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FOOTBRIDGE TO LINK RAILWAY STATIONS

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A DOUBLE-DECK FOOTBRIDGE IS BEING BUILT ACROSS THE SHAM CHUN RIVER TO LINK SHAM CHUN AND LO WU RAILWAY STATIONS, AS A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS.

THIRTY-FIVE METRES OF THE 61-METRE LONG BRIDGE WILL BE BUILT BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THE REMAINING PART, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL COLUMNS, IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

A $24.7-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE HONG KONG SECTION HAS BEEN AWARDED TO GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED BY THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

WORK STARTED LAST WEEK AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN 10 MONTHS.

THE CONTRACT INCLUDES PROVIDING THE FOUNDATIONS AND STRUCTURAL STEEL FRAME FOR THE NEW RAILWAY STATION TO BE BUILT AT LO WU.

THIS IS BEING DESIGNED AND WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE 5 000 PASSENGERS AN HOUR.

IT WILL INCLUDE A COMPLEX PROVIDING OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE POLICE AND THE IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENTS, AN ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE HALL, A CANTEEN AND VEHICLE HOLDING AREAS.

WORK ON BUILDING THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THE STATION IS SCHEDULED TO START NEXT YEAR AND IT IS DUE TO OPEN IN 1987.

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TUNNEL TICKETS FOR DISABLED DRIVERS

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DISABLED DRIVERS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXEMPTED FROM VEHICLE LICENCE FEES SHOULD OBTAIN PRE-PAID TICKETS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO BE EXEMPTED FROM CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TAX WHICH COMES INTO FORCE ON JUNE 1.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (LICENSING) OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR COLIN PRISTON SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT EXEMPTION WOULD ONLY BE GIVEN IN THE FORM OF BOOKS OF 10 TICKETS WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICE AT 2 MURRAY ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG AT $50 PER BOOK.

MR PRISTON EMPHASISED THAT EXEMPTION WOULD ONLY BE BY TICKET AND DRIVERS PRESENTING CASH AT THE TOLL-BOOTHS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE FULL AMOUNT.

/SUPPLIES OF .....

SUPPLIES OF TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 30.

THE DISABLED DRIVERS OR THEIR AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD PRESENT TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXEMPTION LETTER AND I.D. CARD IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE TICKETS, WHICH WILL BE OVERSTAMPED WITH THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE VEHICLE INVOLVED.

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YOUNG SCIENCE FICTION CONTEST WINNERS PRAISED

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WINNERS OF A RECENT SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE FICTION WRITING COMPETITION WERE TODAY PRAISED FOR THE LEVEL OF CREATIVITY AND QUALITY OF THEIR WORK.

+SHORT STORY WRITING IS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT ART,+ THE SCHOOL CHILDREN, RANGING IN AGE FROM 15 TO 20, WERE TOLD BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR JOHN WINFIELD.

MR WINFIELD, WHO IS ALSO CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, WAS OFFICIATING THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE +SCIENCE FICTION WRITING COMPETITION 1984+, ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION, UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE SHELL COMPANY OF HONG KONG LIMITED.

MR WINFIELD SAID THE INTEGRATION OF SCIENCE AND FICTION WAS NOT EASY - +FOR THERE IS ALWAYS THE HIGH PROBABILITY THAT THE ONE WILL BE IMPOSED UPON THE OTHER SO THAT THE END PRODUCT IS NEITHER SCIENCE NOR FICTION.+

THE WINNING ENTRIES, HE SAID, SHOWED THAT +THEIR AUTHORS WERE WELL AWARE, PERHAPS INSTINCTIVELY, OF SUCH DIFFICULTIES.+

SPEAKING OF SHORT STORY WRITING, MR WINFIELD SAID: +IT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF CREATIVE DISCIPLINE, EXPRESSING ITSELF IN SUCH QUALITIES AS AN ABILITY TO ESTABLISH A DISTINCTIVE THEME AND MOOD IN A FEW PAGES, AN ECONOMY OF THOUGHT AND OF WORDS, AN EAR FOR THE INNER RHYTHMS OF THE LANGUAGE, AND A SHARP SENSE OF TIMING AND APPROPRIATE PACING.+

MR WINFIELD SAID PEOPLE WHO HAD READ THE WINNING ENTRIES MUST HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE LEVEL OF CREATIVITY AND QUALITY OF THE WRITING.

HE ALSO SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE WINNING ENTRIES WERE TO BE PRINTED IN BOOKLET FORM, AND THAT FREE COPIES WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY TO SCHOOLS.

SIXTY CHILDREN FROM 32 SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE COMPETITION.

MR WINFIELD CONGRATULATED THE EIGHT WINNERS, ESPECIALLY WINNERS OF THE FIRST THREE PRIZES WHO WOULD BE LEAVING FOR SINGAPORE TO TAKE PART IN THE SINGAPORE YOUTH SCIENCE FORTNIGHT 1984.

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FIGHT CRIME GROUP SEES PRISONS WORK

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THIRTY MEMBERS OF THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE VISITED THREE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT INSTITUTIONS IN STANLEY TODAY (MONDAY) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE PARTY TOGETHER WITH DISTRICT OFFICER, MR IAN WOTHERSPOON, FIRST WENT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE AND SAW VARIOUS MODERN TRAINING FACILITIES.

THEY THEN WENT TO THE NEARBY MAXIMUM SECURITY STANLEY PRISON, WHERE THEY TOURED THE CELLS, AND HOSPITAL AND SAW PRISONERS AT WORK IN THE PRINTING, ENVELOPE MAKING, SHOE MAKING, CARPENTRY, GARMENT MAKING, RADIO AND TELEVISION REPAIRING, AND SILK-SCREENING WORKSHOPS.

