



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

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TWO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS TO BE PRESERVED

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TWO 150-YEAR-OLD WESTERN HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT, FLAGSTAFF HOUSE AND THE FORMER FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, WERE GAZETTED AS HISTORICAL BUILDINGS TODAY (THURSDAY).

BUILT IN MAY 1846, FLAGSTAFF HOUSE NOW STANDS ON THE TOP OF A GENTLE SLOPE TO THE RIGHT OF COTTON TREE DRIVE. IT WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED THE HEADQUARTER HOUSE WHEN MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE CHARLES D'AGUILAR, WHO WAS THEN THE "OFFICER COMMANDING HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S LAND FORCES IN CHINA" FIRST MOVED INTO THE BUILDING ON SEPTEMBER 28 THE SAME YEAR.

FROM THEN, THE HOUSE WAS USED AS THE OFFICE AND RESIDENCE OF THE COMMANDER OF BRITISH FORCES UNTIL 1978. EXCEPT DURING THE PERIOD OF JAPANESE OCCUPATION. THE NAME OF FLAGSTAFF HOUSE WAS FIRST USED AROUND 1932.

IT WAS A TWO-STOREY BUILDING WITH DEEP VERANDAHS AND COLUMNS OF BOTH DORIC AND IONIC ORDERS AND APPEARED TO BE OF THE GREEK REVIVAL STYLE.

JUST BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, FLAGSTAFF HOUSE UNDERWENT EXTENSIVE RENOVATION WITH MAJOR ALTERATIONS WHEN THE FLOORS WERE CONCRETED, VERANDAHS REBUILT TO THEIR PRESENT FORM, TWO STAIRCASES REMOVED AND A NEW ONE REBUILT, AND THE ENTRANCE DOOR RELOCATED.

IN 1981, THE URBAN COUNCIL TOOK OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUILDING AND CONVERTED IT INTO A TEAWARE MUSEUM IN 1984. IT WAS FORMALLY OPENED AS THE FLAGSTAFF HOUSE MUSEUM OF TEA WARE, A BRANCH MUSEUM OF THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART AND WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS SUCH AFTER THE DECLARATION.

AS TO THE FORMER FRENCH MISSION BUILDING NOW SITUATED ON BATTERY PATH, IT WAS SIR HENRY POTTINGER, THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, WHO AUTHORISED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING ON THE SITE.

BUILT BETWEEN 1842 AND 1843, THE BUILDING WAS RENTED AND USED AS A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE FOR THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG BETWEEN 1843 AND 1846.

LAND RECORDS OF 1879 AND 1880 LISTED THE OWNER AS EMMANUEL BELILIOS, DIRECTOR OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, WHO OWNED THE BUILDING UNTIL 1915 WHEN IT WAS ACQUIRED BY THE FRENCH MISSION.

UNDER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE FRENCH MISSION, THIS BUILDING WAS EXTENSIVELY REBUILT. A SMALL PLAQUE, WHICH AFFIRMED THE ALTERATION COMPLETED ON MARCH 7, 1917, CAN STILL BE SEEN ON ITS WALL FACING SOUTH.

AMONG THE ALTERATIONS, THE MOST NOTABLE ONE WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SMALL CHAPEL IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER.

/THE THREE-STOREY

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THE THREE-STOREY BUILDING IS CONSTRUCTED WITH A BASEMENT IN GRANITE AND RED BRICK IN NEO-CLASSICAL STYLE. ITS ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES INCLUDE WOODEN STAIRCASES, VAULTED CEILING, INTERNAL COURTYARD AND COLUMNED GROUND FLOOR WHICH ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE.

BEFORE IT WAS SOLD TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN 1953, THE BUILDING HAD BEEN USED AS THE TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF THE PROVISIONAL HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

SINCE THE CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP, IT HAS BEEN USED AS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA DISTRICT COURT AND SUPREME COURT. NOW THE BUILDING IS SHARED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE.

