingspark Hong Kong luncheon meeting today.

She told the Rotarians that child abuse was a problem which existed all over the world. However, in respect of the level of public awareness of the problem, Hong Kong has begun to face up to the problem which has now become more openly recognised.

Citing statistics, she said the number of child abuse cases in Hong Kong had increased from 429 in 1990 to 456 in 1993. The figure dropped to 422 last year.

Over 85 per cent of the cases reported in 1990 and 65 per cent in 1994 were of physical abuse. And due possibly to increased public awareness and readiness to bring the problem into the open, there was an obvious rising trend in the number of sexual abuse cases - from two per cent in 1990 to 17 per cent of the total abuse cases last year.

In tackling these issues, she said, the Government must respect the rights of the parents as well as that of the children.

But this raises very difficult questions for a Government: When should Government intervene if a child is at risk? When would intervention be considered as being intrusive and taking away the rights of the parents?

"These are weighty moral questions which any agency acting in this area has to address.

"It requires a highly professional judgment to strike the right balance," she maintained.

The Secretary outlined the following measures planned or taken by the Government to tackle the child abuse problem in Hong Kong:

- * a Child Protection Registry has been set up within the Social Welfare Department to provide comprehensive data on the profile of cases and other statistics to help better understand the problem and develop services to prevent child abuse;
- * the Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance has been amended to provide a new procedure whereby the Director of Social Welfare can serve a child assessment notice to require a parent or a guardian to take a child who is suspected of being abused for medical, psychological or social assessment or to remove the child for such purpose if the notice is not complied with;
- * proposed amendments will be introduced into the Legislative Council in its current session to enable abused children to testify through live television links or videotape and for their uncorroborated evidence to be accepted in court; and
- * five Child Protection Workers will be added in the coming financial year to the existing establishment of 11 in the Child Protective Services Unit of the Social Welfare Department to provide services for child abuse victims and their families.

In addition, the department plans to set up Multi-disciplinary District Forums on Child Abuse in four districts in 1995/96 to share, study and tackle the problem of child abuse on a district basis. A similar pilot project was set up in 1993 in Tuen Mun where there is the highest number of child abuse cases.

Mrs Fok also noted that a publicity campaign focusing on educating the general public on early detection and reporting of child abuse cases, would be launched tomorrow (Friday).

"It will include television announcements, a poster, a series of leaflets on each category of abuse and a radio programme," she said.

"Integration of child abuse issues into the school curriculum and the Family Life Education programmes will be further examined by the Working Group."

To beef up family and child welfare services, the Secretary said the Government would spend around \$1.1 billion in the coming financial year, an increase of almost 20 per cent over the budget for this year.

"We will provide, among other things, more family caseworkers to improve our counselling service and more aided child care places," she said.

"But there is a limit to what professionals can do, both in the preventive and curative fields, and a great deal must depend on the families themselves."

Concluding, Mrs Fok stated that the interests and welfare of children, especially vulnerable children, were closed to her heart.

"The Government is committed to combating child abuse through the continued provision of professional services in support of child and family welfare. It is important that we continue to target both the child and the family.

"It is also vital for the community to face up to the problem of child abuse and, together, tackle it with the utmost vigour," Mrs Fok urged.

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Consensus on public finances

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One of the most remarkable things about Hong Kong, and a major contributor to its economic success, is the high degree of consensus on public finances, the Secretary for the Treasury, Mr Donald Tsang, said today (Thursday).

Speaking at a lunch meeting of business associations and chambers of commerce, Mr Tsang said it was important to nurture the spirit of consensus during the process of formulating the Budget.

He said the process of preparing the annual budget began in April and May of the preceding year.

In a few weeks time, he said, the Financial Secretary would begin to prepare the 1996 Budget by contacting all Members of the Legislative Council and to meet them to discuss expenditure priorities for the following year's budget.

"This series of consultations, spread over a few weeks, provides a valuable opportunity for the Administration to improve its understanding of the community's aspirations, and for the community - through the Legislative Council - to make itself heard.

"This takes place alongside the consultation carried out by our Policy Secretaries with their network of advisory committees and professional contacts. Thus the resource requirements of their programmes are defined and honed," he said.

