



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**Saturday, March 11, 1995**

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No loss to Exchange Fund through Barings episode  
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The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) said today (Saturday) that there had been no loss to the Exchange Fund through the Barings episode.

The majority of the reserves of the Exchange Fund are managed in-house. Only a minor portion is being invested through a number of external managers and Barings International Investment Management Ltd. (BIIML) is one of them, a HKMA spokesperson said.

Of the portfolio managed by BIIML, 99 per cent is invested in securities and other investments that are placed with approved custodians in the name of the Exchange Fund and are segregated from that of Barings. The Exchange Fund's securities with BIIML were not at risk throughout this episode.

Only a very small cash element - less than one per cent of the portfolio managed by BIIML - was held at Baring Brothers and Co. as working balances.

This amount, which was insignificant, was frozen during the administration.

The HKMA has now received assurances from Barings that this sum will be honoured, and interest will be paid on it for the past two weeks. ING Bank has also publicly stated that these assets will be honoured.

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Note to Editors:

For further press enquiries, please contact Ms Julia Leung at 2878 8246 or pager 110040240.

End/Saturday, March 11, 1995

Sir David Trench Fund Committee invites applications for grants

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The Sir David Trench Fund Committee is inviting applications for grants from the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation and the Jockey Club Grant for Permanent Recreational Facilities for Youth.

The Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation is aimed at providing recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities facilities to promote personal development, purposeful use of leisure and community involvement, particularly of young people.

The Jockey Club grant is mainly for the construction of recreational facilities to meet the needs of young people.

A single application form is available for the two funds.

Application forms are obtainable at all District Offices of the Homes Affairs Department, and at the Education, Social Welfare, Health, Urban Services and Regional Services Departments as well as the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

They are also available at the Recreation and Sports Division of the Recreation and Culture Branch, and the Secretariat of the Sir David Trench Fund Committee which is responsible for administering both the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation for capital and non-capital projects and advising on the disbursement of the Jockey Club Grant.

Completed forms should be returned to the Secretariat of the Sir David Trench Fund Committee at Room 4015, 40th Floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Applications for capital works projects will close on May 20 while that for non-capital works projects is open throughout the year.

Enquiries about the Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation capital works projects and the Jockey Club Grant for permanent facilities for youth can be made on tel 2594 5659 while those about non-capital works projects on tel 2594 5660.

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### Special campaign to inspect construction sites

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The Labour Department will launch a special two-phase campaign to inspect construction sites in the territory especially those with poor safety records.

The first phase will start on March 13 (Monday) and the second phase, in August. Each phase will last about three months.

Deputy Chief Factory Inspector Mr Kan Hon-sang said today (Saturday) that the campaign was aimed at combating construction site accidents and reminding both the management and the workers of the importance of site safety.

"From experience, launching a special campaign in addition to day-to-day routine inspections before the advent of the rainy season is effective in enhancing construction site safety," he added.

A special task force comprising experienced factory inspectors has been assigned for the campaign.

The team will be paying particular attention to high risk activities such as working at height, in confined space or with heavy machinery equipment on construction sites with poor accident or prosecution records.

The use of suspended working platforms, lifting appliances, lifting gears and personal protective equipment such as safety belts and safety helmets will also be checked.

"Unscrupulous contractors and workers who choose to ignore construction site safety will be prosecuted without warning," Mr Kan warned.

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## Weather of February

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February this year was on the whole slightly cooler and drier than normal, a monthly weather report released today (Saturday) by the Royal Observatory said.

The mean air temperature of 15.1 degrees was 0.8 of a degree below normal.

Generally fine and dry weather occurred during the first 12 days of the month but cloudy and rainy conditions prevailed thereafter.

The monthly rainfall of 33.1 millimetres was 31 per cent below the February average. The rainfall for the first two months this year amounted to 54.2 millimetres, 24 per cent below the normal of 71.4 millimetres for the same period.

Under the influence of a northeasterly winter monsoon, the first day of the month was cold and cloudy. However, temperatures rose slightly during the next couple of days as winds turned to the east.

With the arrival of a northerly surge of the winter monsoon on February 4, the weather became sunny and very dry in the next two days during which a total of 120 hill fires were reported.

Daily minimum temperatures fell gradually and the month's lowest temperature of 10.4 degrees was recorded on the early morning of February 6.