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CS VISITS NT REGION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO REDUCING THE FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF FLOODING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SIR DAVID MADE THIS REMARK DURING AN INSPECTION OF THE RECENTLY COMPLETED FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME IN SHEUNG SHUI.

THE SCHEME, CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH COMMENCED IN EARLY 1988, WAS COMMISSIONED LAST MONTH.

THE SCHEME COMPRISES THREE FEATURES:

- * A PROTECTIVE BUND SEPARATING THE SHEUNG SHUI VILLAGE FROM THE RIVER INDUS FLOOD PLAIN;
- * A FLOOD STORAGE POND AND THE EXISTING VILLAGE MOAT FOR STORING CUMMULATIVE RUNOFF IN THE EVENT OF A SEVERE STORM; AND
- * A STORMWATER PUMPING STATION WHICH HAS A MAXIMUM PUMPING CAPACITY OF ABOUT FIVE CUBIC METRES PER SECOND.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, MR K.K. TANG, AND A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR M.J.C. WATERS, SIR DAVID WAS BRIEFED BY PROJECT MANAGER/NEW TERRITORIES NORTHEAST, MR T.D. ARMOUR, ON THE FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME AND THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FANLING/SHEUNG SHUI NEW TOWN.

LATER, SIR DAVID AND THE COMPANY WERE TAKEN TO THE TSUEN WAN SITE OFFICE OF ROUTE 5 WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER/TSUEN WAN, MR K.C. YEUNG, AND THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER, MR H.S. KWONG, AND THE CONSULTANT ENGINEER, MR K. LARKIN, ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 5 TUNNEL AND ITS APPROACH ROADS.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID ALSO INSPECTED THE ABOVE WORKS.

ROUTE 5, WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, IS A SEVEN KILOMETRE LONG TRUNK ROAD LINKING THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TOWNS OF TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN AND WILL FORM PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROUTE.

IT WILL REDUCE TRAVELLING TIME BETWEEN THE TWO TOWN CENTRES FROM 10 TO 15 MINUTES AND RELIEVE CONGESTION ON THE PRESENT ROUTE VIA LION ROCK TUNNEL AND NORTH KOWLOON.

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'EDUCATION SUNDAY' TO MARK NEW SCHOOL YEAR
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TO MARK THE START OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, THE COMING SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 17) HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THIS YEAR'S EDUCATION SUNDAY.

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT THE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL AND ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND, AND AT ST TERESA'S CHURCH AND HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN KOWLOON ON THAT DAY.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE SERVICES WHICH ARE HELD TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PERFORM THE TASK THAT LIES AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI, WILL ATTEND THE SERVICE AT THE CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL AT 16 CAINE ROAD, WHICH WILL START AT 11 AM, WHILE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION), DR VERNER BICKLEY, WILL ATTEND THE SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL ON GARDEN ROAD AT 11.30 AM.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR MAY - JULY RELEASED
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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED FURTHER WHILE THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED STABLE AT A LOW LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD MAY - JULY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING THREE MONTHS, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE LABOUR MARKET WAS STILL TIGHT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MAY - JULY 1989 WAS 1.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1.5 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1989 AND 1.7 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

/THE DECREASES

THE DECREASES OF 0.3 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND 0.5 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN MAY - JULY 1989 WAS ESTIMATED AT 34,100 COMPARED WITH 40,500 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1989 AND 46,600 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JULY 1988.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MAY - JULY 1989 WAS 0.7 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 0.8 PER CENT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1989 AND 0.6 PER CENT FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE INCREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS FOR MAY - JULY 1989 WAS 19,200, COMPARED WITH 22,200 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING APRIL 1989 AND 16,100 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JULY 1988.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID THAT BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER ADDED THAT, BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY. THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1989 WAS 1.3 PER CENT AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 0.6 PER CENT.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS SURVEY COVERS A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 14,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 52,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

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PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 1989 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND SEPTEMBER 20 AT \$10 PER COPY.