He said the feedback from this consultation process was a major factor when Star Chamber - which comprises the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Secretary for the Civil Service and the Secretary for the Treasury - sat down to consider the competing bids from Policy Secretaries for the annual Resource Allocation Exercise and to assist the Governor in preparing his Annual Policy Address

The consultation on revenue measures began in the autumn of each year with the Financial Secretary once again making contact with all Legco members and interested parties and the culmination of this process was the Budget speech in early March, said Mr Tsang.

"Once the Budget proposals have been promulgated, they are scrutinised in public, justified in public, debated and voted on in public," he added.

To further involve the public in the Budget process, Mr Tsang said starting from next year, the complete draft Estimates would be fully bilingual.

"Thus the full picture of what we are doing will be readily accessible to all Hong Kong people in both official languages. In a modest way, I hope this small step will contribute to the consensus building process," he said.

Mr Tsang said the Government also proposed to bring the Chinese side inside the budget process.

"The consultation package that we put forward to the Chinese side last year is comprehensive and genuine," he said.

A preliminary outline of the budgetary process had already been given to China in his recent trip to Beijing, said Mr Tsang : " I look forward to a positive response."

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Brave former Immigration Assistant awarded Queen's medal

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A former Immigration Assistant, the late Mr Ng Hung-shek, has been awarded the highest honour for civilians by the Queen for his bravery in helping to apprehend five armed robbers on March 20, 1990.

He was shot at the back by one of the robbers and died shortly afterwards.

His father, Mr Ng Yuet-sang, received the George Medal (Posthumous) on behalf of his son during an investiture at the Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.

"It is encouraging to know that Mr Ng's selfless act of courage was given the highest recognition," the Director of Immigration, Mr Laurence Leung Ming-yin, said.

"His immense sense of law and order and civic duty have epitomised the conduct of a good citizen and a member of a disciplined service," he added.

The George Medal is awarded to civilians for gallantry of an extremely high order. It is recommended only sparingly. The last award of this medal to Hong Kong people was in 1973.

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Applications for entry of professionals from China for employment in HK

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The Immigration Department announced today (Thursday) the results of the fourth ballot exercise of applications for entry of professionals and managers from China for employment in Hong Kong.

"Up to the end of last month, the deadline for the submission of the preliminary applications, a total of 3,129 applications were received," a spokesman for the Immigration Department said.

"More than half of the applications are from the trading, construction and finance sectors and the most popular jobs are engineers, administrators and marketing executives," the spokesman added.

In the final ballot exercise held today, 250 applications were randomly selected by computer from the applications received.

"Successful applicants will be notified in writing individually," the spokesman said.

"Unsuccessful applicants in the ballot exercise will be put into a reserved list to fill any quota which might be left unfilled, for whatever reasons, by the successful applicants. They will be informed in writing individually their position in the reserved list," he stated.

For enquiries, employers may telephone 2824 6111 or use faxline 2877 7711.

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Governor visits Tung Tau Estate

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday) visited Tung Tau Estate to look at the refurbishment programme of older blocks and welfare facilities provided in the Estate.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Housing Authority, Ms Rosanna Wong, and Deputy Director of Housing (Housing Management and Works), Mrs Fanny Law, the Governor first visited a family of five living in Block 23. The family had moved to this 36.7-square-metre flat since the 60s after a clearance exercise in Yau Ma Tei.

The party then proceeded to a nearby rest garden for a briefing on the refurbishment programme for Block 22. The Governor was told that the block, built in 1965, was scheduled for redevelopment but underwent extensive refurbishment in order to provide housing for the much needed small households affected by clearance operations in the urban area.

Mr Patten called on a 71-year-old tenant and her husband living in an 18.6-square-metre refurbished flat in Block 22 and saw their living conditions.

He was told that an Estate Liaison Officer Scheme had been implemented through which housing staff, serving as liaison officers, made arrangements with Government departments or agencies for the needy elderly and helped them build up a social network.

Liaison officers have also arranged for the installation of emergency alarm systems in flats to allow elderly people to press alarm buttons during emergencies.

