



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Transcript of the acting Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan's media session after visiting the Labour Department today (Thursday):

Acting Governor: This afternoon I have an opportunity to see various services that the Labour Department provide, in particular, to see the services that were getting to employers and employees in terms of enabling employers to find workers for vacancies and to enable employees to find work that suit their particular skills and aptitude. As you know, our approach is three-pronged. First of all we hope to step up enforcement action against abusers of the labour importation scheme and illegal employment of illegal workers. Secondly, we are stepping up job-matching because there is a particular problem in terms of job-mismatch. since April this year, we have established a job matching service and I am very glad to note that since the service was established, 2,000 workers have registered. The success rate in terms of placement, including those who have been offered jobs but have declined jobs, are about 44 per cent. So, it's a very encouraging start and we obviously hope to continue to make good progress on this front. At the same time we are also stepping up re-training of workers so that we put displaced workers or those who are currently out of jobs, equip them with new skills so that they can find jobs more easily.

Question: With all these measures being carried out, do you expect the unemployment rate can be reduced in the near future?

Acting Governor: We certainly hope that these efforts will produce some results. I know and I understand that there is a general concern about the increase in the unemployment rate. But as the Financial Secretary pointed out yesterday, I think we need to view this in perspective. There is no doubt that there is an increase in the unemployment rate. But at the same time there is also an increase in job vacancies. we have currently some 60,000 job vacancies. The Labour Department and other Government departments and branches will do their utmost to help workers find work. But also to help employers find suitable workers.

End/Thursday, August 10, 1995

Minister to visit Far East

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The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hanley, is to visit several countries within his area of responsibility from August 30 to September 18.

The purpose of the trip is primarily familiarisation, though the Minister will also attend the South Pacific post-Forum Dialogue in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Hanley's itinerary is as follows: the Republic of Korea (August 30 - September 1), Hong Kong (September 2-6), Singapore (September 6-9), Australia (September 10-15) and Papua New Guinea (September 15-18). Final programme details remain to be confirmed.

The Minister's visit to Hong Kong is to familiarise himself with the territory and its people. He will see as much of Hong Kong as he can and meet a broad range of officials, community leaders and business representatives.

He will have meetings with the Governor and will also see representatives of the Executive Council.

Attention News Editors:

Mr Hanley will arrive in Hong Kong from Seoul at 8.30 pm on September 1 on flight CX441. The press are invited to be present.

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Transfer of VMs from Whitehead Detention Centre completed

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The operation by Correctional Services Department (CSD) officers to remove the 25 remaining VMs was completed smoothly at 1.25 pm this (Thursday) afternoon.

The officers moved into the Voluntary Repatriation Centre at 11.50 am when the VMs refused to present themselves for transfer to Victoria Prison after repeated counselling.

Some of the VMs climbed onto rooftops and lamp posts but they came down by themselves after persuasion. No force was used and the police were only on stand-by during the operation.

Seven CSD officers, including a temporary Vietnamese interpreter, and one VM, had sustained minor injuries during the course of the operation when the VM on board a vehicle leaving for Victoria Prison suddenly turned violent and started rushing towards the rear exit of the vehicle.

The acting Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Gordon Leung, said the group of 82 VMs involved in today's transfer exercise had withdrawn from the UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Programme and had refused to re-join the Programme.

"The Government remains determined as ever to resolve the VM problem as soon as possible," he stressed.

"The future of the VMs is in Vietnam," he added.

Today's operation was monitored by representatives of non-government organisations and non-official Justices of the Peace.

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Director of Buildings reviews air-coolers case

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The Director of Buildings, Mrs Helen Yu, said today (Thursday) that she had been examining the case of the two air-coolers erected on the roof of Tak Yan House in Tsuen Wan and was seeking further information to consider what action would be appropriate.

In response to a petition by the Old District Rooftop Residents' Concern Group, she said: "Where there is a case and we are ready, we will take action. The illegal structures re-erected on Cheuk Ming House in the same area are a case in point.

"We do not need petitions to prompt us into action. However, we do welcome reports from the public. They are a good source of information to help stop new illegal structures.

"As regards the air-coolers on the roof of Tak Yan House, when all necessary information is available, I will be able to decide what to do and I will tell all concerned."

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Tsing Ma Bridge project on target

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Construction of the Tsing Ma Bridge is on target for completion by May 1997 with the erection of the steel units for the main span now underway.

