



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, March 26, 1974

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commodities

Release time: 8.00 p.m.

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TIGHTER SECURITY AT KAI TAK

Airlines To Engage Security Firm

A new system at Kai Tak, due to come into operation on April 1, will greatly increase the security of the airport.

Stating this today, the Airport General Manager, Mr. H.M. Johnston, said that the system would involve a check of all departing passengers together with those in transit as well as airline crews and all other personnel entering the departure and transit facilities.

"The intention is to create a secure area which should guard against the possibility of weapons being smuggled aboard flights," he said.

"The system which has been evolved is very thorough, and the checks are being carried out at a point where they will be a preliminary to all other processing activities. This procedure will entail the minimum of delay because it will enable passengers to be cleared before they enter the departure lounge and therefore well before embarkation."

He added that the operation of this system for the protection of passenger safety had been arranged by the airlines, as was common practice where routine checks and inspections were carried out elsewhere.

The airlines would employ the services of a security firm - the Hong Kong-based company of Securair Limited - to carry out the checks, the cost to each airline being determined by the number of its passengers checked.

The government could then reimburse the airlines so that, although they would be responsible for the operation, it would not, in effect, be a charge on their operating expenses.

/In addition,

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In addition, the government would install and maintain the equipment to be used by Securair Limited, as part of the terminal facilities.

"Clearly the financial burden of these new arrangements should not fall on the Hong Kong taxpayer at large when only a small proportion of the populace travel by air," Mr. Johnston pointed out.

"Coincident with the introduction of the new arrangements, the government has decided to increase the passenger service charge from \$10 to \$15 from April 1. This increase will cover the cost of the new security measures and will also contribute to the rising costs of running the airport."

Describing how the screening procedure would operate, he said that the security checkpoint would be established immediately adjacent to the main public hall in the terminal building.

Departing passengers would pass through this checkpoint before proceeding on to the immigration counters and thence to the departure lounge.

In the checkpoint area, hand luggage would be thoroughly searched and passengers would be channelled through special metal detectors equipped to sense the presence of concealed objects.

If the metal detectors alerted the security guards, the person concerned would be asked to submit to a personal search.

Should the hand luggage be sealed, in the form of a parcel or gift package, it would be scrutinised by sophisticated X-ray equipment capable of revealing the nature of the contents.

/"The procedure

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"The procedure will be carefully explained to the passengers," said Mr. Johnston. "They will be warned that the X-ray machine might damage camera film and magnetic tape should the necessity for its use arise.

"Otherwise there will be absolutely no risk of any kind. From experience we know that passengers will be more than willing to co-operate for the sake of their own personal safety.

"The incidence of hijacking has reached such proportions that the passenger is worried when he does not see evidence of proper security measures for his protection."

Because of the large numbers of passengers involved, airlines **would** find it necessary to restrict the permissible amount of hand baggage to a level firmly in accordance with the limits laid down in I.A.T.A. regulations.

These stated that in addition to the articles stipulated as permissible for cabin storage, such as cameras, umbrellas etc., each passenger would be allowed only one item of accompanying cabin baggage. All other baggage would have to be handed in for storage in the hold.

Duty free goods would not be affected by this restriction because they could only be collected in the departure area, once the passenger had passed through the checkpoint.

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Turning to the procedure for incoming transit passengers, Mr. Johnston said that these would be subjected to similar screening arrangements on disembarkation, before entering the transit area of the terminal.

"This means that whatever the arrangements at their points of origin, they will be thoroughly screened on their way through Hong Kong," he pointed out.

"A great deal of interest has already been expressed by other airport authorities in the advanced type of system to be introduced here. They will be watching closely to gauge its effectiveness."

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

The Governor, after taking into consideration the advice of the Executive Council has decided that the death sentences passed on September 13, 1973 on Tse Yung-tim and Lam Kwok-wah should be commuted to a term of 18 years' imprisonment in each case.

Tse and Lam were found guilty of the murder of Wong Fat-nip.

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LEGCO TO WIND UP BUDGET DEBATE

The Legislative Council will wind up the debate on the Appropriation Bill 1974 tomorrow (Wednesday) when the official members will reply to the points raised by their unofficial colleagues.

The order of speakers will be as follows: Mr. John Canning, Director of Education; Mr. Li Fook-kow, Secretary for Social Services; Mr. Denys Roberts, Colonial Secretary; Mr. David Jordan, Director of Commerce and Industry; and Mr. Philip Haddon-Cave, Financial Secretary.

The bill will be considered in Committee before its third and final reading.

The question of Hong Kong's sterling reserves will be raised at tomorrow's session when the Senior Unofficial Member, the Hon. Woo Pak-chuen, will ask for a statement regarding the renewal of the sterling guarantee agreement.