THE GROUP LATER VISITED THE ADJACENT TUNG TAU CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, AND LOOKED OVER ITS DORMITORIES, CHAPEL, LIBRARY, KITCHEN, DINING HALL AND WORKSHOPS.

AFTER THE VISITS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MR CHEUNG KUEN, PRESENTED A PENNANT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR THOMAS GARNER, IN APPRECIATION OF THE GOOD WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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DB TO DISCUSS WORKS PROGRAMME

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE 1983 DISTRICT WORKS PROGRAMME WHICH SETS OUT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR THE DISTRICT IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO COMMENT ON THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT.

A SUMMARY OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE 1983 TAXI REVIEW AND THE PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING FOR FURTHER COMMENT.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON REPROVISIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR STREET TRADERS INVOLVED IN THE WANG TAU HOM CENTRAL ROAD CLEARANCE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE CLEARANCE OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN FU MEI STREET WEST, CONVERSION OF CROWN LAND LICENCES TO SHORT-TERM TENANCIES AND LIAISON WORK PLAN OF THE ICAC MEI TUNG OFFICE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM IN THE FUNG MING HALL, WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE TOMORROW (TUESDAY). MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE MEETING.

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$2.4M SPENT ON IMPROVING ESTATES ENVIRONMENT

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WORKS TOTALLING $2.4 MILLION ARE NEARING COMPLETION TO GIVE FOUR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES A GREENER LOOK AND TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

ADDITIONAL OPEN SPACE IS BEING LANDSCAPED INTO LARGE REST GARDENS OR SITTING-OUT AREAS AT LOK FU, LOWER NGAU TAU KOK (I) AND (II), AND VALLEY ROAD ESTATES.

+THESE PROJECTS ARE PART OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT'S ON-GOING PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR ESTATE TENANTS,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY.

HE SAID WORKS INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF TRELLIS, FLOWER BEDS, FLOWER AND PLANTS, AS WELL AS BENCHES.

+IN ADDITION, NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT ITEMS ARE BEING INSTALLED AS EXTRA RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AMONG THE TENANTS.

+ALL THESE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.+

AT VALLEY ROAD ESTATE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROJECT FEATURED THE USE OF BASSER BLOCKS FOR THE GROUND TO CREATE PLEASANT-LOOKING PATTERNS.

+IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST ESTATES TO TRY OUT THE NEW DESIGN WHICH WILL BE EXTENDED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR OTHER ESTATES IF IT PROVES WELCOMED BY TENANTS.+

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NEW MARKET FOR KWU TUNG

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WORK ON BUILDING A TWO-STOREY MARKET AT KWU TUNG, NEAR SHEUNG SHUI, STARTED LAST WEEK.

THE MARKET WILL ACCOMMODATE LOCAL SHOP OPERATORS WHOSE PREMISES ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE WAY FOR IMPROVEMENT WORK TO THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU AND FAN KAM.

IT IS BEING BUILT ON A 5 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE NEAR OI WAH SCHOOL, AND WILL HAVE 14 SHOPS, 12 COOKED FOOD STALLS AND 71 STALLS FOR RETAILING MEAT, FISH, POULTRY, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND DRY GOODS.

AN ICE STORE, OFFICES, GOODS LIFTS, GOODS LOADING AND UNLOADING AREAS AND PUBLIC TOILETS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT IS CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE-STOREY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, A TRANSFORMER ROOM AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN ONE YEAR.

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USE OF TYRES EXPLAINED

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IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE MIXED USE OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF TYRES, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED TODAY THAT UNDER THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES) REGULATIONS COMING INTO FORCE IN LATE AUGUST THIS YEAR, RADIAL TYRES MUST NOT BE FITTED IN THE FRONT AXLE WHEN CROSS-PLY TYRES ARE USED IN THE REAR AXLE.

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STREET SECTION TO BE RESUMED FOR REPAIRS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME A 50-METRE LONG SECTION OF SAM PAN STREET, WAN CHAI, BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH.

A NOTICE OF THE RESUMPTION HAS APPEARED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE SITE.

ANYONE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE SHOULD SUBMIT A CLAIM IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS.

A PLAN CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

* CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;

* DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG NORTH, 12TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG; AND

* WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, HONG KONG.

THE RESUMPTION IS PART OF A PILOT SCHEME TO REPAIR STREETS IN PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL AREAS. SEVEN STREETS NOW UNDER MULTIPLE SUB-DIVIDED OWNERSHIP ARE INVOLVED.

THE LACK OF PROPER MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THESE STREETS HAS GIVEN RISE TO ENVIRONMENTAL, TRAFFIC AND SAFETY PROBLEMS.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD BE RESUMING COMFORT TERRACE AND YUET YUEN STREET IN NORTH POINT AND WOULD SPEND $320 000 ON REPAIRING THEM.

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SALT WATER TAPS OFF IN THREE AREAS

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME AREAS IN TSUEN WAN, NORTH POINT AND CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

IN TSUEN WAN, THE SUSPENSION OF SALT WATER WILL BE FROM 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 23) TO 10 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY TAI HO ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD, TSO KUNG STREET, TAI CHUNG ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, ROUTE TWISK AND STRETCHING WESTWARD ALONG THE CATCHWATER TO PUN SHAN TSUEN AND SOUTHWARD ACROSS TUEN MUN ROAD TO FAT YIP LANE.

THE SUPPLY TO NORTH POINT AND CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON THURSDAY (MAY 24).

AFFECTED WILL BE THE WHOLE AREA OF NORTH POINT AND PREMISES EAST OF VICTORIA PARK IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

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WATER FIGURES

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 68.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 403.125 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 451.347 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 77.0 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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