The bridge is a key part of the Airport Core Programme transport network that will serve the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

"This represents the start of a major new phase in the construction of the bridge," Project Director of the Lantau Fixed Crossing Project Management Office of the Highways Department, Mr K C Yeung, said today (Thursday).

The first two 500-tonne deck units are now in position in the centre of the main span of the bridge. Joined together as one section, they were lifted into position yesterday evening and the final connection to the suspender ropes was completed this morning.

Hydraulic jacks mounted on a gantry lifted the units from a specially built barge and the units were then connected to suspender ropes hanging from the main suspension cables.

"In the coming months, the bridge's main span will be constructed section by section, some 62 metres above the Ma Wan Channel," said Mr Yeung.

Erection will continue from the middle of the bridge towards the two support towers, using four gantries, and the exercise is expected to take about six months to complete.

Each unit will weigh up to 500 tonnes, equivalent to the weight of 20 double-decker buses. Most of the units will be lifted in pairs.

When the job is completed, the structural steel in the deck of the 2.2-kilometre long bridge will weigh about 50,000 tonnes.

Mr Yeung said during the lifting operation, part of the Ma Wan Channel would have to be closed for on average two days each week.

"The Highways Department is liaising closely with the contractor, the Marine Department and the Marine Police to minimise the effect on marine traffic," he said.

Commencement of deck erection is another milestone in the construction of the bridge linking Tsing Yi and Ma Wan Islands. It follows the completion of the two 206-metre high concrete towers in 1993 and the completion of the suspension cables earlier this year.

The Tsing Ma Bridge, the major bridge in the Lantau Fixed Crossing and one of the 10 projects in the Airport Core Programme, will carry six lanes of traffic on its upper deck and two railway tracks, and two road lanes for emergency use, on its sheltered lower deck. It will be the longest suspension bridge in the world carrying both roads and a railway.

The bridge is being built by the Anglo Japanese Construction Joint Venture under a \$7.2 billion construction contract awarded by the Highways Department in May 1992.

Work is also progressing well on the other bridge in the Lantau Fixed Crossing, the cable-stayed Kap Shui Mun Bridge, which, together with the Ma Wan Viaduct, will connect Ma Wan and Lantau Islands.

Construction of the main span of the Kap Shui Mun Bridge began in May this year and nine deck sections have been erected so far.

"Overall, 67 per cent of the work for the Lantau Fixed Crossing has been completed and the Crossing is on target for completion in mid-1997," added Mr Yeung.

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Transfer of VMs from Whitehead to Victoria Prison

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A government spokesman announced that an exercise to transfer about 80 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) from the Whitehead Voluntary Repatriation Centre to Victoria Prison would take place today (Thursday).

This batch of VMs had earlier applied to join UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Programme but have subsequently withdrawn from the programme. They were urged to re-join the programme last month but refused to do so.

"Now that they refuse to go back to Vietnam under the Voluntary Repatriation Programme and since they have all been cleared for return under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP), they will be transferred to Victoria Prison pending their repatriation under ORP on August 15," the spokesman said.

The transfer will, as before, be observed by independent monitors.

End/Thursday, August 10, 1995

"Labour Day" for acting Governor

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The acting Governor, Mrs Anson Chan, today (Thursday) visited the Labour Department Headquarters and its Local Employment Service (LES) Office in Wan Chai.

She was briefed on the work of the department by the Commissioner for Labour, Mr Stephen Ip; Deputy Commissioner, Mr Yiu Yan-nang; and Assistant Commissioners, Mrs Angela Ho, Mr Mak Sai-yiu, Mr James Yeung and Mr William Siu.

During her tour to the Labour Inspection Division, Mrs Chan was told that the division's main responsibility was to inspect workplaces to ensure that regulations on hours of work as well as legislative provisions on terms and conditions of employment of local and imported workers were complied with.

She listened to pre-recorded information on labour legislation provided by the General Enquiry Telephone Service which handled some 1.5 million enquiries a year. The enquiry service recently introduced Putonghua as a new language option in addition to Cantonese and English.

Mrs Chan also called on the Factory Inspectorate Division's (FID) Industrial Safety Training Centre where safety equipment and other exhibits on industrial safety were on display. She then visited some classrooms where training courses on safety legislation and safety talks were held from time to time.

