



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, December 11, 1972

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Plans have been announced to streamline the two government abattoirs	1
Driving tests are now required for holders of non-Hong Kong licences who apply for a Hong Kong Licence	3
The Governor presents his Cup and Shield to police contingents	4
Special counters will be opened at post offices to deal with the Christmas mail	5
Women are playing an important part in Hong Kong's industry...	6
Figures for the eighth week of the anti-diphtheria campaign have been announced	8
Five buildings have been declared dangerous	9
An exhibition of Chinese paintings is being held at Wong Tai Sin Community Centre	10
Textile shipments can be effected over the Christmas period...	10

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 1 -

PLANS TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT ABATTOIRS

Further Mechanisation Envisaged

The Government is to embark on a \$10 million project to streamline the operation of the two government abattoirs at Cheung Sha Wan and Kennedy Town.

The project will involve a further mechanisation of the existing slaughter-line system and the installation of a third pig slaughter-line.

Special conveyor systems and extra water showers for carcasses will be provided and a fourth mechanical descender, designed to facilitate the transfer of carcasses, will be installed.

The modifications are aimed at further improving the efficiency of the abattoirs, which are now semi-mechanised.

At present, two pig slaughter-lines operate simultaneously in the two abattoirs though one of them was originally envisaged as a standby for breakdowns, emergencies and overhaul purposes.

This tends to accelerate the general wear and tear of the lines apart from depriving the abattoirs of any overhaul ability.

During festivals, the demand for pigs increases and this exerts a tremendous pressure on the slaughter-lines.

With the completion of the third line, the total hourly output of pigs is expected to increase from the present 420 to 630.

Commenting on the project, the Assistant Director (Abattoirs, Hawkers & Markets) of the Urban Services Department, Mr. Augustine Chui Kam, said today: "The project to be implemented in the Cheung Sha Wan and Kennedy Town Abattoirs clearly reflects the Government's continued efforts to streamline the existing abattoirs and to improve the supply of meat to local consumers."

/He added

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 2 -

He added that the Government would study the feasibility of building another abattoir in the urban area and slaughterhouses in suitable locations in the New Territories.

Note to Editors: Copies of a photograph showing a pig slaughter-line at Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir are distributed separately in the press boxes this evening.

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13

DRIVING TEST REQUIRED FOR HOLDERS OF NON-H.K. LICENCES

U.K. Practice Followed

Holders of non-Hong Kong driving licences who apply for the issue of Hong Kong driving licences will, from today(Monday), all be required to pass a Hong Kong driving test, a Transport Department spokesman said today.

Under present legislation, the Commissioner for Transport may issue a Hong Kong driving licence direct to a person who has held a non-Hong Kong driving licence any time within the previous three years.

Hitherto, it has been the practice to look at each case on its merits, to judge whether the applicant had sufficient driving experience to warrant waiving the Hong Kong driving test in whole or in part. "This", the spokesman said, "has given rise to so much difficulty that it is necessary to introduce a requirement that all applicants who are holders of non-Hong Kong driving licences must take a Hong Kong driving test (but not the written test)."

This follows the current U.K. practice whereby a U.K. driving licence will be issued only where an applicant passes a U.K. test, irrespective of whether the applicant holds a non-U.K. licence.

Holders of non-Hong Kong driving licences and of international driving permits may drive in Hong Kong on the strength of those licences for up to a year, provided the licence is valid for that period.

If they wish to continue to drive in Hong Kong thereafter, they are advised to apply to the Transport Department, in good time before the expiry of the licence, for the issue of a Hong Kong driving licence.

There will be a delay (at present up to three months) before they can be tested.

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/4

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 4 -

GOVERNOR PRESENTS CUP AND SHIELD TO WINNING POLICE CONTINGENTS

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today praised all the Contingents which took part in this year's Review of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force for "a very high standard" of turnout and bearing.

Speaking at the presentation of his Cup and Shield at the Auxiliary Police Headquarters, Sir Murray said it was an "exceptional achievement" to win the Cup and the Shield.

He congratulated the winning contingents -- the Police Dog Unit and the Hong Kong Island (Auxiliary) Contingent.

The following is the full text of the Governor's speech:

"This year's Review of the Royal Hong Kong Police by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra was an outstanding parade. The turnout and bearing of all the contingents which took part were of a very high standard indeed and the three independent judges must have found it far from easy to select the winners.

"To win the Cup and the Shield on such an occasion is an exceptional achievement, and great credit is due to the winning contingents - the Police Dog Unit under Senior Inspector FUNG and the Hong Kong Island (Auxiliary) Contingent under Superintendent CHOW.

"I congratulate you on your performance and offer my best wishes to the Commissioner and all ranks of the Force for the year which lies ahead."

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/5

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 5 -

SPECIAL COUNTERS FOR MAILING CHRISTMAS CARDS

Special counter positions will be opened at Kowloon Central, Tsim Sha Tsui and General Post Offices from Wednesday (December 13) to December 21 for the acceptance of Christmas cards.

