

## **Fatal traffic accident in Wong Tai Sin**

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Wong Tai Sin this afternoon (March 29) in which a 69-year-old man died.

At 2.23pm, a taxi driven by the 69-year-old man was travelling along Tung Lung Road towards Wong Tai Sin. While approaching a bus terminus outside Tung Tau (II) Estate Wet Market, the taxi reportedly rammed into a bus parked in the bus terminus.

The man was rushed to Kwong Wah Hospital in unconscious state and was certified dead at 3.10pm.

Investigation by the Special Investigation Team of Traffic, Kowloon East is underway.

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 2305 7500 or 2305 7570.

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## **Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases**

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at noon today (March 29), public hospitals had reported to the Department of Health the admission of 204 patients (101 male and 103 female, aged 18 months to 99 years) in the past 24 hours who met the reporting criteria of COVID-19. Appropriate tests have been arranged for the patients.

There are 540 patients under isolation currently. So far, 118 patients who had COVID-19 confirmed or probable infections have been discharged upon recovery.

The Hospital Authority will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

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## **Liquor Licensing Board meeting on April 7 cancelled**

The following is issued on behalf of the Liquor Licensing Board:

In view of the latest development of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and to align with the Government's anti-epidemic measures, the Liquor Licensing Board announced today (March 29) that open hearings scheduled for April 7 have been cancelled. Further arrangements will be made for the affected open hearing cases.

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## **Submission of petitions before ExCo meetings to be suspended**

In view of the severe situation of the novel coronavirus infection, the arrangement for the Chief Executive to receive petitions outside the Chief Executive's Office before she convenes the Executive Council's meeting will be suspended on the Tuesdays of March 31 and April 7 to minimise group gatherings. During this period, members of the public can email their petitions to [ceo@ceo.gov.hk](mailto:ceo@ceo.gov.hk) or send them to the Chief Executive's Office of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Tamar, Hong Kong.

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The media session by the Chief Executive before the Executive Council's meeting will continue. As announced earlier, the relevant session will be relocated to the Auditorium of the Central Government Offices, which is more spacious. There will also be special arrangements on the number of media representatives and their seating until further notice.

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## **DSD strengthens responsive management measures for rainy season (with photos)**

A spokesman for the Drainage Services Department (DSD) said today (March 29) that the number of flooding blackspots in Hong Kong has reached the lowest on record. In order to further reduce flood risks during rainstorms,

the DSD will introduce the "just-in-time clearance" arrangement during the coming rainy season and will proactively incorporate new technologies to enhance the effectiveness and efficiencies of construction and maintenance works.

The spokesman said that the DSD has removed a total of 126 flooding blackspots over the past 26 years, including the one at the junction of Morrison Hill Road and Lap Tak Lane in Wan Chai this year. There are only five remaining flooding blackspots in Hong Kong, including Shek Wu Wai in San Tin, Yuen Long; Lam Tsuen Valley Basin and Ting Kok Road in Tai Po; Chatham Road South in Tsim Sha Tsui and Pok Fu Lam Village in Southern District. Among them, the drainage improvement works at Ting Kok Road have been completed, with its effectiveness having been monitored for several years. This flooding blackspot is expected to be removed after the coming rainy season.

"In order to further reduce the flood risks during rainstorms, we will introduce the 'just-in-time clearance' arrangement during daylight hours on week days in the upcoming rainy season. Before the onset of a rainstorm, staff will be deployed to inspect about 200 locations which are susceptible to blockage by litter, fallen leaves or the like, and will immediately arrange for clearance works if necessary. Furthermore, DSD staff will inspect and clear all main drains and rivers immediately after a rainstorm or when a typhoon signal is about to be lowered to prepare for the challenges of further rainstorms," the spokesman said.

Hong Kong faces an average rainfall of about 2 400 millimetres a year, one of the highest among cities in the Pacific Rim. Flooding is inevitable under extreme rainstorms. Notwithstanding this, the DSD has analysed over 200 flooding cases between 2017 and 2019, finding that over 60 per cent of them were due to blocked drains by litter, fallen leaves or other washouts carried by surface runoff. The "just-in-time clearance" arrangement is definitely an appropriate solution.

As high rainfall severely restricts the construction and maintenance of drainage facilities, thus affecting their capacities to cope with rainstorms, the DSD has been proactively incorporating new technologies. A new remote-controlled desilting robot has been procured for silt clearing works at submerged box culverts. The robot is able to go further inside submerged box culverts, and silt can also be transported to the ground surface through a tube connected to the robot, which largely improves the efficiency of the desilting works. Workers can be spared from entering the confined and submerged space of the culverts, and desilting works will no longer be limited mostly to dry seasons.

In order to increase construction efficiencies of new works projects, the DSD also incorporated the Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) concept, together with the Building Information Modelling technique, to design structural modules which could more easily be built and assembled amid the risks of inclement weather.

"The construction of a dry weather flow interceptor at the Cherry Street box culvert has adopted both DfMA and traditional cast in-situ methods. While structural modules are constructed off-site, part of the structures are cast in-situ. The construction period is therefore expected to be shortened by about six months," the spokesman added.

Apart from strengthening the responsive management measures before and after rainstorms, the DSD will continue to press ahead with its flood prevention strategy, which includes implementing underground stormwater storage schemes. Stormwater storage schemes aim to collect and temporarily store excessive rainwater during rainstorms, thus reducing the loading at downstream drains and the consequential flood risks. The four completed underground stormwater storage schemes in Tai Hang Tung, Sheung Wan, Happy Valley and On Sau Road have achieved remarkable results to prevent flooding in these areas. The DSD is collaborating with other departments to identify suitable public open spaces for construction of more underground stormwater storage schemes. So far, six locations are under planning, which include Shek Kip Mei Park, Tai Hang Tung Recreation Ground (extension), the Urban Council Centenary Garden in Tsim Sha Tsui, as well as Sau Nga Road Playground, Kwun Tong Ferry Pier Square and Hoi Bun Road Park in Kwun Tong District.