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HANDBOOK ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PUBLISHED

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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HAS PUBLISHED A HANDBOOK ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

A CNTA SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BILINGUAL HANDBOOK IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A CONVENIENT AND EASY REFERENCE ON THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE HANDBOOK OUTLINES THE BACKGROUND AND EVOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND THE WORK OF DISTRICT BOARDS. IT CONCLUDES WITH A REVIEW OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHS, THE BOOK ALSO CONTAINS TABLES SHOWING THE COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

THE HANDBOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRES OF THE 19 DISTRICT OFFICES.

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS IN TAI PO

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THOUSANDS OF TAI PO RESIDENTS TOOK PART IN A MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL AT THE TAI PO PLAYGROUND THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

OFFICIATING AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY, TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS YIU, SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO NOTE THE INITIATIVE OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

"I HOPE EVERY 'KAIFONG', WHILE TAKING PART IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, WILL ALSO CARRY OUT THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER AS A VOTER," HE SAID.

MR YIU REMINDED RESIDENTS THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THIS YEAR'S VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN IS THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE CARNIVAL WAS ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SOCIETIES FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION AND SPONSORED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO YUNG-SANG, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT'S ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION, MR CHEUNG CHI-FAN.

TWO MORE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVALS WILL BE HELD IN TAI PO TOMORROW AT FU SHIN SQUARE AND KWONG FUK COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

BOTH WILL HAVE STALL GAMES IN THE AFTERNOON AND A VARIETY SHOW IN THE EVENING. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE OPEN DAY

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THE YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL HOLD AN OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 16).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID THE OPEN DAY IS HELD TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN DAY INCLUDES AN EXHIBITION OF VARIOUS KINDS OF CHINESE AND WESTERN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND A VIDEO SHOW ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE.

ALSO, INSTRUCTORS OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CENTRE FROM 9.30 AM TO 5.30 PM ON THE OPEN DAY. THE YUEN LONG MUSIC CENTRE IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR, YUEN LONG CENTRE, 55 SHAU FU STREET.

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MONDAY DEADLINE FOR ANTI-DRUG FAMILY CAMP
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FAMILIES WISHING TO ENJOY THE PLEASURE OF CAMPING AT HONG KONG'S TRANQUIL URBAN HOLIDAY VILLAGE ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINING THE ANTI-NARCOTICS FAMILY CAMP BY MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 18).

THE CAMP HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS AS PART OF THE "THE ROAD TO A HAPPY LIFE" PROGRAMME THIS YEAR.

IT WILL BE HELD AT THE LEI YUE MUN PARK HOLIDAY VILLAGE IN CHAI WAN ON THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 7 AND 8.

THE CAMP IS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS AND TO TAKE PART IN HEALTHY PURSUITS.

ABOUT 230 FAMILIES, WITH A TOTAL OF ABOUT 690 PARENTS AND CHILDREN, WILL ATTEND THE CAMP.

OF THEM, 290 WILL BE RESIDENTIAL CAMPERS AND 400 WILL BE DAY CAMPERS.

A MIXED AND BALANCED PROGRAMME, PROVIDING A GREAT VARIETY OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, WILL BE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG PARTICIPANTS AND TO HELP THEM BUILD UP A HEALTHY AND HAPPY FAMILY LIFE.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE VARIOUS BALL GAMES, ARCHERY, A ROPE COURSE, AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN.

THERE WILL BE A CHILDREN'S PLAY HOUSE AND AN INDOOR RECREATION CENTRE WITH ROOMS SPECIALLY FURNISHED FOR ARCHERY, DANCING, EXERCISING, TABLE TENNIS, LAWN BOWLS, AMERICAN POOL, CHINESE BILLIARDS AND FOOTBALL GAMES MACHINES.

