



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after officiating at a Customs and Excise passing out parade today (Saturday).

Governor: I am delighted to have been able to come to this passing out parade. I wanted to underline my gratitude for the work done by Customs and Excise and to emphasise as well what an important role Customs and Excise plays for the whole community. You'd have seen with the enthusiastic young officers on parade today. What an excellent service we've got. Perhaps I can add one other thing. Tomorrow is a historic day, here in Hong Kong. Nothing will ever be able to erase it. I think it marks another important stage in the maturing of our community. Tomorrow comes after a campaign for the Legislative Council elections which I think has been marked by moderation and good sense. People have pursued their different points of view and their arguments very enthusiastically, very rigorously. Everybody, whatever their opinion has been involved in the election process. But unlike the situation in some other places, the whole thing has been carried through with considerable civility and considerable maturity. I think that is a mark of how comfortable Hong Kong is with the arrangements that we've put in place and how Hong Kong can take these things comfortably in its stride. Obviously we all hope that as many people as possible express their civic views tomorrow and discharge their responsibilities. Obviously, none of us know who's going to win the various closely contested races, but I hope that we'll see emerge in these elections a vigorous Legislative Council with which the administration can work in co-operation and harmony over the next years.

Question: What do you expect the voting rate?

Governor: I don't know. Anybody who tells they know is kidding. What we had in both the Municipal Councils and the District Board Elections was larger numbers of people voting than have ever voted before for those elections. The number of people registered to vote has gone up dramatically. It's gone up from about 50 per cent when we had the last Legislative Council elections to 65 per cent today. So if you have the same percentage turnout, it means a lot more people have voted. But obviously I hope that as many people will vote as possible and I repeat that, I am sure that we will see emerge from tomorrow a good, effective, representative body which can work with government in the interests of the whole community. What are challenges that we face in the next years and I think that a co-operative relationship between the administration and the Legislative Council will be an important element in tackling some of those problems.

Question: You said you want legislature to have a good co-operation with the administration. Actually will be consider to appoint some new legislators as Exco members...

Governor: I don't think that it's sensible to focus the entire discussion about the relationship between the Administration and the Legislative Council on the question of appointments to the Executive Council. Obviously, I'll consider the position after the election results. I happen to think that if I've got a very good Executive Council at the moment and that I've had Executive Councillor who represent every shade of opinion in the community. But we'll look at the whole question of the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature after the election results but it covers far more, far more than the question solely of the membership of the Executive Council.

Question: Some foreign media have categorised the elections as a pointless exercise, What is the point do you think the election is going to make?

Governor: I don't think that we are conducting these elections for foreign media and any foreign media who say that don't understand Hong Kong very well. There are hundreds of thousands of people here in Hong Kong tomorrow who will be doing what they are entitled to do and expressing in the ballot box their views about the future of this community. There is nothing pointless about that. It's an important part of Hong Kong's history and it's an important part of the foundations of Hong Kong as a free and plural society and any media who made those sort of criticisms are talking through their heads.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Call for more support in heritage preservation

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The successful declaration of the University Hall, Hung Hing Ying Building and Tang Chi Ngong Building of the University of Hong Kong as historical buildings marks a new stage of co-operation between the Government and the University, the Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr James So, said.

Speaking at a ceremony this (Saturday) morning, Mr So said the preservation of the three buildings was made possible through the enthusiastic support of the Council of the University of Hong Kong.

He described the University itself as a repository of historical buildings which comprised a number of distinguished examples of Western architecture including the Main Building declared in 1984 and the three buildings now being declared.

"With the continued support of the University, members of the public are given the opportunity to appreciate the splendour of the historical buildings within its campus and the important role the University has played in providing education for our younger generations for the advancement of learning and in so doing contributing to the prosperity of our community.

"I hope that other buildings within the campus, including Bethanie, the Old Halls and the Fung Ping Shan Building could be similarly declared and protected in the near future," Mr So said.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of the Antiquities Advisory Board, Mr David Lung, paid tribute to Mr So for his full support in heritage preservation work.