It became progressively milder in the next three days. A fresh easterly airflow reached the coast of Guangdong early on February 10. Locally, a scaffolding was blown down in Happy Valley in high winds.

In the next couple of days, the easterlies moderated and the month's highest temperature of 22.3 degrees was reached on a sunny day on February 12.

A trough of low pressure over South China advanced southwards on February 13. As this trough traversed the coast that evening, local weather deteriorated with rain and thunderstorms.

Unsettled weather continued to affect the territory during the following morning but rain eased off in the afternoon. It stayed cloudy and cool with some rain from February 15 to 17.

A maritime airstream brought humid and misty weather to Hong Kong on February 18. Inside Victoria Harbour, visibility was reduced to 1,000 metres that morning.

A cool and rainy spell lasted from February 19 until the end of the month.

No tropical cyclone activity was observed over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in February.

Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of February are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in February 1995

Warnings/Signals	Effective date and time
Strong Monsoon Signal	4 Feb 2000 - 5 Feb 1100
Thunderstorm Warning	13 Feb 1640 - 14 Feb 1130
Fire Danger Warnings	
Yellow	1 Feb 0000 - 2 Feb 0605
Red	2 Feb 0605 - 7 Feb 0600
Yellow	11 Feb 0615 - 12 Feb 2315
Yellow	26 Feb 0610 - 26 Feb 1415
Gas Heater Alerts	
	27 Jan 1630 - 7 Feb 1630
	25 Feb 1630 - 26 Feb 1630

Table 1.2 Figures and departures from normal - February 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	96.0 hours; 1.7 hours below normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	8.96 MJ/SQ M; 1.73 MJ/SQ M below normal
Total Rainfall	33.1 mm; 14.9 mm below normal
Mean Cloud Amount	72%; 1% below normal
Mean Relative Humidity	76%; 2% below normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	17.0 degrees Celsius; 1.6 degrees Celsius below normal
Mean Air Temperature	15.1 degrees Celsius; 0.8 degree Celsius below normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	13.5 degrees Celsius; 0.4 degree Celsius below normal
Mean Dew Point	10.4 degrees Celsius; 1.4 degrees Celsius below normal
Total Evaporation	53.5 mm; 25.5 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine, solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

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Fresh water cuts in Tai Po and Central

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Fresh water supply to all premises in Hong Lok Yuen, Tai Po and some premises in Central will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Monday (March 13) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas in Central will include 76-176F Queen's Road Central, 51-133 and 86-164 Wellington Street, 1-49 Gage Street, 2-10A Aberdeen Street, Kin Sau Lane, Staveley Street, 2-18 and 9-27 Peel Street, 1-31B and 12-26C Graham Street, Gutzlaff Street, Cochrane Street, Tung Tak Lane, 1-21B and 2-42 Lyndhurst Terrace, 33-47 Pottinger Street, Eira's Lane, Tun Wo Lane and Wa On Lane.

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Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ Million</u>	<u>Time (Hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Change (\$ Million)</u>
Opening Balance in the account	1,756	09:30	+485
Closing Balance in the account	1,151	10:00	+485
Change Attributable to:		11:00	+485
Money Market Activity	+485	12:00	+485
Laf Today	-1,090	15:00	

Laf Rate 4.25% Bid/6.25% Offer TWI 118.7 \*+0.2\* 11.3.95

End/Saturday, March 11, 1995

Commonwealth Day message 1995 from the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth

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The General Assembly has proclaimed 1995 as the United Nations Year for Tolerance, a choice which is particularly appropriate for the Golden Jubilee of the United Nations Organisation itself. The same theme has been chosen for this year's Commonwealth Day.

We in the Commonwealth can teach the rest of the world something about tolerance, because it is at the heart of the unique association to which we belong. Although our countries are spread all over the world and face many different problems, we know a great deal about each other and it is therefore easier for us to understand each other's point of view even when we disagree.

That understanding is essential to a tolerant society, which is not simply one which gives to the individual scope and freedom from restraint. Rather it is a society which actively develops the people who belong to it, brings out their gifts and enriches their lives because it values their diversity. It does not condone persecution or the harming of some people by others, but it knows how to make allowances when things go wrong. It can forgive mistakes as well as giving encouragement and guidance on how to avoid them. It knows also that enhancing the quality of life of the individual brings benefit to the family, to the community, to the nation and to international relations.

