



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1994

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SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1994

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CHIEF JUSTICE TAKES PRIDE IN LOCAL LEGAL SYSTEM

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IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM OCCUPIES THE PRIDE OF PLACE IN THE COMMON LAW WORLD, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, SAID THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE ADMISSION OF QUEEN'S COUNSEL CEREMONY, SIR TI LIANG SAID IT WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE QUALITY OF THE BAR, VIGILANTLY GUARDED AND ASSIDUOUSLY IMPROVED UPON OVER THE YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PAST 15 TO 20 YEARS.

"THE TRADITIONAL MUTUAL TRUST AND RESPECT BETWEEN BENCH AND BAR, SO NECESSARY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM, HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME, IN SPITE OF THE INEVITABLE VICISSITUDES WHICH OCCUR IN ANY HUMAN RELATIONSHIP," SIR TI LIANG SAID.

HE ADDED THAT WITHOUT FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE JUDGES AND PRACTISING LAWYERS, THE WHEEL OF JUSTICE COULD BUT BE RUN ON A ROUGH PASSAGE.

SIR TI LIANG ALSO NOTED THAT "THE HIGH STANDARD OF THE BAR, THE RULE OF LAW, THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BENCH AND BAR, ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF A HEALTHY LEGAL SYSTEM, ON WHICH OUR FUTURE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY DEPEND."

"IN THE LONG TERM, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE JUDICIARY AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, WILL CONTINUE ON THE SAME BASIC PRINCIPLES AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY.

"IT REMAINS FOR US TO PRESERVE AND DEVELOP THAT WHICH WE ALREADY POSSESS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO POSSESS," HE CONCLUDED.

THE CEREMONY WAS TO MARK THE APPOINTMENT OF FIVE QUEEN'S COUNSEL - MR ANTHONY R DICKS, MR WARREN CHAN CHEE-HOI, MR LAWRENCE LOK YING-KAM, MR MICHAEL V LUNN, AND MR NIGEL A C AIKEN. THEIR APPOINTMENTS TOOK EFFECT ON MARCH 30 THIS YEAR.

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CS SPEAKS TO MEDIA

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY MRS ANSON CHAN AFTER OPENING THE SHATIN HOSPITAL TODAY (SATURDAY):

QUESTION : COULD YOU REPEAT YOUR ANSWER (ON MFN STATUS) IN ENGLISH PLEASE ?

CS : I WAS SAYING THAT ON THE MFN ISSUE, AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN IN WASHINGTON TO LOBBY FOR UNCONDITIONAL EXTENSION OF THE MFN BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THAT WITHDRAWAL OF MFN WOULD DEAL AN ECONOMIC BODY BLOW, NOT ONLY TO CHINA, BUT WOULD ALSO AFFECT HONG KONG VERY SERIOUSLY AND IN TURN WOULD AFFECT STABILITY IN THE ENTIRE EAST ASIA REGION.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION : DO YOU THINK CHINA IS USING PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AS A KIND OF BARGAINING CHIP TO GET THE MFN STATUS ?

CS : I THINK THE CHINESE ARE WELL AWARE FROM THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AS TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN THE EXECUTIVE ORDER. AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAS TO CERTIFY COMPLIANCE WITH THE EXECUTIVE ORDER IN ORDER FOR EXTENSION OF MFN. THERE IS A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE GOING ON BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CHINESE OFFICIALS. I AM SURE THE CHINESE ARE WELL AWARE OF WHAT IS REQUIRED.

QUESTION : ARE YOU OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WOULD BE RENEWED ?

CS : I AM VERY GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT FORWARD HONG KONG'S CASE AND TO STATE OUR VIEWS ON UNCONDITIONAL EXTENSION OF MFN WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON. I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT HONG KONG'S CASE WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. I HAVE POINTED OUT THE CONSEQUENCES AND WE MUST NOW AWAIT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

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PUBLIC WORKS ROVING EXHIBITION OPENS

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THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, TODAY (SATURDAY) ASSURED THE PUBLIC THAT STAFF OF HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE DOING THEIR BEST TO MEET THE CHANGE THAT LIES AHEAD.