THE TRANQUIL AND PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT OF THE CAMP SITE, AND ITS SPECTACULAR VIEW OVER LEI YUE MUN, FORM A MAIN ATTRACTION OF THE HOLIDAY VILLAGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SAID THAT APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND SUB-OFFICES AND AT THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, 23RD FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE FORMS FOR THE FAMILY CAMP WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN SING TAO WAN PAO.

COMPLETED FORMS MAY BE RETURNED EITHER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION.

A BALLOT TO DECIDE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, AND RESULTS OF THE BALLOT WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 26.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION AT PAK SHA WAN

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GRANT A SHORT TERM TENANCY TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB FOR CARRYING OUT A RECLAMATION PROJECT AT PAK SHA WAN, SAI KUNG.

THE PROPOSED WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 4,680 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT PAK SHA WAN.

THE UNDERTAKING INVOLVES RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE LAND FOR CAR PARKING SPACES AND BOAT STORAGE, DREDGING OF SEABED AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SEAWALL.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 13 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE OF OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT BACTERIA DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

/THE ESTIMATE

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG DURING RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

BATHING WATERS COMMONLY BECOME WORSE DUE TO HEAVY USAGE DURING THE SUMMER. HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"A" GRADE INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE MEAN E. COLI COUNT IS LESS THAN 100 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS LESS THAN SEVEN CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

"B" GRADE INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE. THE MEAN E. COLI COUNT IS LESS THAN 1,000 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS LESS THAN 18 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

"C" GRADE INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE MEAN E. COLI COUNT IS 1,000 OR MORE PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS 18 OR MORE CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, A RECOMMENDATION ON CLOSURE WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "C" GRADING OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS. SIMILARLY, A RECOMMENDATION TO REOPEN A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "B" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, SIX BATHING BEACHES HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSE, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS. THESE BEACHES ARE ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, SILVERMINE BAY, OLD CAFETERIA, ROCKY BAY AND TING KAU.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THESE SIX BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY AND TWO WEEKS AGO ARE LISTED BELOW:

 /BEACH

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BEACH -----	LAST GRADING ----- (AS AT 31.8.89)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 14.9.89)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	A	A
CHUNG HOM KOK	A	A
DEEP WATER BAY	A	A
HAIRPIN	A	A
MIDDLE BAY	A	A
REPULSE BAY	A	A
SHEK O	B	B
SOUTH BAY	A	A
ST STEPHEN'S	A	A
TURTLE COVE	A	A
STANLEY MAIN	A	A
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	A	A
ISLANDS DISTRICT -----		
CHEUNG SHA UPPER	A	A
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	B	B
DISCOVERY BAY*	A	A
HUNG SHING YEH	A	A
KWUN YAM WAN	A	A
TONG FUK	A	A
LO SO SHING	A	A
PUI O	A	A

/SILVERMINE BAY

SILVERMINE BAY	X	X
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	A	A
TUNG O*	A	A
SAI KUNG DISTRICT		

CAMPERS	A	A
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	B	B
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	A	A
HAP MUN BAY	A	A
KIU TSUI	A	A
PAK SHA CHAU	A	A
SILVERSTRAND	B	B
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	A	A
TSUEN WAN DISTRICT		

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	A	A
CASAM	A	A
GEMINI	A	A
HOI MEI WAN	A	B
LIDO	A	A
TING KAU	X	X
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	A	A
TUEN MUN DISTRICT		

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	B	B
CASTLE PEAK	X	X

KADOORIE

B

B

BUTTERFLY

B

B

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACH HAS CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

HOI MEI WAN, FROM "A" TO "B";

THE CHANGE IS WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACH.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR PAUL R. HOLMES, THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (WATER POLICY) OF THE EPD, ON TEL. 5-8351003.