Apart from providing training and advice to industry, Mrs Chan was informed of the measures taken by FID to promote the health and safety of workers at work. It played an important role in inspecting industrial workplaces and advising the management of establishments on the means to provide a safer and healthier working environment.

At the Selective Placement Division (SPD), Mrs Chan saw disabled persons undergo vocational assessment by means of a modern computerised assessment system and other conventional equipment.

She learned that the division's Promotion and Publicity Unit organised regular promotional activities to enhance public understanding of the disabled and increase their employment opportunities.

These activities include exhibitions, seminars, presentation ceremonies to commend outstanding employers and disabled employees, targeted campaigns to canvass vacancies as well as television and radio programmes.

As regards the Employment Services Division, Mrs Chan was told that the division's nine LES Offices were offering two modes of placement service for job-seekers.

Most job-seekers would use the self-help service where they pick their own choice of jobs from the vacancies available and LES staff would refer them to job interviews.

Unemployed persons aged 30 or above can join the Job Matching Programme which provides a personal service of in-depth interview, vocational counselling and job matching.

Since the programme was introduced in April, a total of 1,942 job-seekers had registered under the programme and 678 were placed in jobs. If the 175 job seekers who declined job offers were taken into account, the success rate of placement was about 44 per cent.

Mrs Chan was told that a Central Promotion Office on Employment was formed to focus promotional efforts on enhancing employment services for the disadvantaged groups including the unemployed and the disabled.

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Exhibition on drainage services opens today

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A roving exhibition on the work and services of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) begins today (Thursday) at the Ocean Terminal Main Concourse.

Organised by the DSD, the exhibition will continue at the Ocean Terminal tomorrow before moving to other popular shopping arcades during the next two months.

Carrying the theme "Serving the Community", the exhibition introduces the work of the various branches of DSD and the services provided by the department for the public, by means of photographs, charts, diagrams, models and a video wall of 16 television sets.

Sewage treatment projects, such as Stage I of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme, Sewerage Master Plan and the Sewage Charging Scheme are on display.

Also featuring at the exhibition are the flood control projects undertaken by the department in the New Territories, including the Shenzhen River Regulation project, as well as the Land Drainage Ordinance.

Visitors to the exhibition were able to get a better idea of sewage collection and the operation of a typical sewage screening plant. They also participated at a game stall at the venue, with some winning souvenirs.

The exhibition will continue from 10 am to 7 pm tomorrow before carrying on at Shun Tak Shopping Mall in Sheung Wan on Saturday and Sunday (August 12 and 13).

It will also be mounted at the following dates and venues:

Venue	Date
Tuen Mun Town Plaza	August 19 and 20
New Town Plaza	September 9 and 10
Cityplaza	September 16 and 17
Dragon Centre	September 23 and 24
Metroplaza	September 30 and October 1
Telford Gardens	October 5 and 6

End/Thursday, August 10, 1995

Seven more nominations of LegCo candidates

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Seven nominations of candidates for the Legislative Council Elections in September were received today (Thursday).

They were Mr Fan Kwok-wah for the Community, Social and Personal Services Functional Constituency; Mr Yap Alfred Donald for the Legal Functional Constituency; Mr Chu Yu-lin and Mr Yum Sin-ling for the Election Committee Constituency; Mr Law Yuk-kai for the New territories North East Constituency; Ms Wong Yin-ping for the Kowloon West Constituency and Mr Sit Ho-yin, Kingsley, for the Kowloon South West Constituency.

Their personal particulars are as follows:

Mr Fan Kwok-wah

Sex: M
Age: 34
Occupation: former civil servant
Telephone: (Day) 2636 7621
(Night) 2344 5676

Inc/Pol*: Nil

Mr Yap Alfred Donald

Sex: M
Age: 56
Occupation: solicitor
Telephone: (Day) 2523 5022
(Night) 2836 3001

Inc/Pol: Nil

Mr Chu Yu-lin

Sex: M
Age: 51
Occupation: executive director
Telephone: (Day) 2850 6565
(Night) 2812 0871

Inc/Pol: Nil/Liberal Democratic Federation of Hong Kong

Mr Yum Sin-ling

Sex: M
Age: 46
Occupation: consulting engineer
Telephone: (Day) 2797 9833
(Night) 1122580431/2337 8673