"During his four years of service in the Recreation and Culture Branch, 14 historical items have been declared under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance, and the first heritage trail in Hong Kong was established.

"In addition, the Antiquities and Monuments Office has been greatly strengthened and a large number of other important and meaningful heritage projects like the Kowloon Walled City Park, a territory-wide historical building survey, several conferences on various heritage topics, a popular television series on local heritage and a wide range of education programmes on heritage have been launched," Mr Lung said.

Earlier, in his welcoming speech, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, Professor Wang Gungwu, told the gathering that with increasing education and respect for the environment, Hong Kong was now more than ever aware of the need to preserve something from the bygone days of its history.

He pointed out that declaring only the exteriors of the three buildings would enable the University to make whatever changes and adaptations to the interiors it saw fit in future while at the same time maintaining the essential and overall architectural face.

"I think this is a compromise which will ensure that these trusted and much loved buildings will continue to play their vital role in today's Hong Kong and its leading university, but at the same time over future years also continue to remind students and staff in the most vivid way of living and still functioning heritage of the Hong Kong of the past," Professor Wang added.

The declaration of the three university buildings yesterday (Friday) brings the total number of declared monuments in Hong Kong to 58.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Tai Po District Officer calls for maximum voter participation

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All registered voters are urged to exercise their civic rights by casting their ballots for the candidate of their choice in the Legislative Council elections tomorrow (Sunday).

Speaking at an Election Carnival being staged at Tai Po Playground, Heung Sze Hui Street, Tai Po, the Tai Po District Officer, Mr Danny Tsui said: "Voters who are registered in both the geographical as well as the functional constituencies should exercise their rights to cast two ballots for the candidates of their choice."

He reminded voters to cast their ballots at their designated polling stations which will open from 7.30 am to 10.30 pm.

The carnival activities, preceded by an opening ceremony, include singing performances, game stalls and an exhibition, all had an election theme and were well attended by Tai Po residents.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Electors reminded to vote tomorrow

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The Registration and Election Office (REO) today (Saturday) reminded all registered electors that elections for the geographical, functional and the Election Committee constituencies in the Legislative Council elections will be held tomorrow (Sunday).

An REO spokesman said an elector was only required to bring along his identity card to the polling station. However, it would facilitate the checking if he could also bring along the poll card sent to him.

"Electors who lost their poll cards can still cast their votes," he said.

A total of 495 polling stations will be opened on the polling day.

The Regional Council (RC) functional constituency (FC) and the Election Committee Constituency will each have a central polling station at the RC chamber, Sha Tin, and the International Trademark, Kowloon Bay, respectively.

The polling for the geographical constituency (GC) and FC (except the Regional Council FC) elections will be from 7.30 am to 10.30 pm.

Regional Council FC voters can cast their votes from 2.30 pm to 10.30 pm, while Election Committee constituency voters from 7.30 am to midnight.

"The ballot is secret. No one can force a person to vote or not to vote for any particular candidate and no one is required to tell which candidate he has voted for or is going to vote for," the spokesman said.

Electors registered only for the geographical constituency (GC) will be issued one ballot paper whereas those registered for both the GC and FC will be issued two, one for the GC and one for the FC.

"If an elector is eligible for two votes, the polling staff will inform him of the FC in which he is registered to vote," the spokesman said.

A white cardboard will be issued to electors who have received only one ballot paper and a red cardboard will be issued to those who have received two.

This arrangement is to ensure that no ballot paper will be taken out of the polling station.

The spokesman reminded electors that they should mark a "tick" sign in the circle space opposite the name of the candidate for whom he wished to vote.

For the Labour FC, which has two vacancies to fill, two "ticks" may be marked against two candidates' names of the elector's choice.

The elector should then fold the ballot paper(s) to conceal the mark and come out of the polling booth.

