



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Saturday, March 4, 1995

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Anti-drug summit meeting to call for community joint effort

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The Governor's Summit Meeting on Drugs is to plan a community-wide education and support effort to try to halt the growing trend in drug abuse by young people, the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Alasdair Sinclair, said today (Saturday).

Speaking at the opening of the Yau Tsim District 94-95 Fight Crime cum Anti-Narcotics Carnival at Kowloon Park, the Commissioner said the summit, to be held next Monday (March 6), would provide a stimulus to the work already being undertaken in the area.

"It will raise awareness of the seriousness of the issue. It will improve understanding of the nature of the problem, the ways it is being tackled, and the contribution individuals can make to reducing it," Mr Sinclair said. "It will initiate new thinking on what can be done to prevent young people abusing drugs," he added.

The summit will probe four different aspects, namely law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and research.

"Nineteen speakers of authority will contribute their experience. There will be time for open discussion of each topic to collect a wider range of views and advice," the Commissioner said.

About 250 people will take part in the summit. They include members of the Legislative Council, District Boards, District Fight Crime Committees, senior Government officials, members of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, and representatives of voluntary agencies, the education sector, social welfare and youth organisations.

Mr Sinclair noted that on-going efforts in preventive education and publicity were made by the Narcotics Division throughout the year.

"Take March for example. There will be 47 talks to school children at all levels from Primary Six upwards, three drug education workshops for trainee teachers, and a seminar on drug abuse among adolescents for social workers and student social workers," he said.

There will also be a television show on March 10, two exhibitions in public housing estates, and a huge drawing at Victoria Park on March 19, he added.

End/Saturday, March 4, 1995

ICC members exchange visits

The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Eason, and other members of the Infrastructure Co-ordination Committee will leave tomorrow (Sunday) for a visit to Zhuhai and Shenzhen from March 5-7.

Chinese members of the ICC will join them on the visit which will include briefings on major infrastructure projects in Zhuhai and Shenzhen and site visits.

The two teams will continue their visit programme in Hong Kong which will include briefings and visits to the Lok Ma Chau Border Crossing, Mai Po Nature Reserve and Blackpoint in Tuen Mun on March 8 and a seminar on March 9.

Attention News Editors:

Mr Eason will see the press before his departure tomorrow (Sunday).

Media representatives covering the event should assemble at 1.30 pm tomorrow at the arrival hall of the China Ferry Terminal on the second floor of the terminal building in Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui.

Staff of the Secretariat Press Office will be on hand to assist.

There will also be press facilities to cover the Hong Kong visit and seminar on March 8-9. Details of the arrangements will be announced next Tuesday.

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Lion Rock Tunnel Road to be fully re-opened

The Lion Rock Tunnel Road section between the toll plaza and Sha Tin Road is scheduled to be fully re-open to traffic starting at 6 am on Monday (March 6) upon completion of reconstruction works.

The Transport Department announces that in conjunction with the full reopening of the road, the speed limit along this section of the road will be raised from the existing 50 kilometres per hour to 70 kilometres per hour.

A spokesman for the department said the bus only lane which was temporarily suspended in April last year when reconstruction work started would be reprovisioned and improved.

The existing bus only lane along Hung Mui Kuk Road will link up the Lion Rock Tunnel road bus only lane to provide a continuous bus priority route from Che Kung Miu Road to the Lion Rock Tunnel approach road.

The bus lane is, however, slightly modified near the toll plaza to allow for auto toll lane weaving movements.

All vehicles, except franchised and non-franchised buses, are prohibited to enter the bus only lane between 7 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 7 pm daily except Sundays and public holidays.

Appropriate traffic signs and road markings will be installed to advise motorists.

The spokesman said whilst the Lion Rock Tunnel Road was to be fully re-opened, commuters were still advised to make the best use of public transport and to plan their journeys in good time to avoid overloading the Lion Rock Tunnel Road, especially in the morning peak period.

"The Transport Department would like to thank motorists and commuters for their patience and co-operation throughout the reconstruction period which helped to keep the traffic disruption to a minimum.

"With the upgrading and improvement of facilities, they should now enjoy a safer and smoother journey along this road," the spokesman said.

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Pleasure vessels advised to stay out of busy waters

The Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, urged pleasure boating to keep out of the central and western harbour area as it is very dangerous for small pleasure boats.

Speaking at the opening of the Hong Kong International Boat Show 1995 in Sai Kung this (Saturday) morning, Mr Dale said that ocean-going commercial shipping and pleasure boats did not easily mix.

"It is safer to enjoy your pleasure boating in the calm scenic waters of our eastern shores," he advised.

He stressed that the Marine Department had a clear role to play in facilitating the safe and orderly development of recreational boating.

"My department's overriding concern is to ensure that pleasure boating can be enjoyed by all in safety," he added.

Noting that the sea is not man's natural environment, Mr Dale said that safety must be accepted as the most important aspect of boating.

"When we venture out on it either for pleasure or work, we must put safety at the head of our lists of things to check. Safety for ourselves and others must be our first and last concern," he said.

Mr Dale pointed out that while the Marine Department provided the regulatory framework to lay down basic safety standards for vessels and crews and the Marine Police provided an overseeing role to check that standards were maintained, the real and practical responsibility must rest with the vessel's owner and coxswain.

His advice to the owners and coxswains of pleasure vessels is:

- * learn, and follow the rules;
- * make sure everyone on board understands what to do in an emergency;
- * apply common sense and an understanding of the needs of other users of water.

Mr Dale further advised them to make sure the "SURE" (Sense, Upkeep, Rules and Equipment) guideline was observed.