Inc/Pol.: District Board member (elected)/ 123 Democratic Alliance

Mr Law Yuk-kai

Sex: M
Age: 37
Occupation: project researcher (legal)
Telephone: (Day) 119298964/2691 4093
(Night) 119298964

Inc/Pol: Nil/United Ants

Ms Wong Yin-ping

Sex: F
Age: 33
Occupation: executive staff
Telephone: (Day) 2387 0444
(Night) 2387 0444

Inc/Pol: Nil/independent

Mr Sit Ho-yin, Kingsley

Sex: M
Age: 46
Occupation: surveyor
Telephone: (Day) 2523 2117
(Night) 1128052 (1359)

Inc/Pol: Nil/independent

*Inc - incumbent District Board/Council member
Pol - political affiliation

That brings the total number of nominations to 123 as at the close of nomination today.

End/Thursday, August 10, 1995

4,105 S6 places available after stage III

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Stage III of the Secondary 6 Admission Procedure ended at 3.30 pm today (Thursday) with 4,105 S6 places left over for students meeting the minimum A-level entry requirements to apply tomorrow in Stage IV.

A spokesman for the Education Department said at the end of stage III, a total of 19,416 S6 places have been filled including 2,463 places filled today by students satisfying the minimum A-level requirements.

A total of 23,521 S6 places are available in the 1995-96 school year for students to apply.

The spokesman reminded students wishing to secure an S6 place in the forthcoming school year that a list of schools with vacancies will be displayed at all district education offices throughout the territory from 9 am tomorrow when Stage IV begins.

Meanwhile, students may also obtain the list in some newspapers which will publish the list tomorrow.

Students satisfying the minimum entry requirements, including those prevocational schools, evening schools and private candidates, may apply to one or more of these schools before 1 pm tomorrow.

Schools may offer admission to students instantly and/or display a full list of successful applicants of this stage at 2.30 pm tomorrow. Successful candidates should register with the schools before 4.30 pm on the same day. The department has received one substantiated complaint today.

So far the department has received a total of nine complaints of which five were substantiated. These cases have been settled after investigations by the department.

Meanwhile, the Education Department's central hotline 2782 7511, 2782 7625 and 2782 7639-40 and the 19 district education offices have handled 636 enquiries on the admission procedures today.

The hotline will continue to operate from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm from Monday to Friday and from 9 am to noon on Saturday until August 18.

The department's Careers Education Centre has received 403 visitors and handled 275 telephone enquiries on matters related to the S6 admission procedures, further studies, locally or overseas, and careers by the time it closed at 5.30 pm today.

This brings to 1,139 the total number of people visited and 824 callers telephoned the centre since August 8.

The department's Psychological Services Section (tel 2712 7958 and 2714 7852) manned by education counsellors or educational psychologists have today received 79 calls from students and parents. Six of them needed counselling. This brings to 191 the total number of calls made to the section since August 8.

The Careers Education Centre at Room 206 of the Mong Kok Government Offices at 30 Luen Wan Street, Mong Kok, provides students with materials on opportunities for further studies, training and information on various professions.

The centre will extend its opening hours without a break from 8.45 am to 5.30 pm tomorrow.

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Talk on China's folk architecture

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Members of the public are invited to a talk on Chinese traditional buildings to be given by an leading overseas academic tomorrow (Friday) afternoon.

Professor Ronald Knapp, the Chairman of the Department of Geography of the State University of New York, will talk on China's folk architecture.

This is to complement the opening of the "Living Building" exhibition jointly presented by the Antiquities and Monuments Office and the Department of Architecture of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The talk, to be conducted in English, will be held from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm at the exhibition gallery of the Antiquities and Monuments Office, 136, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

For enquiries please call 2721 2326.

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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	1,703	0930	+596
Closing balance in the account	1,172	1000	+596
Change attributable to :		1100	+589
Money market activity	+104	1200	+589
LAF today	-635	1500	+389
		1600	+104

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 120.1 *+0.1* 10.8.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.35	2 years	2705	6.40	100.84	5.97
1 month	5.38	3 years	3807	6.16	99.41	6.48
3 months	5.44	5 years	5006	6.60	98.00	7.22
6 months	5.54	5 years	M501	7.90	101.40	7.68
12 months	5.65					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,493 million

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