The folded ballot paper(s) should then be put into the ballot box in the presence of the polling staff, the white GC ballot paper into the white ballot box, the coloured FC ballot paper into the red ballot box.

The elector should then return the cardboard to the polling staff and leave the polling station.

A total of 32 specified polling stations will be open for the physically handicapped electors who need to go to an accessible polling station to vote. These stations are part of the 204 polling stations accessible to the physically handicapped electors.

A total of 129 candidates will vie for 51 seats. Nine candidates were elected uncontested.

Tomorrow, the three members of the Boundary and Election Commission (BEC) will visit polling stations throughout the territory to supervise the conduct of the elections.

"It is the responsibility for the BEC to ensure that elections are to be conducted openly, honestly and fairly," the spokesman said.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Young people urged to become volunteers

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Young people in Hong Kong are urged to contribute back to the society by becoming volunteers.

Speaking at the 24th anniversary ball of the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps yesterday (Friday) evening, the Director of Social Welfare, Mr Ian Strachan, said volunteering was an important means through which young people could express their concerns and be involved in making Hong Kong a better place.

"Young people are the future of Hong Kong. As Hong Kong enters a period of significant transition, it is particularly important that young people are given the support and opportunities to prepare them to be responsible members of society.

"Government's resources are being invested to meet our young people's needs and aspirations," Mr Strachan added.

He praised the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps for contributing towards the healthy development of young people, particularly in developing discipline, sense of responsibility, self-respect and commitment to serve the community.

On volunteering programmes in the Social Welfare Department, Mr Strachan said his department had been organising the Opportunities for Youth Scheme for 20 years.

"The objectives of the Scheme are to provide opportunities and funds for young people to realise their planned projects which are conducive to their personal and social development and to benefit the community.

"Every year we present awards to outstanding volunteers. The department also started two years ago an Overseas Exchange Programme for Outstanding Youth Volunteers," Mr Strachan said.

He said 14 local youth volunteers selected for their remarkable volunteering efforts would represent Hong Kong on an exchange tour to Singapore and Malaysia at the end of September to share their experiences with their overseas counterparts.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Automatic answering system for airport enquiries

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To further improve customers services, starting from Monday (September 18), the Hong Kong International Airport will use an automatic system to answer telephone enquiries.

The new system not only can give out information on flight movements and services available at the airport, it can also transfer calls automatically to the airlines and organisations concerned.

Keeping the present telephone enquiry 2769 7531, the new system consists of six auto-hunting lines and can be accessed through tone dialling telephones. It can provide information either in English, Chinese or Putonghua.

The facility will be implemented into two stages.

At the initial stage, the system will provide information concerning airlines, airport facilities, airport concessionaires and other government departments at the airport.

Information on flight movements and check-in areas will be provided in the second stage, which is expected to be ready by early next year. However, prior to the completion of work, such enquiries can also be automatically transferred to the airlines concerned.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

CED vital to HK's economy: Governor

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The Customs and Excise Department helps to win for Hong Kong the reputation of honouring international trading obligations and fulfilling its commitments on the protection of intellectual property, the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, said.

"This is of vital importance for the health of Hong Kong's community and for the lasting well being of our economy," he stressed.

Speaking at the passing-out parade of Nos 60 and 61 Inspector Induction Course and Nos 216-220 Customs Officer Induction Course this (Saturday) morning, Mr Patten said custom officers worked to defend Hong Kong's interests.

They help to protect the public from narcotics, to safeguard community revenues and to protect consumers' rights.

The Governor expressed hopes that they could maintain Hong Kong's reputation and serve the community with discipline and integrity.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

The weather of August

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August was extremely wet. The total rainfall of 1,090.1 millimetres was the highest for the month of August and the third highest for any month since records began in Hong Kong in 1884. The month was unusually cloudy with total bright sunshine averaging at 4.5 hours per day.

There were seven days with rainfall over 50 millimetres. Torrential rain fell on August 12 to 14 when 448.3 millimetres were recorded at the Royal Observatory.