Mr. Woo will also query the government about its intentions regarding the future of Murray House, while the Hon. Hilton Cheong-Leen will ask what steps are being taken to combat the growing problem of triads.

The report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Ap Lei Chau oil spill will be tabled in Council. The Hon. James Robson, Secretary for the Environment, will comment on it.

Dr. the Hon. S.Y. Chung will make a statement on the Hong Kong Polytechnic Annual Report 1972/73 which will also be tabled at tomorrow's session.

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FIRST-AID TRAINING FOR FACTORY HANDS

The Labour Department's Industrial Safety Training Centre is arranging a special expanded series of first-aid training courses to cope with an overwhelming response from industry for courses set down for the next couple of months.

The Centre, working with the St. John Ambulance Association, recently called for applications for three first-aid training courses for employees in industry.

The courses, each requiring attendance at one morning session a week for eight weeks, qualify successful candidates for recognition as first-aid personnel under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (First Aid in Registrable Workplaces) Regulations, the Quarries (Safety) Regulations and the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations.

The Centre was swamped with applications, and is now arranging seven additional courses between now and July to cope with some 300 applicants from 128 factories and 20 construction firms.

More sessions are being planned for another 150 applicants on the waiting list.

Assistant Commissioner of Labour Mr. David Lin today welcomed the response to the courses as an indication that employers were becoming more safety conscious.

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"This is the most satisfying response we have ever had to these courses," he said. "I hope these employers will also be taking advantage of our other safety and accident prevention courses.

"For quite some time now industry has been faced with a severe shortage of trained first-aid personnel. I hope that this new display of awareness and co-operation from industry marks the beginning of an end of this problem.

"Under the law, an industrial proprietor must provide a qualified first-aid officer for every 100 workers he employs.

"In the case of construction sites, there must be a person trained in first aid on every site with 30 or more workers. A site with 100 or more workers must have at least two trained people on site.

"And I would remind Hong Kong's hundreds of building contractors that the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations come into effect on May 1 - so there's not that much time left now for those who haven't yet complied with the law to do so."

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RENT TRIBUNAL REVIEWS CERTIFICATES OF INCREASE IN RENT

The independent Rent Tribunal has, since its formation, held five meetings to review certificates of increase/no increase in rent issued by the Rating and Valuation Department.

Of the 51 certificates reviewed so far, 46 were confirmed by the Tribunal. In three cases the amount certified was increased. One of the remaining two was reduced and the other one was cancelled altogether.

Disclosing this today, a spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department said out of the 7,280 certificates issued only 189 applications for review had been received.

He said that further Tribunal meetings were being arranged for the near future in order to deal with the cases still outstanding.

The spokesman pointed out: "For each review case the department prepares a full case history together with details and plans of the concerned premises and information as to how the certified increase had been determined."

"Although there is no provision for representations in person by landlords or tenants," he said, "any comments received are brought to the attention of the Tribunal."

The spokesman further pointed out that it was open to the Tribunal to question the professional officer who determined the application, call for additional evidence and, if they so wish, visit the premises.

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TOURS OF REHABILITATION CENTRES

The Social Welfare Department is one of the many organizations, welfare agencies and government departments that are participating in Rehabilitation Week currently being held in Hong Kong to enable the public to obtain a better understanding of disabled people and what is being done for them.

As such, three of its centres providing services for the handicapped are among those to which conducted tours have been arranged, mainly for students, and anyone else interested in seeing the various types of rehabilitation services being provided in Hong Kong for the disabled of the community.

The centres are the Settlement for the Severely Disabled and the World Rehabilitation Fund Day Centre, both in Kwun Tong, and the Aberdeen Rehabilitation Centre on Hong Kong Island. The tours to the first two centres will take place on Thursday (March 28) while the one to the third centre will be on Friday (March 29).

The work that these centres are doing can also be seen in a photographic display in the exhibition now on at the City Hall Exhibition Hall. Different types of products made by the handicapped at the centres are also on show to illustrate that handicapped people too, when given a chance, can be useful like anybody else.

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RESUMPTION OF LAND FOR SHING ON PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE

At least half of the 5,000 people living in villages in northern Tsuen Wan have agreed to the terms offered by the government to resume their land for building the Shing On Public Housing Estate. The others are expected to do so during this week.

A spokesman for the District Office, Tsuen Wan, said today all the land-owners in that area were sent a letter from the District Commissioner, New Territories, last December giving them the option to surrender their land voluntarily to the government.

"Under the terms of this letter after such voluntary surrender they would hold a land exchange entitlement enabling them to apply for new land in any layout area of the New Territories," he said.

The spokesman added that although the land will be reverted to the Crown on April 2, the actual clearance of the area will take place over the next few months and there is, therefore, no question of people being evicted immediately on that date.

