



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Surveillance on shark attacks to remain in force

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The inter-departmental working group on shark attacks, chaired by the acting Deputy Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Ian Petersen, convened a second special meeting this (Monday) afternoon to reassess the current shark situation in Hong Kong.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Urban Services Department, Regional Services Department, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, the Police, as well as experts from the University of Hong Kong and the Ocean Park Corporation.

After a two-hour meeting, consensus was reached:

- * to maintain the existing alert, surveillance and warnings about sharks at appropriate gazetted beaches managed by the Urban Services and Regional Services departments;
- * not to conduct any shark hunt as it may create a false sense of security among the swimming public and is unlikely to be effective given the disturbance likely to be caused by other interested parties. In addition, whether or not any shark is caught, others may still be in the area and the conduct of the hunt may also actually attract more sharks into the area. Furthermore, people's lives may be put at risk in the process;
- * to consider consulting overseas experts to analyse the information the working group has to date; and
- * to produce a new television and radio API to publicise the danger of entering the water at this time.

Members of the group urged the public not to enter the water anywhere at Sai Kung at present.

"We are disturbed that our warnings in this regard are still being ignored," Mr Petersen said.

"This is really regrettable as swimmers expose not only themselves to danger unnecessarily, but they also put at risk those who try to save them in case of emergency," he added.

The meeting also concluded that the following measures will continue to be taken at gazetted beaches of the two Municipal Councils as part of the surveillance operation:

- * surveillance by lifeguards from look-out posts at vantage points;
- * patrolling the water area beyond the boomlines with motor boats;
- * maintaining air patrols by the Government Flying Services on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays during the swimming season; and
- * maintaining frequent patrols by Marine Police outside the boundaries of beaches.

The group will meet again in about a week's time to evaluate the situation at that time.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

Governor: protect the fabric that sustains our lives

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Monday) said people should get better at anticipating the consequences of daily activities on the environment.

Speaking at the World Environment Day, Mr Patten stressed that the environment was the fabric that sustained people's lives and every one had a part to play in maintaining the environment, in sustaining the fabric.

He said: "We must think about sustainability. The environment is not something separate, external from our lives, to think about only when we feel like it."

Mr Patten pointed out that the Environmental Time Capsule laid by the Environmental Campaign Committee five years ago was unearthed today for two purposes.

First is to see how much improvement has been made over the past five years and the second is to see how perceptions of problems have been changed.

The problems of water pollution and overloaded sewers as well as air pollution identified five years ago have been addressed and some achievements have been made.

The problem of diesel emissions, unidentified for inclusion in the Time Capsule five years ago has now assumed a much higher profile.

This identification of new problems shows a change in perception and it is necessary to respond to those changes.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

JLG expert talks on Hong Kong's Intellectual Property System

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Expert talks between the British and Chinese sides of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group on Hong Kong's Intellectual Property System will be held in Hong Kong on June 6-7.

The British side will be led by the Hong Kong Government Director of Intellectual Property, Mr Stephen Selby. The Chinese side will be led by Chinese Representative, Mr Wang Weiyang. They will be assisted by experts from the two sides.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

Complaint of insects in tap water being looked into

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Staff of the Water Supplies Department have taken water samples from a flat, the roof tank and the sump tank of On Chiu House, Cheung On Estate, Tsing Yi Island, this (Monday) morning for laboratory analysis following a complaint of insects being found in tap water.

"Chemical and bacteriological analysis of the water samples will be carried out in the department's water science laboratory and the results will be available in 24 hours.

"Visual inspection, however, showed no insect or other deposits in any of the samples," a spokesman for the department said.

He stressed that the water supplied to Cheung On Estate, which came from Yau Kom Tau Treatment Works, was fully treated and disinfected.

"The residual chlorine in the water will also inhibit the survival of bacteria in the distribution system," he added.

The Water Supplies Department assured consumers that the water supplied to them complied fully with the World Health Organisation's standards for drinking water and is safe for consumption.

"The quality of water supplied to consumers is closely monitored by regular and frequent testing of water samples taken from all strategic points of the water supply system, including water treatment works, service reservoirs, distribution pipeworks, sump and roof tanks of consumers' premises, and consumers' taps," the spokesman said.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

Computerisation improves Government's service

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The Government will be able to provide better service to the public with the opening of the second Production Bureau for mainframe computer application, the Director of Information Technology Services, Mr Lau Kam-hung, said.

At the opening ceremony of the new ITSD Production Bureau today (Monday), Mr Lau also stressed that with the significant increase in capacity was required, to set up a second Bureau would be more cost-effective.

The Second Production Bureau, situated in the Sai Kung Government Offices, is the extension of the department's first Bureau in its Wan Chai Headquarters.

The facilities available in the new site greatly enhance the Government's total mainframe computer processing power. It also allows great flexibility in terms of future expansion, as the demand for computerisation in the government is rapidly increasing.

There are currently 16 major application systems using the facilities of the site by 11 Government departments or branches.

The operation of the site has been designed in such a way that a minimal number of operation staff is required to handle the daily activities. Through the communication devices, some of the operational related work has been redirected to the first Bureau, where the work can be handled or shared by other operation staff.

Mr Lau said operation of the second Bureau was smooth, but there had been some teething problems.

"I can assure our client departments that every effort will be made to ensure the delivery service of our Bureau Services. I am pleased to say that both the suppliers of our equipment and our staff are dedicated to achieving this goal," he said.

For those critical application systems, backup facilities are available in the Disaster Recovery Bureau.