That sort of tolerance is something which all of us must learn if we are to restore peace in the world, and here the young people of the Commonwealth have a special part to play. The young have the vision and ability to make the world a better place, and are not fettered by experience. They can see where the older generation have made their mistakes through intolerance, and they can do better.

Over the last year we have seen shining examples of this quality in action in the emergence of a new South Africa, which I shall be visiting next week, and in the recent signs of change in Northern Ireland. We pray that these examples will inspire everyone to try harder to make tolerance a universal rule of life. On this Commonwealth Day, as we make the traditional affirmations which are at the centre of the Commonwealth Day Observance, I send to all of you, with these examples in mind, a message of encouragement and hope for the future.

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### Tsing Ma Bridge main cables to be completed next month

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Aerial spinning of the two main cables of the Tsing Ma Bridge is moving ahead rapidly with over 97 per cent of the work completed.

The Project Director of the Lantau Fixed Crossing Project Management Office of the Highways Department, Mr C K Lau, said today (Sunday): "It is a significant milestone that the 2.2 kilometres long main cables will be completed on target next month.

"This will then be followed by the lifting and placement of the bridge's main deck units, which is scheduled to commence in July," he said.

Mr Lau said the two main cables would be among the largest anywhere in the world with a diameter of 1.1 metres, and will be made up of 28,000 tonnes of wires.

"From July last year, immediately after the successful building of two catwalks spanning the Ma Wan Channel, workers started to build up the two cables wire by wire by a spinning process. Now just nine months later, the work is close to completion," Mr Lau said.

Each main cable consists of 33,400 individual wires, each measuring 5.38 millimetres in diameter and with a total length of 160,000 kilometres, enough to circle the earth about four times.

With a central span of 1,377 metres, the Tsing Ma Bridge will be one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, and will be the longest carrying both road and rail traffic.

The Tsing Ma Bridge forms part of the Lantau Fixed Crossing, which is an essential element of the highway network of the Airport Core Programme linking the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and Tung Chung new town to the urban areas of Kowloon and Central Hong Kong.

It is being constructed by the Anglo Japanese Construction Joint Venture, under a \$7.14 billion contract awarded by the Highways Department in May 1992.

"The Tsing Ma Bridge remains on schedule for completion by mid 1997," Mr Lau said.

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### Guidelines for nominations by arts organisations

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The Recreation and Culture Branch has published a set of draft guidelines for representative arts organisations and for persons whom they nominate to the proposed statutory Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Under the Hong Kong Arts Development Council Bill, the Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-chairman, 16 members and four ex officio members.

Out of the 16 members, up to nine persons can be nominated by arts organisations representing the following interests:

- \* literary arts
- \* music
- \* dance
- \* drama
- \* visual arts
- \* film arts
- \* arts administration
- \* arts education
- \* arts criticism

"The draft guidelines lay down the various conditions to be fulfilled by the arts organisations and their nominees," a spokesman for the Recreation and Culture Branch said today (Sunday).

"However, they are illustrative rather than mandatory and should in no circumstances be interpreted as restricting the Governor from exercising his discretion or from taking into account other factors when deciding on the appointment of members of the Council," he added.

Members of the public are welcomed to send their comments on the guidelines to the Recreation and Culture Branch before the end of this month.

Copies of the guidelines are available at the Culture Division, 40th floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong. Enquiries can be directed to Ms Iris Tung on tel 2594 5625.

End/Sunday, March 12, 1995

### Teacher training stepped up for TOC implementation

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The Education Department is stepping up teacher training in preparation for Phase I of implementation of Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) in Primary 1 classes of 76 schools in this September.

A four-day School-based Preparatory Programme will be provided for all teachers in the 76 TOC schools from next month to July to further equip teachers for implementation of the curriculum.

The programme comprising talks, discussions, forums, workshops and reflection sessions will be held in individual schools with contributions from both lecturers of the Education Department's TOC Teacher Education Unit and panel chairmen of the respective school.

The TOC Teacher Education Unit will provide a proposed programme outline while teachers and lecturers will work together to tailor a programme according to the specific requirements of the school.

Participants will take an in-depth look at topics related to the implementation of TOC at school level such as Teaching and Learning, Catering for Individual Difference; Assessment and Reporting.

In addition, participants will work in groups on chosen areas of day-to-day operation such as the Scheme of Work, Assessment and Recording/Reporting Systems, Catering for Individual Differences, Time Tabling and Formation of Task Groups, Lesson Planning, etc. This will be followed by reflection and sharing sessions.