This has been explained to representatives of people in the area and a leaflet has also been distributed giving the reasons for the clearance and in general terms the entitlements of people living and working in the area.

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CELEBRATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S DAY

The Social Welfare Department's Group and Community Work Division has organised a series of entertainment programmes for young people to celebrate Children's Day which falls on April 4.

The programmes will be conducted in different areas through the Division's Community Work Offices and Community Centres in conjunction with voluntary organizations operating in the districts in which they are located.

The programmes will be held on different days over the next two weeks with the first one taking place tomorrow (Wednesday). This is a talent contest for children in the Sau Mau Ping area, and is open to individuals or groups aged from eight to 14. The preliminaries will be held at the Sau Mau Ping South Estate Welfare Building from 10 a.m. to noon, and 2-4 p.m.

The finals will take place in the afternoon of March 30, and will be followed by a prize-giving ceremony on Thursday (April 4) at 8 o'clock in the evening.

This contest is organized by the two Community Work Offices in Sau Mau Ping together with the YMCA's and Boys and Girls Clubs' Association's centres.

On Sunday (March 31) a fun fair for 3,000 children in Ngau Tau Kok area will be held at the Catholic Primary School in the district from 2 to 4.30 p.m. This is a joint effort for local children arranged by the Department's Estate Community Work Office there and 16 welfare organizations, schools and kaifong associations.

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Also on the same day, the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre will be holding a children's carnival for another 3,000 children beginning at 2 p.m. This will be held at the Community Centre in Tong Yam Street with Mr. Stephen Law, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer who is in charge of the Group and Community Work Division, cutting a ribbon to start off the fun and games.

Another series of activities including competitions in table tennis, skipping and assembling jigsaw puzzles, organized by the Ngau Tau Kok Community Work Office will be held on the weekend of April 6 and 7.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to send a reporter/
photographer to cover the above events.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

Daily Guide To Wholesale Market Prices And Supplies

The following prices were realised today (Tuesday) at sales under the Rice Control Scheme and at the Vegetable Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market and the Fish Marketing Organisation Wholesale Market at Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon:

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Rice

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>
<u>China Rice</u>		<u>Average</u>
See Mow -- old crop	Good	2.00
-- new crop		
S.C.Jion - old crop	Good	-
new crop		1.94
Po Hgai	Good	1.63
Chu Cho	-	-
<u>Thai Rice</u>		
100% Whole	Good	1.91
10-15% Broken	Good	1.89
A1 Super Extra	-	-
A1 Super	Good	1.52
Whole Glutinous	Good	2.00
<u>U.S. Rice</u>	Good	1.82
<u>Australian Rice</u>	Good	1.80
<u>Pakistan Rice</u>	-	-
<u>Taiwan Rice</u>	Good	1.60

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Marine Fish

<u>Species</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Golden Thread	Good	4.2	2.5	3.2
Big-Eyes	Good	2.5	0.7	1.8
Squid	Limited	5.0	3.0	4.0
Hair-Tails	Good	2.4	1.0	1.8
Lizard Fishes	Normal	3.2	1.2	2.0
Croakers	Good	2.0	0.7	1.5
Gonger-Pike-Eels	Normal	2.5	1.6	1.9
Melon Goat	-	-	-	-
Breams	Normal	4.0	3.0	3.2
Yellow Belly	Good	1.9	0.7	1.2
Mackerels	Good	4.2	3.2	3.8
Red Goat Fish	Normal	1.3	0.6	1.1
Fork-Tail	Normal	1.7	1.2	1.5
Horse-Head	Normal	5.5	3.2	4.0
Melon Seed	Normal	2.7	1.8	2.0
Pomfrets	Scarce	9.0	7.5	8.5
Garoupas	Normal	7.5	5.5	6.5
Yellow Croaker	-	-	-	-

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Supplies and Wholesale Prices of

Locally Produced Vegetables

<u>Type</u>	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (\$/catty)</u>		
		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Average</u>
Flowering cabbage	Normal	1.40	0.50	1.00
White cabbage	Normal	0.80	0.20	0.50
Chinese Lottuce	Normal	0.80	0.30	0.60
Chinese Kale	Normal	0.80	0.30	0.60
Spring onion	Good	0.70	0.20	0.50
Spinach	Normal	1.40	0.50	1.00
Water cress	Normal	0.80	0.20	0.50
Loaf mustard cabbage	Normal	0.80	0.20	0.50
Tomato	Normal	1.50	0.50	1.00
Chinese spinach	Scarce	2.00	1.20	1.60

Supplies and Wholesale Prices of Pork (Live weight)

	<u>Availability of Supply</u>	<u>Wholesale Price</u>
		<u>(\$/ picul)</u>
		(Average)
Pork	Good	.300