The special counters will accept any quantity of Christmas items.

"All post offices will be extremely busy during the pre-Christmas period. It would therefore be very helpful if the public using these counter positions could separate their postings clearly between Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories addresses," a spokesman for the Post Office said today:

The normal limitation on acceptance of cash in prepayment of postage will be relaxed at all post offices except those in the New Territories throughout the period.

Members of the public with at least 40 items with a total postage of \$4 or more may hand the items over the counter at these offices without affixing stamps. A receipt will be given in exchange for the postage paid on the items.

They are advised that the latest time for the posting of local mail items to ensure delivery before Christmas Day will be 6 p.m. on December 21.

"Postings after this date cannot be guaranteed delivery before Christmas," the spokesman said.

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/6

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 6 -

WOMEN PLAY IMPORTANT PART IN INDUSTRY

Textile Industry Employs Most Women

Women are playing an important role in Hong Kong's light industry.

According to official figures released by the Labour Department, 289,301 women were employed in registered and recorded industrial undertakings at the end of 1971, excluding out-workers and those engaged in the building trades.

The textile and garment industries absorb most of the women labour force. The number of women employed by the textile industry, by the end of last year, was 63,346, while the number of women working in the garment industry amounted to 82,825.

Besides these two industries, the plastics industry and undertakings such as the manufacture of wigs, metal products, and electrical appliances are employing a large number of women.

As the figures show 34,927 women were engaged in the plastics industry, 12,599 in wig-making, 17,042 in metal products, and 32,026 in electrical appliances.

Under an amendment to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Regulations, women are now allowed to work eight hours a day and 48 hours a week. It is estimated that 47,912 women are now working under this 48-hours-a-week system.

Amending regulations brought into force in December 1967 also limit the employment of women on overtime. Industrial employers are strictly prohibited to employ adult women to work between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

/Exemptions

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 7 -

Exemptions are granted to a number of women supervisors in selected industrial undertakings. At the end of 1971, 422 women supervisors were on night-shift in 40 factories.

Under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Regulations, women are not permitted to work more than six days a week in any industrial employment.

More factories now grant holidays to women workers on Sundays. By the end of 1971, 9,003 factories had adopted this system compared with 7,730 at the end of the previous year. In addition, there were 44 factories which released women on a selected week-day.

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/8

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 8 -

ANTI-DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS CAMPAIGN

Figures For Eighth Week Announced By Medical & Health Department

During the week ending on December 2, a total of 23,905 doses of the combined anti-diphtheria and tetanus vaccine was administered, according to statistics released today (Monday) by the Medical and Health Department.

Of these, 3,339 were administered on the Island, 12,140 in Kowloon, and 8,426 in the New Territories.

In the eight weeks since this routine campaign began on October 9, a total of 157,277 doses has been administered.

The campaign will continue for the rest of December. Free vaccine is available at all government maternal and child health centres and clinics.

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/9

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 9 -

BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

The Building Authority today declared Nos. 6 & 8 Third Street to be in a dangerous condition and Nos. 4 & 10 Third Street and No. 39 Eastern Street liable to become dangerous.

In a statement issued this morning, the Principal Government Building Surveyor said that these 2, 3 and 4 storey pre-war buildings were inspected in the course of planned surveys when it was found that the structural timbers and reinforced concrete frame of No. 8 Third Street were in an advanced state of deterioration.

In addition, the brickwork to the kitchen block of No. 6 Third Street was found to be badly fractured and bulged.

It is considered that the buildings are in such a condition that there is a risk of collapse.

It is further considered that due to weaknesses in the front walls of No. 4, Third Street and No. 39 Eastern Street, and in the rear wall of No. 10 Third Street, these buildings are liable to become dangerous during or after the demolition of Nos. 6 & 8.

Notices of intention to apply for Closure Orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on January 8, 1973 were posted today.

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/10

Monday, December 11, 1972

- 10 -

EXHIBITION OF CHINESE PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY

An exhibition of Chinese paintings and calligraphy is being held at the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre.

About 100 paintings and calligraphy scrolls and 30 pieces of coloured porcelain are on display.

The six-day exhibition, organised by the Sun Hoi Art Association of the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre, will last until Saturday, December 16.

The daily opening hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on week-days and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

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TEXTILE SHIPMENTS DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Exporters can effect shipments of textile goods during or immediately after the Christmas holidays.

All export licence applications for shipment of textile goods between December 23 and 27, 1972, submitted to the Commerce and Industry Department by 5 p.m. on December 21 will be processed and issued before 12 noon on December 23.

In a notice to exporters, the Director of Commerce and Industry said that on this occasion, the normal requirement for applications to be submitted two clear working days before the date of shipment would be waived.

"This arrangement," he added, "is designed to minimise any possible inconvenience to the trade arising from the closure of the Department's Textiles Licensing Office during the Christmas holidays."

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.