



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FCO official and RC to attend talks in Hanoi

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During his visit to Hong Kong earlier this month, the Prime Minister, Mr John Major, announced that, following his meeting in Bangkok with his Vietnamese counterpart Vo Van Kiet, he would be sending a Foreign Office official to Hanoi to discuss the Vietnamese migrant (VM) problem with the Vietnamese authorities in advance of the visit to Vietnam in April of Foreign Office Minister, Mr Jeremy Hanley.

In response to press enquiries, a Government spokesman confirmed today (Tuesday) that Mr David Dain, an assistant under-secretary in the Foreign Office would be holding talks on VM matters in Hanoi tomorrow. The Refugee Coordinator, Mr Brian Bresnihan, will also attend the talks.

End

Recommendations on LegCo members' remuneration accepted

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The Commission on Remuneration for members of the Legislative Council has completed its consideration of the report of the LegCo Subcommittee on Review of Allowances for Members of the Legislative Council and other comments made by members relating to their remuneration.

The Commission has accepted most of the Subcommittee's recommendations and has proposed some modifications to the existing remuneration package for members.

"These have been fully accepted by the Government," a government spokesman said today (Tuesday).

"The Commission's conclusions are well-balanced and sensible. We will seek the approval of the Finance Committee next month to implement those proposals which have financial implications," he added.

The recommendations of the Commission include:

- (a) Increasing from 30 to 50 per cent the non-accountable element of the travelling and entertainment component of LegCo members' operating expenses reimbursement.
- (b) Allowing all LegCo members to have both a central office and an allowance with which to establish their own district offices.
- (c) Allowing LegCo members to use the district office setting up and monthly allowance for more than one office, subject to the approved allowance not being exceeded.
- (d) Allowing LegCo members to use the setting up allowance for the renovation of an office as well as the removal or expansion of an office or the purchase of equipment and furniture.
- (e) Allowing LegCo members to claim the winding up allowance to compensate their staff who have worked for them for less than two years, on a pro-rata basis at the rate of two-thirds of last month's salary of the employee for each year of service, should a member have to cease office for reasons beyond his control before the end of a LegCo term.

The Commission is chaired by Mr J D McGregor. Its members include Dr Cheng Hon-kwan, Dr Thomas Leung Kwok-fai, Mr Christopher Cheng Wai-chee, Miss Gladys Li Chi-hei and Mr Lawrence Lam Yin-ming.

End

Renovation contractors urged to ensure work safety

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"Renovation contractors would be totally wrong if they consider that the current safety and health laws are not meant for them," Labour Department's Chief Factory Inspector Chan Tat-king said today (Tuesday).

He said that contractors of renovation or repair work, like any other building contractors, also had the legal responsibility to ensure their workers' safety when carrying out internal alteration and repair work in any building, be it domestic, commercial or industrial.

Mr Chan made the remarks following a recent accident in which a worker fell to his death while trying to dismantle a window frame of a domestic flat under renovation in Wan Chai.

He stressed that renovation contractors, like other employers, were also legally bound to adopt a safe system of work.

They must take all necessary safety precautions, including the effective supervision over the safe conduct of work by their employees when they are engaged in alteration or repair work as well as the safe use of proper tools and personal protective equipment.

"Renovation contractors should make a greater effort in ensuring the safety of those workers working in these premises. They should plan ahead for their work on safety aspect, including passing on of training, information and instruction in this connection to their workers," he added.

Failure to take steps to ensure compliance with the necessary safety precautions may constitute an offence under the general duties provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance and the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations.

On the other hand, renovation workers are required to take reasonable care for the safety and health of themselves and others by co-operating with their employers in the adoption of safety precautions and in the proper use of personal protective equipment.

On conviction, contractors who fail to comply with the safety provisions are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and 12 months' imprisonment while the maximum penalty for an offending employee is a fine of \$50,000.

End

112 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

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A group of 112 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Tuesday) on the 32nd flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP).