HE GAVE THE ASSURANCE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT THE LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE FOR A ROVING EXHIBITION WHICH MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLIC WORKS IN HONG KONG.

MR SIU SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE TERRITORY'S TRANSFORMATION FROM A FISHING VILLAGE 150 YEARS AGO INTO A HIGHLY MODERNISED CITY.

"I MYSELF, AND MY STAFF, ARE NOT COMPLACENT OF THIS. WE FULLY REALISE THAT THERE ARE MUCH MORE FOR US TO DO IN THE NEAR AND MORE DISTANT FUTURE," HE STRESSED.

EARLIER, MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT THE WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN OR BEING UNDERTAKEN IN VARIOUS FIELDS BY THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS UNDERLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING THE TERRITORY'S POSITION AS THE HUB OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC, AND TO MEET THE PUBLIC'S RISING ASPIRATIONS.

"THE PROJECTS ALSO SIGNIFY THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE GROWTH," HE SAID.

THE PROJECTS COVERED THE FIELDS OF RECREATION AND CULTURE; EDUCATION; MEDICAL SERVICES; CIVIL ENGINEERING; ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES; DRAINAGE SERVICES; TRANSPORT AND WATER SUPPLIES.

MR SIU NOTED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBITION WAS TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH A BETTER PICTURE OF WHAT THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS HAD BEEN DOING TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WILL CONTINUE AT LOK FU TOMORROW, AND AT POPULAR SHOPPING CENTRES AND AN MTR STATION OVER SEVEN WEEKENDS UNTIL AUGUST, IS ORGANISED BY THE WORKS BRANCH AND WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS.

VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE SHORT FILMS ON A FULL-SIZE VIDEO WALL ON HOW PUBLIC MONEY IS SPENT ON BUILDING MORE HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, PARKS, ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS.

THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO SEE IMPRESSIVE MODELS OF SOME OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING TSING MA BRIDGE, DEVELOPMENTS AT THE CENTRAL AND WANCHAI RECLAMATION, THE AWARD-WINNING KOWLOON WALLED CITY PARK, AND THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME IN MINIATURE WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED WHERE THE VENUE PERMITS.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO FEATURE DISPLAY PANELS CONTAINING CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WITH SHORT DESCRIPTIONS TO EXPLAIN THE MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKS BRANCH, THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATING OFFICE, AND SEVEN WORKS DEPARTMENTS - ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WERE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MISS ELAINE CHUNG; WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAN KAM-MAN, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ALDAN KWOK.

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LAW HELPS SETUP OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS
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THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE HAS ENABLED FLAT OWNERS TO SPEEDILY FORM OWNERS' CORPORATIONS (OC'S) TO OVERSEE THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR BUILDINGS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE "BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR - PERSPECTIVE AND PARTICIPATION", MISS CHOW SAID THE ORDINANCE ALSO STIPULATED CLEAR AND DETAILED PROVISIONS ABOUT THE COMPILATION OF EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS AND THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES, GOODS AND SERVICES.

SHE STRESSED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE A SOUND LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO ENABLE FLAT OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT COMPANY STAFF TO THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND THEIR DUTIES AND ROLES SO THAT THEY COULD MANAGE THEIR BUILDINGS EFFECTIVELY.

AS TO THE EXTENSION OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL'S JURISDICTION TO HANDLE DISPUTES ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT MATTERS, MISS CHOW EXPECTED THAT THIS WOULD TAKE EFFECT AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

"WE BELIEVE THIS CHANGE WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO GOOD MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS," SHE SAID.