The Governor then visited the Tung Tau Hostel for the Severely Mentally Handicapped at Kwai Tung House and watched inmates attend interest classes.

He finally visited the Parents' Resource Centre for the Down Syndrome at Chun Tung House. After inspecting the library and the play room, he met members of the Centre.

Mr Patten was told that other services, including day nurseries, youth and elderly centres, as well as shopping, educational and medical facilities were also provided in the Estate.

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New Lek Yuen Social Hygiene Clinic

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The Department of Health today (Thursday) announces that the new Lek Yuen Social Hygiene Clinic will start operation next Wednesday (March 29).

The clinic is located on the third floor of Lek Yuen Health Centre, No. 9 Lek Yuen Street, Sha Tin. It will provide free services to both male and female patients seeking treatment on sexually transmitted diseases.

The registration hours are as follows:-

Monday to Friday	9 am - noon and 2 pm - 4 pm
Saturday	9 am - noon

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Bus-only lane to be introduced on Tuen Mun Road

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The Transport Department reminded motorists that a bus-only lane would be introduced on Tuen Mun Road starting on Saturday (March 25).

A spokesman for the department said it would be designated at the nearside lane of the Kowloon-bound carriageway between So Kwun Wat and a point 300 metres to the west of Tsuen Wan Road.

It will be operational between 6.30 am and 9 am daily except Sundays and public holidays.

The bus-only lane will be used by franchised and non-franchised buses, including school buses and other coaches.

The spokesman said legislation had been amended to allow medium and heavy goods vehicles to use the middle and offside lanes of the Kowloon-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road during the operation hours of the bus-only lane, with the offside lane for overtaking.

"Outside the bus-only lane operation hours, the nearside lane will be a normal traffic lane on an expressway. All traffic should keep to the left unless overtaking. Buses, and medium and heavy goods vehicles will not be allowed to use the offside lane," he said.

He reminded motorists that during the bus-only lane operation hours, Kowloon-bound motorists will not be allowed to exit Tuen Mun Road at Siu Lam and Sham Tseng Interchanges.

To reach their destinations in Siu Lam and Sham Tseng from Tuen Mun, they should use Castle Peak Road.

At the same time, motorists on Castle Peak Road are not allowed to join Tuen Mun Road Kowloon-bound at Siu Lam Interchange and Tuen Mun Road both bounds at Sham Tseng Interchange. They should remain on Castle Peak Road for their journeys.

"The introduction of the bus-only lane is aimed at improving the efficiency and reliability of public transport services. It is hoped that this will also encourage private motorists to switch to public transport to help alleviate congestion on Tuen Mun Road," the spokesman said.

To tie in with the scheme, Kowloon Motor Bus has already introduced two new services operating from Sam Shing and Sham Tseng to Tsuen Wan Mass Transit Railway Station. These two new bus routes are welcomed by local commuters and are being well patronised. Their service level will be further improved if demand increases.

The queues of general traffic on Tuen Mun Road and Castle Peak Road are expected to be longer after the introduction of the bus-only lane, and some delays in car travel are likely. Motorists are advised to plan their journeys well and travel early.

The pilot scheme is scheduled to last three weeks. The Transport Department and the Police will closely monitor the scheme and a review will be carried out in three weeks' time, the spokesman said.

The Transport Department has also set up two telephone hotlines for the scheme. The hotlines, 2399 2437 and 2399 2424, are already in operation until March 31 to answer public enquiries on the operational details of the bus-only lane scheme.

Attention News Editors:

The Transport Department has laid on facilities for the media to observe the operation of the bus-only lane on Tuen Mun Road on Saturday (March 25).

Press coaches will depart Kwai Fong Bus Terminus at 7.15 am for Tuen Mun, making stops at suitable locations along the route. Media representatives can reach the bus terminus by using the Kwai Fong MTR Station exit close to the Hang Seng Bank. A location plan will be boxed. Assemble time is 7 am.

TV crews are also advised to make use of this facility because their own vehicles will not be allowed to use the bus-only lane and the two interchanges.