The School-based Preparatory Programme follows a series of two-day TOC seminars attended by 8,655 primary school teachers between January and June last year which introduced the concepts of TOC, and three-day TOC seminars for panel chairpersons which prepared them to become subject leaders in the TOC initiative.

The three-day seminars were held between November 1994 and March 1995 and attended by 2,292 panel chairmen from 1,080 government, aided and private primary schools, including special schools.

Meanwhile, the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned to conduct Workshops for School TOC Initiation between March 25 and late June 1995 in support of the implementation of TOC. These will be attended by principals and TOC Co-ordinators of the 76 Phase I schools.

Under the arrangements with the university, there will altogether be five identical programmes comprising talks, presentations, workshops and group discussions for a total of 152 participants.

After the commencement of Phase I implementation in September 1995, a School-based Development Programme will be provided from November 1995.

The Development Programme will aim at providing support for Phase I schools in tackling problems. The mode and approach will be similar to the School-based Preparatory Programme but more flexible in catering for different requirements of individual schools.

The spirit of teacher training for the implementation of TOC is to design different courses to meet the requirements of different personnel in schools.

Accordingly, the concepts of TOC are explained to teachers; panel chairpersons are equipped to become subject leaders; and school heads and TOC co-ordinators prepared to become curriculum leaders. Support in terms of school-based programmes is provided to schools at appropriate times both in the planning and implementation stages.

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Part-time teachers required

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A spokesman for the Education Department reminds qualified persons wishing to fill the evening part-time teaching vacancies in various courses operated in the 1995/96 school year to submit their applications not later than March 25 (Saturday).

The Adult Education Section of the department runs a number of courses in centres throughout the territory. They include the English course, the Government Evening Secondary School Course and the Adult Education Course.

The spokesman said experience in teaching English Language at post-secondary or senior secondary levels, Chinese language, science, social subjects or commercial subjects at senior secondary level and/or possession of a Diploma/Certificate in Education or Advanced Certificate in Teacher Training would be an advantage.

The pay scale for part-time teaching is:

- \* \$330 per hour for post-secondary level subjects;
- \* \$275 per hour for senior secondary level subjects;
- \* \$220 per hour for junior secondary level subjects; and
- \* \$200 per hour for primary level subjects.

Completed application forms should reach the Adult Education Section of the Education Department at 11th floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai on or before March 25, 1995.

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#### Survey of operation of New Territories taxis

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The Transport Department is conducting a survey of operation characteristics and finance of New Territories taxis.

A spokesman for the department said today (Sunday ) that the survey was an annual exercise and comprised a questionnaire and a meter-reading survey.

"Results of the survey will facilitate the formulation of future taxi policy and assessment of fare revision applications from the trade," he said.

About 2,800 New Territories taxi owners were invited to help in the survey.

They are requested to fill in and return a questionnaire and present their taxis for meter-reading at any of the six meter-reading centres in the New Territories.

Letters, questionnaires and sketches showing the locations of the centres have been sent to the selected taxi owners . Interviewees who have not returned their questionnaires to the Transport Department are urged to do so no later than March 20.

For the meter-reading survey, the selected taxi owners should present their vehicles to the meter-reading centres on both occasions starting from tomorrow (Monday) to Friday (March 17), and from March 20 to 24, between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm or between 2 pm and 4.30 pm.

The spokesman urged the owners to participate in the survey to help the department assess the operating condition of the taxi trade.

"The information collected will be used for statistical analysis only," he said.

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Fire safety message for students

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Fire safety message has reached thousands of primary school students through a series of school talks organised by the Fire Services Department as part of this year's publicity programme on Fire Prevention Campaign.

Officers from the Fire Prevention Bureau have been visiting primary schools throughout the territory since last month to enhance students' awareness on fire prevention. By mid-July, they will have visited 330 schools.

Students were told the various ways to prevent fires which might lead to disastrous damage and what to do if there was an outbreak of fire. They were also asked to help convey the message to their families and neighbours.

The talks are well supported by schools and students.

The Fire Services Department always places great emphasis on public education on fire prevention. In addition to the school talks, it has produced 2,100 sets of a teaching kit for distribution to all primary schools in this year's campaign and organised fire station open days and exhibitions.

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