IN ORDER TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE CONCEPT OF QUALITY BUILDING MANAGEMENT, MISS CHOW SAID THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) WOULD CONDUCT PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS AS WELL AS SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS AND TRAINING COURSES.

IN ADDITION, THE CNTA HAD PRODUCED A SERIES OF VIDEOS ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT, WHICH COULD BE BORROWED BY OWNERS' ORGANISATIONS FREE OF CHARGE FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, SHE ADDED.

MISS CHOW ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE SEMINAR TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS AND TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

THE SEMINAR, THE FIFTH IN A SERIES, WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CNTA AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

IT WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 300 BUILDING MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS, FLAT OWNERS AND MEMBERS OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND OWNERS' COMMITTEES.

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BOOKLETS ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT ON SALE

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BOOKLETS ON THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES AN OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR OWNERS' CORPORATIONS (OC'S) AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT STAFF ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

AT \$30 EACH, THEY ARE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, AFTER EXTENSIVE AMENDMENTS IN MAY LAST YEAR, HAS CHANGED ITS TITLE TO THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE TO REFLECT ITS PURPOSES AND APPLICATION.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE ORDINANCE INCLUDE FACILITATING THE CREATION OF OC'S, INCREASING CONTROL OVER THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF AN OC AND INTRODUCING MEASURES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BUILDINGS SUBJECT TO DEEDS OF MUTUAL COVENANT.

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO PUBLISHED A PAMPHLET ON "HOW TO FORM AN OWNERS' CORPORATION AND TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT".

IT SERVES AS A GUIDE TO THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, COVERING TOPICS SUCH AS THE PROCEDURES FOR FORMING AN OC, THE APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES, GOODS AND SERVICES BY MANAGERS AND OC'S.

THE PAMPHLETS, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

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EXTENSIVE HOUSEHOLD VISITS TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

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KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE HAS DEPLOYED MORE THAN 120 TEMPORARY COMMUNITY ORGANISERS TO CONDUCT EXTENSIVE HOUSEHOLD VISITS TO SECURE AS MANY NEW NAMES AS POSSIBLE FOR THE ELECTORAL ROLL, THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR ANDREW WELLS, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT A VOTER REGISTRATION CARNIVAL, HE SAID THERE WAS NO FEWER THAN 26,000 ADDITIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER IN THE DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE LOWERING OF THE VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18.

"I REGARD IT AS OUR TOP PRIORITY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, AND TO LET THEIR VOICES BE HEARD," HE SAID.

THE CARNIVAL FEATURED PERFORMANCE BY POPULAR SINGERS, DRAMA, QUIZ AND CARTOON FIGURES.

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APRIL WARM AND DRY

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LAST MONTH WAS THE WARMEST AND DRIEST APRIL SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884, A MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT COMPILED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

IN THE ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT LATE-SEASON COLD SURGES, THE TERRITORY WAS DOMINATED BY A RELATIVELY WARM SOUTH TO SOUTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM, PARTICULARLY IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE MONTH.

THE MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE OF 24.7 DEGREES, THE MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27.5 DEGREES AND THE MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 22.8 DEGREES WERE ALL THE HIGHEST VALUES FOR APRIL ON RECORD.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 6.0 MILLIMETRES, THE LOWEST FOR APRIL, WAS MUCH LESS THAN THE APRIL NORMAL OF 161.5 MILLIMETRES.

RAINFALL IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1994 AMOUNTED TO 83.0 MILLIMETRES, 72 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 299.8 MILLIMETRES FOR THE PERIOD.

FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER PREVAILED FOR THE FIRST EIGHT DAYS OF THE MONTH. A LIGHT AND HUMID SOUTHEASTERLY AIRSTREAM DOMINATED THE PERIOD WITH OVERNIGHT AND MORNING COASTAL MIST THAT DISPERSED IN THE DAY.

THE ARRIVAL OF EASTERLY WINDS BROUGHT CLOUDY SKIES ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 8.