With monthly rainfall of about two point eight times the August normal of 391.4 millimetres, accumulated rainfall over the first eight months of 1995 amounted to 2,186.4 millimetres which was 28 per cent above the normal for the same period.

The August rain was mostly brought about by active southwesterlies in the wake of Severe Tropical Storm Gary which made landfall near Shantou at the end of July, and by the passages of Severe Tropical Storm Helen, Severe Tropical Storm Lois and Typhoon Kent during August. It was also the first August since 1946 when the No 8 Gale or Storm Signal had to be hoisted twice within the month.

Under the influence of an unstable southwesterlies in the wake of Severe Tropical Storm Gary, the first two days of the month were cloudy with heavy showers. Torrential rain and thunderstorms affected Hong Kong on August 3.

Between 150 and 300 millimetres were recorded in most parts of the territory and more than 30 reports of flooding and 17 landslips were received. The weather remained unsettled with heavy thundery showers until August 6 and 7 when rain eased off.

With the establishment of a ridge of high pressure over the south China coast, local weather turned generally fine from August 8 to 10.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Helen entered the South China Sea and caused local winds to strengthen and weather to deteriorate on August 11. As Helen, now a severe tropical storm, approached Hong Kong, stormy weather set in the next day.

Gale force winds and torrential rain battered the territory and necessitated the hoisting of No 8 Gale or Storm Signal. Daily rainfall of 242.4 millimetres was recorded at the Royal Observatory. More than 30 persons were injured in storm-related incidents.

Although Helen made landfall over Guangdong on August 12, its fury still affected the coastal areas of Guangdong the following day. Locally, around 60 cases of landslips reports were received.

Among the many reported landslides, the two most disastrous were the one at Chai Wan where a teenager was crushed to death by a wall of rocks and mud, and the other at Nam Long Shan where boat yards were buried under thousand tonnes of mud killing two persons and injuring four.

Widespread heavy rain and thunderstorms continued to affect the territory on August 14. A Thai International flight encountered turbulence on the approach to the Hong Kong International Airport. Forty-seven passengers and crew were hospitalised. Temperatures were lowered to the month's minimum of 23.1 degrees during a heavy downpour that afternoon.

Weather started to improve on August 15 and a generally fine spell lasted until August 23. Heavy showers and thunderstorms developed over Guangdong and drifted south across the territory in the afternoon of August 24. One person in Discovery Bay was reportedly killed by lightning.

It was fine and very hot on August 25 with the month's highest temperature of 33.9 degrees reached that afternoon. There were frequent showers the next day but also sunny periods.

The extensive circulation of Severe Tropical Storm Lois brought rain and squalls to Hong Kong on August 27. Rain began to ease off in the afternoon of August 28 and the weather became fine apart from brief showers the next day.

Local weather was fine with long periods of sunshine on August 30. At the same time, Typhoon Kent was moving quickly towards the coast of Guangdong.

It brought stormy weather to Hong Kong the next day when over a hundred millimetres of rainfall was recorded. The No 8 Gale or Storm Signal had to be hoisted and five people were injured in floods, landslides and traffic accidents.

There were seven tropical cyclones over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month of August. Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of August are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in August 1995

Warnings / Signals		Effective date and time

Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals		
Name of T C	Signal No	
Helen	1	9 Aug 1600 - 11 Aug 0545
	3	11 Aug 0545 - 11 Aug 2230
	8 NE	11 Aug 2230 - 12 Aug 0430
	8 NW	12 Aug 0430 - 12 Aug 0945
	8 SW	12 Aug 0945 - 12 Aug 1415
	3	12 Aug 1415 - 12 Aug 1730
Irving	1	18 Aug 1230 - 19 Aug 2345
Lois	1	27 Aug 1315 - 28 Aug 0935
Kent	1	30 Aug 1200 - 31 Aug 0400
	3	31 Aug 0400 - 31 Aug 1300
	8 NW	31 Aug 1300 - 31 Aug 1645
	8 SW	31 Aug 1645 - 31 Aug 2100
	3	31 Aug 2100 - 1 Sep 0015

