



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1975

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TAKE CARE WHEN USING ROOM HEATERS

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WITH THE ARRIVAL OF COOLER, DRIER WEATHER, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE CAUTIOUS WHEN USING PORTABLE HEATERS IN THEIR HOMES AND PLACES OF WORK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THIS WAS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN KEROSENE AND ELECTRIC ROOM HEATERS CAME INTO WIDE USE AND WHEN FIRES WERE LIKELY TO OCCUR BECAUSE A FEW SIMPLE SAFETY RULES WERE OVERLOOKED.

+A COMMON CAUSE OF FIRES ARISING FROM THE USE OF ROOM HEATERS IS THROUGH PLACING THEM IN UNSUITABLE LOCATIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN STATED. THESE INCLUDES AREAS CLOSE TO INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS OR MATERIALS, OR WHERE CHILDREN PLAY.

+BEFORE TURNING ON ANY TYPE OF HEATER,+ HE SAID, +IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO WHICH IS THE SAFEST SPOT TO PUT IT. KEEP IT WELL AWAY FROM CURTAINS OR BEDDING MATERIALS AND ALSO MAKE SURE THAT IT IS NOT TOO CLOSE TO UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE. SATISFY YOURSELF FULLY THAT IT CANNOT BE KNOCKED OVER BY PLAYING CHILDREN OR ELDERLY PEOPLE.+

HE SAID A NUMBER OF KEROSENE HEATER FIRES WERE CAUSED BY FILLING OR MOVING THEM WHILE STILL BURNING OR OVERFILLING THEM. +THIS CAN BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS AND HAS RESULTED IN DEATHS AND INJURIES,+ HE STATED.

HE RECOMMENDED THAT IF POSSIBLE, ALL HEATERS SHOULD BE SCREWED TO THE FLOOR.

AS REGARDS ELECTRIC HEATERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THESE WERE SOMETIMES TURNED ON BLINDLY WITHOUT FIRST MAKING SURE THEY WERE WELL AWAY FROM COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS OR PRODUCTS. ALSO, WIRES WERE OFTEN PLUGGED INTO ADAPTORS OPERATING OTHER ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, RESULTING IN THE WIRING BECOMING OVERHEATED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED THAT BEFORE TURNING ON A ROOM HEATER FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS WINTER, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN A THOROUGH INSPECTION TO ENSURE THAT IT IS CLEAN AND THAT ANY PLUGS, LEADS OR WICKS ARE IN GOOD CONDITIONS. HE REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT DURING THE CURRENT DRY WEATHER, THERE IS A TWO TO FIVE-FOLD INCREASE IN THE CHANCES OF FIRE.

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TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON WILL BE SEEN IN HONG KONG DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 19) MORNING PROVIDED THAT WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE FAVOURABLE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT RESIDENTS IN HONG KONG WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE INITIAL PHASES OF THE ECLIPSE UNTIL SUNRISE ON THE SAME DAY.

+THE ECLIPSE IS BEST OBSERVED FROM HIGH GROUNDS WHERE THERE ARE NO OBSTRUCTIONS TO THE WEST,+ HE POINTED OUT.

DETAILS OF THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE LUNAR ECLIPSE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MOON ENTERS PENUMBRA	NOVEMBER 19	3.26 A.M.
MOON ENTERS UMBRA	NOVEMBER 19	4.39 A.M.
TOTAL ECLIPSE BEGINS	NOVEMBER 19	6.03 A.M.
MIDDLE OF THE ECLIPSE	NOVEMBER 19	6.23 A.M.
SUNRISE IN HONGKONG	NOVEMBER 19	6.38 A.M.

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BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

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FIFTY-FIVE BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE LAST MONTH -- ELEVEN MORE THAN IN SEPTEMBER.

OF THESE, 18 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 19 FOR KOWLOON AND 18 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE INCLUDED ONE FOR A NINE-STOREY LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECT IN TAI HANG SAI AND ONE FOR A SCHOOL ON LANTAU ISLAND. THE OTHER PLANS WERE MOSTLY FOR COMMERCIAL AND APARTMENT BLOCKS.