RAIN DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY MORNING OF APRIL 9 AS WINDS FRESHENED. EASTERLIES PERSISTED ON APRIL 9 AND 10 AND THE WEATHER STAYED CLOUDY WITH DRIZZLE. MISTY CONDITIONS RETURNED AS EASTERLIES MODERATED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF 10 APRIL.

A MAINLAND FISHING BOAT COLLIDED WITH A GREEK FREIGHTER IN POOR VISIBILITY AND SANK ABOUT 150 KILOMETRES SOUTHWEST OF WAGLAN ISLAND. ONE FISHERMAN WAS REPORTED MISSING IN THE ACCIDENT.

MIST AND DRIZZLE CONTINUED ON APRIL 11 AND 12. A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE DEVELOPED OVER GUANGDONG AND MOVED ACROSS THE SOUTH CHINA COAST IN THE EVENING OF APRIL 12.

ARRIVAL OF A COOLER CONTINENTAL AIRSTREAM BEHIND THE TROUGH CLEARED THE MIST AND BROUGHT THE MONTH'S LOWEST TEMPERATURE OF 18.1 DEGREES EARLY ON APRIL 13.

THE WEATHER REMAINED OVERCAST WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN ON APRIL 13 AND 14.

AS WINDS SUBSIDED ON APRIL 15, CLOUDS STARTED TO BREAK AND THERE WERE SUNNY SPELLS IN THE AFTERNOON.

GENERALLY FINE WEATHER PERSISTED FROM APRIL 16 TO 20. DURING THIS PERIOD, TEMPERATURES ROSE STEADILY AS THE EASTERLIES WERE GRADUALLY REPLACED BY WARMER SOUTHERLY WINDS.

THE APPROACH OF A LOW PRESSURE TROUGH BROUGHT UNSETTLED WEATHER TO THE TERRITORY ON APRIL 21.

HEAVY AND THUNDERY SHOWERS AFFECTED THE NEW TERRITORIES IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING. OVER 80 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN FELL IN SAI KUNG AREA AND THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF PEA-SIZED HAILSTONES AT MA TSEUK LENG NEAR SHA TAU KOK.

THE WEATHER STARTED TO IMPROVE ON APRIL 22 WITH LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE DURING THE DAY. APART FROM SOME LIGHT SHOWERS, A HOT AND FINE SPELL LASTED UNTIL APRIL 28 WHEN TEMPERATURES CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 31.6 DEGREES.

AN UNSTABLE SOUTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM BROUGHT DISTURBED WEATHER TO THE TERRITORY ON APRIL 29.

HEAVY RAIN WAS VERY LOCALISED AND AS A RESULT RAINFALL OF OVER 70 MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WHILE ONLY 2.4 MILLIMETRES FELL AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HEADQUARTERS IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

THE WEATHER TURNED FINE AGAIN ON APRIL 30.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE TROPICAL CYCLONE OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN APRIL 1994.

TWO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED IN THE MONTH AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

DETAILS ON 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 ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN APRIL 1994

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME

FIRE DANGER WARNINGS	
YELLOW	APR 3 0615 - APR 5 0000 APR 10 0000 - APR 10 1800
RED	APR 5 0000 - APR 5 2315

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	APR 21 0130 - APR 21 0630 APR 21 1345 - APR 21 1945 APR 28 2340 - APR 29 0640 APR 29 1330 - APR 29 1730

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - APRIL 1994

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	171.5 HOURS ; 62.6 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	14.97 MJ/SQM ; 1.83 MJ/SQM ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	6.0 MM ; 155.5 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	69 % ; 9 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	82 % ; 1 % BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	27.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 2.6 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	24.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 2.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	22.8 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 2.6 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	21.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 2.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	98.2 MM ; 8.7 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.

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BUS PARADE TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

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A SPECIALLY-DECORATED BUS CARRYING BEAUTY QUEENS WILL TOUR TSEUNG KWAN O TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE OF VOTER REGISTRATION TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

THIS IS PART OF A SERIES OF VOTER REGISTRATION PROMOTION ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE.