A briefing on the operation of the bus-only lane scheme will be given by a Transport Department official after the visit.

GIS officers will be on hand to help.

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Revision of air transport licence fee

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The Governor-in-Council has approved a proposal to revise the air transport licence fee, a Government spokesman said.

The new fee payable for the grant of an air transport licence to local airlines will be revised to a fixed cost of \$5,650 per application plus \$5,170 for each point covered by the licence, excluding Hong Kong, the spokesman said.

"The fee revision is in line with the government policy of recovering the administrative costs associated with the provision of service.

"The new fee will have only a minimal effect on the total operating cost of local airlines, and any indirect impact on consumers should be negligible," he said.

The new fee will take effect on May 1 this year.

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S6 admission procedure shortened

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The Education Department announces today (Thursday) the Secondary 6 (S6) admission procedure for 1995-96 school year will be shortened to nine working days from 11 as in the previous years.

A spokesman for the Education Department said a total of about 23,790 S6 places, an increase of 310 or 1.32 per cent over the previous year of 23,480, were available in September for students to apply.

The spokesman said the department had produced a new leaflet and a summary table containing admission details, addresses and telephone numbers of the 19 Education District Offices to help students seek further information.

He said the leaflet and summary table would be collected by schools for distribution to S5 students from tomorrow (Friday).

The spokesman said private candidates would receive the leaflet and summary table from the Hong Kong Examination Authority when it sent out the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) Identification Forms.

Additional leaflets and summary table are available from District Education Offices and district offices throughout the territory.

A 24-hour telephone enquiry service will be operated in early August. Students who wish to hear S6 places admission procedures may dial 2891 0088.

In addition, a hotline will be set up at the same time, when results of HKCEE are announced, to help students seek advice or clarification about admission procedures, and to handle any complaints.

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Application deadline for language funds to close next Friday

Organisations, individuals, schools and kindergartens interested in undertaking projects or activities to improve language standards in Hong Kong are reminded to return their applications for funding from the Language Fund by next Friday (March 31) when the first call for applications ends.

The Language Fund Secretariat has so far distributed about 800 application forms and received six applications.

The fund is aimed at supporting proposals and initiatives that will raise the Chinese (including Putonghua) and English standards, enhance existing efforts and meet temporary shortfalls in language teaching resources.

In addition, the fund will encourage research into problem areas and initiation of new approaches.

The Language Fund Advisory Committee has identified some possible areas in which proposals may be drawn up. These include:

- * improvement of the skills of language teachers and production of additional teaching materials;
- * programmes to promote students' interest in language learning and develop skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing;
- * development of reference materials on what constitutes good Chinese language use in Hong Kong as a useful reference for teachers and the public;
- * trying out of various approaches to the development of bilingual proficiency at all levels, in particular pre-primary and primary levels;
- * training of professionals in translation who are proficient in both English and Chinese;
- * local research into child language development and the acquisition of bilingual proficiency;
- * local research into language requirements, language uses and desired profiles of bilingual proficiency for academic and vocational purposes;
- * investigation into and provision of language improvement measures for the working population;
- * research programme to follow the academic and personal development of groups of students, matched for academic ability and experiencing different medium of instruction models;
- * assessment of language proficiency in Hong Kong; and
- * regular surveys of language ability of new entrants to jobs with respect to listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Application forms should be returned to the Language Fund Secretariat in Room 1123 of Wu Chung House, 213 Queen Road East, Wan Chai.

For further enquiries, please contact the Language Fund Secretariat on 2892 6642 or by fax on 2574 0340.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,908	0930	+705
Closing balance in the account	2,632	1000	+694
Change attributable to :		1100	+704
Money market activity	+704	1200	+704
LAF today	+20	1500	+704
		1600	+704

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 117.9 *-0.2* 23.3.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.06	14 months	2605	6.35	100.15	6.30
1 month	5.17	23 months	2702	7.50	101.45	6.79
3 months	5.54	28 months	3707	6.95	100.26	6.94
6 months	5.79	34 months	3801	8.00	102.35	7.19
12 months	6.21	60 months	5003	7.75	100.68	7.73

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$6,657 million

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