Mr Lau said the Bureau will have to, in the event of a disaster, provide adequate resources to operate all the critical applications on the Production Bureau affected.

"Failure at one site would not affect the operation of the other site," he said.

The Second Production Bureau, officially opened today by the Secretary for the Treasury, Mr K C Kwong, is equipped with an IBM model 9121-621 central processor. The processing power is 58 Million Instruction Per Second and the total disk storage is 268 Giga bytes.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

Subsidy scheme deadline extended

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Kindergarten operators who have missed the deadline to join the newly introduced kindergarten subsidy scheme are invited to submit their application now.

The closing date for submission has now been extended to June 16 (Friday).

Announcing the special arrangement today (Monday), the Deputy Director of Education, Miss Elaine Chung, said: "The extension is in response to views made by some kindergarten operators. They claimed that they required more time to study details of the new scheme."

Miss Chung noted that to facilitate more kindergarten operators to have a clear picture of the scheme, a further briefing session was being organised on Friday (June 9).

"It is hoped that through this arrangement, kindergarten operators would understand the advantages of this new scheme. The twin advantage is that kindergartens which have joined the new scheme will be able to boost competitiveness by reducing their fees, and at the same time reduce parents' burden," Miss Chung added.

She reiterated that the Education Department would closely monitor the operation of kindergartens starting next fall to ensure the stipulated requirements, such as 40 per cent kindergarten teachers should be trained and entry requirement should be Secondary 5 with passes in two subjects, were complied with.

She said: "This will apply to all kindergartens irrespective of whether they have joined the scheme."

As at the end of May, the Education Department received a total of 224 applications from kindergarten operators to join the subsidy scheme. Of these, 196 are non-profit making and the remaining are profit-making kindergartens.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

Silver plates presented to lawyers and law clerks

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An engineer who was acquitted of manslaughter had presented five silver plates today (Monday) to his legal representatives to express his gratitude.

The plates were given to his two counsel, Mr Rodney Pritchard and Mr Simon Westbrook, both assigned to defend him by the Director of Legal Aid, Legal Aid counsel Mr David Bryan and two law clerks of the Legal Aid Department, Mr Chang Hung-cheon and Mr John Chu Tak-wa.

Mr Wong, an assistant engineer with AJAX Engineers and Surveyors Ltd which was responsible for the safety of a passenger hoist installed in a North Point construction site, was charged with one count of manslaughter after an accident involving the hoist occurred on September 2, 1993.

He was granted legal aid. He was originally represented by Mr Pritchard who, however, fell ill during the hearing at the High Court and the defence was taken over by Mr Westbrook.

At the end of the Crown's case, Mr Justice Duffy ruled that there was no case to answer and directed the jury to find Mr Wong not guilty of the offence on April 27.

The presentation of the silver plates took place today at the Headquarters of the Legal Aid Department in the presence of the Director of Legal Aid, Lady Cheung, and a number of senior officers of the department.

End/Monday, June 5, 1995

Tender for fourth issue of 5-year Exchange Fund Notes

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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announces today (Monday) that the tender for the fourth issue of five-year Exchange Fund Notes will be held on next Monday (June 12) for settlement on Tuesday (June 13).

Similar to the previous issue, an amount of HK\$500 million five-year notes will be on offer.

In addition to that, another HK\$100 million will be held as reserve by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority for supply to Market Makers in the secondary market.

The notes will mature on June 13, 2000 and will carry interest at the rate of 6.60 per cent per annum payable semi-annually in arrears.

Members of the public who wish to tender for the notes may do so through any of the Market Makers or Recognised Dealers on the published list which can be obtained from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority on 30th floor, 3 Garden Road, Hong Kong (or telephone 2878 8150).

Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof.

Note to Editors:

Following is a table giving detailed tender information:

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
EXCHANGE FUND NOTE PROGRAMME
TENDER INFORMATION

Tender information for the fourth issue of 5-Year Exchange Fund Notes :-

Issue Number	: 5006
Tender Date and Time	: Monday 12 June 1995, 9.30 am to 10.30 am
Issue and Settlement Date	: Tuesday 13 June 1995
Amount on Offer	: HK\$500 million plus an additional HK\$100 million as reserve stock for the Monetary Authority
Maturity	: Five years
Maturity Date	: 13 June 2000
Interest Rate	: 6.60% per annum payable semi-annually in arrears
Interest Payment Dates	: 13 Dec 1995, 13 Jun 1996, 13 Dec 1996, 13 Jun 1997, 15 Dec 1997, 15 Jun 1998, 14 Dec 1998, 14 Jun 1999, 13 Dec 1999, 13 Jun 2000
Tender Amount	: Each tender must be for an amount of HK\$50,000 or integral multiples thereof. Members of the public who wish to tender for the Notes may approach Market Makers or Recognized Dealers on the published list.
Other details	: Please see Information Memorandum published or approach Market Makers or Recognized Dealers.

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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	1,283	0930	+1,225
Closing balance in the account	1,913	1000	+1,225
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,252
Money market activity	+1,255	1200	+1,255
LAF today	-625	1500	+1,255
		1600	+1,255

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.5 *+0.0* 5.6.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.43	2 years	2705	6.40	101.44	5.68
1 month	5.44	3 years	3804	6.90	102.67	5.97
3 months	5.44	5 years	5003	7.75	105.31	6.54
6 months	5.46	5 years	M501	7.90	103.42	7.19
12 months	5.53					

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,455 million

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