IN THE SAME MONTH, OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED TO 44 BUILDINGS. THE DECLARED VALUE OF THESE BUILDINGS AMOUNTED TO \$199 MILLION.

IN ADDITION, APPROVAL WAS GIVEN FOR 56 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS TO BEGIN WORK AND FOR 22 BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED.

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NEW CANTONESE TEXTBOOK

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VOLUME I OF THE TWO-VOLUME +ADVANCED CANTONESE+, THE LAST OF A TRILOGY OF CANTONESE TEXTBOOKS WRITTEN BY MR. SIDNEY LAU OF THE GOVERNMENT TRAINING DIVISION, IS NOW ON SALE AT \$40 A COPY. VOLUME II WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

IN THE TWO VOLUMES, THERE ARE SEVEN UNITS WITH 30 LESSONS. THE FOUR UNITS IN VOLUME I DEAL WITH THE SUBJECTS OF +CLOTHING+, +FOOD+, +HOUSING+ AND +TRAVEL+, AND THE THREE OTHER UNITS IN VOLUME II DISCUSS +ECONOMY+, +LAW AND ORDER+ AND +EDUCATION+.

THE +DIALOGUE+ OF EACH LESSON PROGRESSES ALONG THE LINES OF A SITUATION IN WHICH THE CANTONESE LANGUAGE CAN BE SEEN IN ACTION, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO EVERYDAY LIFE IN HONG KONG.

STUDENTS CAN TRY TO IMAGINE THEMSELVES AS NO LONGER IN THE CLASSROOM OR LANGUAGE LABORATORY STUDYING SYNTAX AND GRAMMAR, BUT RATHER AS MOVING FREELY AMONG THE RANK AND FILE OF LOCAL CANTONESE PEOPLE, OBSERVING THEIR REACTIONS IN TIMES OF ELATION OR DISAPPOINTMENT, AND SHARING SOME OF THEIR UNIQUE PROBLEMS.

+ADVANCED CANTONESE VOL. I+ HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED INTO NEW LANGUAGE COURSES, JUST AS THE AUTHOR'S ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE CANTONESE BOOKS HAVE FORMED THE BASIC MATERIAL FOR TRAINING COURSES ORGANISED IN THE GOVERNMENT TRAINING DIVISION.

THE BOOK CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, STAR FERRY CONCOURSE, AND AT LEADING BOOKSELLERS IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

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CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL ANNUAL SPORTS AND FETE DAY

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CASTLE PEAK HOSPITAL WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL SPORTS AND FETE DAY ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 20).

MORE THAN 1,000 PATIENTS, MEMBERS OF THE STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES AND VISITORS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE ONE-DAY EVENT, TO BE HELD IN THE SPORTS FIELD OF THE HOSPITAL BEGINNING AT 10 A.M.

THE MAIN ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A TUG-OF-WAR, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE AFTERNOON. MORE THAN 100 PATIENTS, DOCTORS, NURSES AND OTHER STAFF HAVE ENTERED FOR VARIOUS COMPETITIONS.

THE BAND OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE WILL PROVIDE MUSIC IN BETWEEN EVENTS FOR THE DAY, WHICH HAS SOCIAL AND THERAPEUTIC VALUE FOR THE PATIENTS FROM THE STAFF'S POINT OF VIEW.

DR. GERALD CHOA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, WILL DISTRIBUTE PRIZES TO WINNERS.

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RESERVOIRS 97 PER CENT FULL

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A TOTAL OF 65,536 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER WERE IN STORE IN ALL RESERVOIRS AS AT 9 A.M. THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, REPRESENTING 97.4 PER CENT OF THE FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS.

ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR THE TOTAL STORAGE WAS ONLY 54,513 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVER, HONG KONG'S BIGGEST RESERVOIR, HELD 50,005 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 99 PER CENT OF ITS FULL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, IT HELD 38,730 MILLION GALLONS.

TOTAL RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 2,977.1 MM (117.21 IN) THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL THIS YEAR IS 2,123.5 MM (83.6 IN).

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