TEMPORARY REGISTRATION BOOTHS WILL BE SET UP TO HELP RESIDENTS REGISTER AS VOTERS.

THE SECOND RUNNER-UP OF MISS HONG KONG PAGEANT, MISS MIDDY YU; MISS INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL, MISS CHRISTINA LAU; AND SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PARRISH NG, WILL BE PRESENT TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 12.15 PM TOMORROW AT KING LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,882	0930	-170
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,962	1000	-170
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-170
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-170	1130	-170
LAF TODAY	-750	1500	

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 125.1 *+0.0* 14.5.94

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NEW FINANCING SYSTEM FOR DAY CRECHES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CHANGE THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF SUBVENTING DAY CRECHES TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THAT OF THE DAY NURSERIES FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD LIFT THE EXISTING POLICY WHICH ONLY ALLOWED THE ADMISSION OF INFANTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH SOCIAL NEEDS TO SUBVENTED DAY CRECHES.

HE SAID IN FUTURE, DAY CRECHE SERVICE WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO OTHER FAMILIES WHO MIGHT CHOOSE TO USE THE SERVICE AND YET ABLE TO PAY FOR THE FEE ACCORDING TO THEIR MEANS.

"HOWEVER, PRIORITY WILL STILL BE GIVEN TO INFANTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN NEED OF FULL-DAY CARE," HE ADDED.

DAY CRECHES PROVIDE CARE AND CATER FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWO.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A BRIEFING HAD ALREADY BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE AGENCIES OPERATING DAY CRECHES LAST FRIDAY TO EXPLAIN TO THEM HOW THE NEW FINANCING SYSTEM WORKED.

"WE ALSO WISH TO ENLIST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN EXPLAINING TO PARENTS CONCERNED," HE SAID.

HE SAID INSTEAD OF SUBVENTING DAY CRECHES, GOVERNMENT WOULD IN FUTURE, DIRECTLY HELP PARENTS PAY THE DAY CRECHE FEES ACCORDING TO A SLIDING SCALE, BASED ON THEIR NET INCOME, UP TO THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE FEE.

"OPERATORS OF DAY CRECHES WILL RECEIVE FROM GOVERNMENT A FIVE PER CENT SUBSIDY, CAPITAL GRANTS ON FITTING OUT COST, FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS REIMBURSEMENT OF RENT AND RATES," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT ALL APPLICATIONS FOR FEE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROCESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS TO ENSURE THAT PROVISION WOULD BE OFFERED TO FAMILIES WHO HAD A SOCIAL NEED FOR DAY CRECHE SERVICE.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PAST DECADE HAD WITNESSED MARKED SOCIAL CHANGES SUCH AS THE PREVALENCE OF NUCLEAR FAMILIES, AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKING MOTHERS AND THE GROWTH OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES.

IN ADDITION, THERE IS GROWING PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT CHILDREN BEING LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE LED TO AN INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR THE DAY CRECHE SERVICE.

"WE ARE EXPANDING THE SUPPLY OF CRECHE PLACES TO MEET THIS NEW DEMAND," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CRIME VICTIMS GET \$9 MILLION COMPENSATION

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THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION (CLEIC) BOARDS PAID OUT \$8.98 MILLION IN COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS IN 1992/93, ACCORDING TO THE BOARDS' LATEST ANNUAL REPORT.

THE PAYMENTS WERE AWARDED TO 1,052 CRIMINAL INJURIES CASES AND SEVEN LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES CASES.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL PAYMENT OF GRANTS TO \$73.06 MILLION SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE CLEIC SCHEME IN 1973.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS, MR ANTHONY NEOH, SAID 766 APPLICATIONS FOR CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION WERE RECEIVED IN THE YEAR, REPRESENTING 8.8 PER CENT OF THE 8,707 REPORTED CASES OF CRIMINAL INJURIES.