- * Sense - use common sense, check the weather, number of people on board, plan the route.
- * Upkeep - check the boat in good condition.
- * Rules - learn the rules of the road and apply it at all times.
- * Equipment - check you have all the right safety equipment on board, and that everyone knows how to use it.

The International Boat Show 1995 is the largest event of its kind in Hong Kong since 1982. More than 40 manufacturers from all over the world take part in this year's show.

End/Saturday, March 4, 1995

More villages get metered water supply

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Over 240,000 villagers in 632 remote villages are provided with metered water supply by the Water Supplies Department since it began its first village supply project in 1980.

Speaking today (Saturday) at a tap-turning ceremony marking the provision of metered fresh water to four villages in the Ha Tsuen district, the Director of Water Supplies, Mr Hu Man-shiu, said the number of remote villages to be connected to the department's water supply system would be increased to 708 by mid-1998.

"At present, construction work for water supply to 22 villages, design work for 34 villages and planning work for 20 villages are being carried out," he said.

Mr Hu added that the Government had spent about \$14 million to construct the water network for four villages in the Ha Tsuen district.

"Sheung Pak Nai and Ha Pak Nai, Ngau Hom Shek and Ngau Hom Sha, being located farthest from the water supply system, are the last four villages in the Ha Tsuen district to be provided with metered water supply.

"Adequate water supply can only be made available to the area after the substantial completion of new water mains network in Tin Shui Wai New Town late last year," Mr Hu explained.

End/Saturday, March 4, 1995

Electors reminded to vote tomorrow

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The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) today (Saturday) reminded all registered electors that the polling hours of the Municipal Council elections tomorrow (Sunday) will be from 7.30 am to 10.30 pm.

An REO spokesman said an elector was only required to bring along his Identity Card to the Polling Station. But it would facilitate the polling proceeding if he could also bring along the poll card sent to him earlier.

A total of 377 polling stations will be opened on the polling day.

"The ballot is secret. No one can force a person to vote or not to vote for any particular candidate; and no one is required to tell which candidate he has voted for or is going to vote for," he said.

The spokesman also reminded electors that they should mark a "tick" sign in the circle space opposite the name of the candidate for whom he wished to vote.

He should then fold the ballot paper to conceal the mark and come out of the polling booth.

The folded ballot paper should then be put into a sealed ballot box in the presence of a polling staff, after which the elector should leave the polling station without undue delay.

To maintain free and safe passage for electors, a restricted canvassing area may be set up outside a polling station to regulate canvassing activities.

"Such an area would ensure that electors would not be unduly harassed on their way to the polling station, while allowing each candidate a fair chance of promoting himself," he said.

Of the 377 polling stations opened, 144 are accessible to the physically handicapped. Fifty-three physically handicapped electors have been reassigned to eight specified polling stations to vote.

Of the 59 constituencies, seven are uncontested. There are a total of 135 candidates.

The three members of the Boundary and Election Commission will visit polling stations throughout the territory to observe the conduct of the elections.

"It is the responsibility of the Commission to ensure that elections are conducted openly, honestly and fairly," the spokesman said.

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Failure to pay wages on time cost fine

The Labour Department today (Saturday) urged employers to pay wages to their employees within the time limit allowed by law.

The owner of Anderson & Ashe Limited in Mong Kok was recently fined \$45,000 by the Kwun Tong Magistracy for failing to pay wages to three employees within seven days after the termination of their service.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions) Mrs Tonia Leung said Section 25 of the Employment Ordinance stipulated that on termination of a contract of employment, wages and any other sums due to the employee had to be paid as soon as practicable but in any case not later than seven days after the day of termination.

"Moreover, under Section 23 of the Ordinance, wages are due at the end of the wage period and must be paid as soon as practicable but in any case not later than seven days," she added.

Any employer who fails to comply with these statutory obligations will commit an offence and be liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 12 months.

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Entries for Outstanding Volunteer Awards invited

Young volunteers will have an opportunity to visit Singapore and Malaysia during the summer vacation under the 1995/96 Overseas Exchange Award for Outstanding Youth Volunteers Scheme.

The scheme, jointly organised by the Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Council of Social Services, is aimed at commending outstanding youth volunteers for their contribution and commitment to the society.

"We welcome young volunteers aged between 16 and 24 to participate in this programme. Candidates must have experience in volunteer work and should be nominated by their schools or serving agencies," a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department said today (Saturday).

"A total of 14 awardees will be offered a free trip to Singapore and Malaysia to widen their international perspective as well as to meet their counterparts and share experience on voluntary work," he added.

The panel of adjudicators consists the Chairman of the Commission on Youth, Mr Eric Li; the Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services (Agency Service), Miss Virginia Chan; the Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Youth and Rehabilitation), Mr Anthony Chan; and the Chairman of the Organising Committee of Overseas Exchange Award for Outstanding Youth Volunteers 1995/96, Mr Chan Ping-wah.

Interested participants may contact their agencies or call the Organising Committee at 2892 5119 for further details. Nominations will be closed on April 7 (Friday).

The scheme is sponsored by the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund.

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Fresh water cut in Causeway Bay

Fresh water supply to some premises in Causeway Bay will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (March 6) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises at 256-281 Gloucester Road, 470-532 and 477-539 Jaffe Road, 485-545 and 486-556 Lockhart Road, 483-555 Hennessy Road, 1-5 Great George Street, 2-46 Percival Street, Cannon Street and East Point Road.

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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	1,866	09:30	+824
Closing balance in the account	1,235	10:00	+824
Change attributable to:		11:00	+824
Money market activity	+824	11:30	+824
LAF today	-1,455	15:00	

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.4 *-0.4* 4.3.95

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