All of the returnees, comprising 62 men, 26 women, 17 boys and seven girls, are from North Vietnam.

The majority of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1989, with the remaining in 1991 and 1995.

The group brought to 2,279 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

67 pollution convictions in February

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A total of 67 convictions were recorded in courts last month for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 21 were made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, 18 under the Noise Control Ordinance, 16 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance and another 12 under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

The fines imposed on the offenders ranged from \$1,000 to \$60,000. Hong Kong Paper Mills Ltd was fined \$60,000 for failing to comply with the requirements of a Noise Abatement Notice.

End

37 new building plans approved in January

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The Buildings Department approved 37 building plans in January this year.

Of the plans, 15 are for Hong Kong Island, nine for Kowloon and 13 for the New Territories.

The approved plans include 14 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, 11 for commercial developments, five for factory and industrial developments, and seven for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for work to start on 43 building projects, which involve 91,919 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 117,801 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area.

During the same period, the Department also issued 27 Occupation Permits - eight for Hong Kong Island, nine for Kowloon and 10 for the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation in the month, the usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses are 58,766 square metres and 93,898 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled \$1,491 million.

In addition, 21 demolition consents involving 49 buildings and structures were issued.

In the same month, the Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division received 879 complaints of unauthorised building works, and issued 351 Removal Orders on unauthorised works.

End

Olympic Games stamps on display

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An Olympic Games Stamp Exhibition is being held at the Rotunda, Exchange Square, today (Tuesday).

On display are the 1996 Olympic Games special stamps to be officially issued by the Hong Kong Post Office tomorrow.

It is a comprehensive set of stamps issued by the host countries to commemorate the Olympic Games since the first modern Games in 1896 and a full collection of official first day covers issued by the Post Office in connection with its special stamp issues since May 1962.

Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, and President of the Amateur Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, Mr A de O Sales, officiated at the opening ceremony this morning.

The Exhibition will last until March 27. The opening hours are from noon to 8 pm today and from 8 am to 8 pm from March 20 to 27.

End

Monitors' Report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Tuesday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

They were Professor Poon Chung-kwong, a Justice of the Peace, and Ms Harriet Sewell from Christian Action.

End

Fresh water cut in Tai Po

Fresh water supply to some villages in Tai Po will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Friday (March 22) to 6 am the following day to facilitate testing of watermains.

The suspension will affect all premises in Pan Chung Tsuen, Pan Chung San Tsuen, Ma Wo, including the Youth Centre and Community Centre in Po Heung Street.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	19 Mar 1996	19 Mar 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q612	Y687
Issue date	20 Mar 1996	20 Mar 1996
Maturity date	19 Jun 1996	19 Mar 1997
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$6,460 MN	HK\$2,090 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$500 MN
Average yield accepted	5.09 PCT	5.52 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.10 PCT	5.54 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 45 PCT	About 20 PCT
Average tender yield	5.11 PCT	5.56 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning 26 Feb 1996

Tender date	26 Mar 1996	26 Mar 1996
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q613	H661
Issue date	27 Mar 1996	27 Mar 1996
Maturity date	26 Jun 1996	25 Sept 1996
Tenor	91 days	182 days
Amount on offer	HK\$1,500+300MN	HK\$800+160MN

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,165	0930	+636
Closing balance in the account	2,007	1000	+636
Change attributable to :		1100	+636
Money market activity	+637	1200	+636
LAF today	-795	1500	+637
		1600	+637

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 123.8 *+0.1* 19.3.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.56	2 years	2802	5.16	98.55	6.06
1 month	4.85	3 years	3901	5.57	98.31	6.32
3 months	5.09	5 years	5103	6.75	99.65	6.95
6 months	5.19	7 years	7302	6.02	93.92	7.27
12 months	5.54	5 years	M502	7.30	100.83	7.21

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$23,560 million

Closed March 19, 1996

End