AMONG THE APPLICATIONS, 537 WERE RELATED TO ASSAULT AND WOUNDING, 157 TO ROBBERY, THEFT AND BURGLARY; 59 TO HOMICIDE, MURDER AND MANSLAUGHTER, FOUR TO SEXUAL OFFENCES, EIGHT TO INJURIES CAUSED BY FALLING OBJECTS AND ONE TO ARSON.

REGARDING THE SOURCE OF APPLICATIONS, 559 OF THEM WERE REFERRED BY THE POLICE, 152 SUBMITTED BY THE VICTIMS THEMSELVES OR THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE REST REFERRED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS, MR NEOH SAID.

DURING THE YEAR, THE LARGEST SINGLE PAYMENT WAS \$111,030, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO A VICTIM, A PARTNER OF A SUPERMARKET, WHO SUSTAINED INJURIES IN A WOUNDING ACCIDENT. THE SMALLEST AWARD WAS \$456.

THE SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES OR ARE KILLED OR INJURED IN HELPING TO PREVENT CRIME IN HONG KONG, AND THEIR DEPENDANTS.

IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION WHERE A PERSON IS KILLED OR INJURED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS USING WEAPONS IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTIES. THE SCHEME DOES NOT INVOLVE A MEANS TEST AND IS NON-CONTRIBUTORY.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HOTLINE 343 2255.

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CIVIC EDUCATION QUIZ TO START IN SCHOOLS

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THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION IS ORGANISING AN INTRA-SECONDARY SCHOOL CIVIC EDUCATION QUIZ TO AROUSE STUDENTS' INTEREST IN AND AWARENESS OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

TARGETED AT SECONDARY 3 AND 4 PUPILS, THE QUIZ IS PART OF A SERIES OF CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE COMMITTEE. THE CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY THE LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 303 HONG KONG AND MACAU.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1994

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MORE THAN 140 SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE TAKING PART IN THE QUIZ AND HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH A SET OF QUIZ PAPERS.

EACH QUIZ PAPER CONTAINS 30 MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS WHICH FOCUS ON THE RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

THE TOP FIVE STUDENTS OF EACH OF THE FORMS IN A SCHOOL WHO ATTAIN THE HIGHEST SCORE WILL RECEIVE A FLUFFY TOY.

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REGISTER AS VOTER IS A CITIZEN'S DUTY

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TO REGISTER AS A VOTER NOT ONLY MEANS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, IT IS ALSO THE FIRST STEP TO EXERCISE THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A CITIZEN, THE ACTING KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS SHIRLEY YUNG, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE KOWLOON CITY CIVIC EDUCATION DAY, MISS YUNG STRESSED THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND BE READY TO VOTE IN THE FORTHCOMING DISTRICT BOARD, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

SHE ALSO CALLED ON THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF 18 AND WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING IN HONG KONG FOR SEVEN YEARS TO REGISTER WITHOUT DELAY.

REGISTERED VOTERS SHOULD INFORM THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE OF ANY CHANGES OF THEIR ADDRESSES.

IN A BID TO URGE MORE YOUNGSTERS TO REGISTER, THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE APPROACHING STUDENTS AT SECONDARY AND TERTIARY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AS WELL AS EVENING SCHOOLS IN THE AREA.

IN EASTERN DISTRICT TODAY, A DECORATED OPEN-TOP DOUBLE DECKER TOURED THE STREETS TO DRIVE HOME THE "GET-REGISTERED" MESSAGE.

STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE HELPED ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO FILL IN REGISTRATION FORMS WHEN THE BUS STOPPED AT HENG FA CHUEN, TIN HAU MTR STATION AND NORTH POINT FERRY FIER.

DOOR-TO-DOOR VISITS ARE ALSO BEING CONDUCTED ACROSS THE TERRITORY.

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