Rainstorm Warnings		
Red		12 Aug 1710 - 12 Aug 1830
Red		13 Aug 0030 - 13 Aug 0400

Landslip Warnings

3 Aug 1130 - 6 Aug 0900
12 Aug 0800 - 15 Aug 1445
31 Aug 1800 - 1 Sep 1630

Flood Warnings

3 Aug 0005 - 3 Aug 2100
5 Aug 0825 - 5 Aug 1145
12 Aug 0445 - 12 Aug 1830
12 Aug 2350 - 13 Aug 0630
13 Aug 0850 - 13 Aug 1200
14 Aug 0150 - 14 Aug 1035
14 Aug 1230 - 15 Aug 0615
24 Aug 1320 - 24 Aug 1530
25 Aug 1725 - 25 Aug 1845
26 Aug 2130 - 27 Aug 0130
31 Aug 1630 - 1 Sep 0200

Thunderstorm Warnings

31 Jul 2300 - 1 Aug 0800
1 Aug 1215 - 1 Aug 1315
2 Aug 0915 - 2 Aug 1215
2 Aug 2215 - 3 Aug 0615
3 Aug 0645 - 4 Aug 0600
4 Aug 0940 - 4 Aug 1640
4 Aug 2330 - 5 Aug 1230
5 Aug 1420 - 5 Aug 1620
7 Aug 1100 - 7 Aug 1500
12 Aug 1640 - 13 Aug 0600
13 Aug 0830 - 13 Aug 1400
14 Aug 0000 - 14 Aug 1700
14 Aug 2200 - 15 Aug 0600
24 Aug 1315 - 24 Aug 1615
24 Aug 1745 - 24 Aug 1945
25 Aug 1410 - 25 Aug 2000
26 Aug 2120 - 27 Aug 0800
31 Aug 1645 - 31 Aug 1945
31 Aug 2200 - 1 Sep 0800

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - August 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	139.2 hours; 67.8 hours below normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	12.77 MJ/SQM; 4.84 MJ/SQM below normal
Total Rainfall	1090.1 mm; 698.7 mm above normal
Mean Cloud Amount	78%; 12% above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	86%; 5% above normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	29.9 Degree Celsius; below normal
Mean Air Temperature	27.4 Degree Celsius; 1.0 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	25.3 Degree Celsius; 1.0 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Dew Point	24.7 Degree Celsius; 0.1 Degree Celsius below normal
Total Evaporation	106.0 mm ; 50.9 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Education Sunday to mark new school year

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Special church services to mark the start of the new school year will be held tomorrow (September 17) which has been designated Education Sunday.

An Education Department spokesman said teachers and students are welcome to attend the services at the following churches:

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|--|-------------------|----------|
| * Catholic Cathedral,
16 Caine Road, Hong Kong. | (Chinese Service) | 11 am |
| * St John's Cathedral,
Garden Road, Hong Kong. | (English Service) | 11.30 am |
| * St Teresa's Church,
258 Prince Edward Road,
Kowloon Tong, Kowloon. | (English Service) | 11.15 am |
| * Holy Trinity Church,
135 Ma Tau Chung Road,
Kowloon City, Kowloon. | (Chinese Service) | 11 am |

Attending the service will be the Director of Education, Mr W K Lam (Catholic Cathedral); the Deputy Director of Education, Miss Elaine Chung (St John's Cathedral); Assistant Director of Education, Mr Kwan Shu-tsun (St Teresa's Church); and Assistant Director of Education, Mr David Pun (Holy Trinity Church).

End/Saturday, September 16, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$ million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,176	09:30	-330
Closing balance in the account	1,741	10:00	-330
Change attributable to:		11:00	-330
Money market activity	-330	11:30	-330
LAF today	-105	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 123.5 *+0.3* 16.9.95

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