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VEHICULAR ACCESS TO BE BUILT IN FO TAN VILLAGE
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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A COMBINED FOOTPATH/EMERGENCY VEHICULAR ACCESS ROAD IN FO TAN VILLAGE, SHA TIN, TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR THE EXISTING VILLAGE AND PROPOSED EXTENSION AREAS.

THE SCHEME FORMS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG;
- SHA TIN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 2 TUNG LO WAN HILL ROAD, SHA TIN; AND
- SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG. BY NOVEMBER 14.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

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TSUEN WAN VILLAGE ROAD TO BE IMPROVED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE VILLAGE ACCESS ROAD IN YAU KOM TAU, TSUEN WAN.

THE WORKS COMPRISE RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING TO 3.5 METRES OF A SECTION OF THE ROAD AND PROVISION OF A FOOTPATH AND LAY-BYS.

THE WORKS WILL START LATER THIS YEAR AND BE COMPLETED IN MID-1990.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (THURSDAY). A NOTICE IS ALSO POSTED AT THE SITE.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING, MAIN ENTRANCE LOBBY, HONG KONG; AND AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, TSUEN WAN STATION MULTI-STOREY CARPARK BUILDING, 174-208 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ANY PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO THE PROPOSED WORKS SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 14.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WESTERN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 16), THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY:

- * QUEEN'S ROAD WEST BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH HILL ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 50 METRES TO THE EAST; AND
- * HILL ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES TO THE SOUTH.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

AT THE SAME TIME, GOODS VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LOAD AND UNLOAD GOODS ALONG THE SECTION OF HILL ROAD BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST AND QUEEN'S ROAD WEST FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KWUN TONG

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TRAFFIC ARRANGMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KWUN TONG FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 16).

UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS, THE FOLLOWING THREE FLYOVERS WILL BE OPENED: THE FLYOVER LINKING JUNK BAY ROAD SOUTHBOUND WITH CHA KWO LING ROAD NORTHBOUND; THE FLYOVER LINKING JUNK BAY ROAD SOUTHBOUND WITH THE UNNAMED ROAD ADJOINING WAI YIP STREET; AND THE FLYOVER LINKING LEI YUE MUN ROAD WESTBOUND WITH THE UNNAMED ROAD ADJOINING WAI YIP STREET.

ALL CYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS AND MOTOR VEHICLES DRIVEN BY LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THESE FLYOVERS.

CHA KWO LING ROAD BETWEEN YAU SHING STREET AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE WAY NORTHBOUND.

THE RIGHT TURN FROM JUNK BAY ROAD SOUTHBOUND TO LEI YUE MUN ROAD WESTBOUND, THE RIGHT TURN FROM LEI YUE MUN ROAD EASTBOUND TO CHA KWO LING ROAD SOUTHBOUND, AND THE LEFT TURN FROM LEI YUE MUN ROAD WESTBOUND TO CHA KWO LING ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE BANNED.

VEHICLES ON JUNK BAY ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR LEI YUE MUN ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA THE NEW FLYOVER AND CHA KWO LING ROAD.

VEHICLES ON KWUN TONG ROAD HEADING FOR THE SECTION OF CHA KWO LING ROAD NORTH OF YAU SHING STREET WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA HOI YUEN ROAD, WAI YIP STREET AND CHA KWO LING ROAD.

VEHICLES ON LEI YUE MUN ROAD WESTBOUND HEADING FOR THE SECTION OF CHA KWO LING ROAD NORTH OF YAU SHING STREET WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA KWUN TONG ROAD, HOI YUEN ROAD, WAI YIP STREET AND CHA KWO LING ROAD.

AT THE SAME TIME, GREEN MINIBUSES ON ROUTE 23B, ON THEIR JOURNEYS FROM KWUN TONG TO CHA KWO LING, WILL BE DIVERTED TO TRAVEL VIA KWUN TONG ROAD, HOI YUEN ROAD, WAI YIP STREET AND CHA KWO LING ROAD INSTEAD OF KWUN TONG ROAD, LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND CHA KWO LING ROAD.

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