

Very Hot Weather Warning issued

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Hong Kong Observatory has issued the Very Hot Weather Warning.

To prevent heat stroke, avoid prolonged activities outdoors.

If engaged in outdoor work or activities, wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes. Stay in shaded areas as much as possible.

Drink plenty of water, and avoid beverages containing caffeine or alcohol.

If you feel sick, consult a doctor right away.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected pangolin scales (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs today (July 17) seized a total of about 100 kilograms of suspected pangolin scales with an estimated market value of about \$500,000 at Hong Kong International Airport.

Customs officers intercepted two male passengers, aged 20 and 46, arriving in Hong Kong respectively from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Xiamen, China today. About 50 kilograms of suspected pangolin scales were found inside their suitcases respectively.

The cases have been handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up action.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and an imprisonment for ten years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Correctional officers intercept smuggling of suspected dangerous drugs into Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre

Correctional officers at Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre today (July 17) intercepted a male remand person in custody smuggling suspected dangerous drugs into the centre by concealing them inside his body.

The 53-year-old person in custody was remanded in the institution for the offence of possession of dangerous drugs on July 16. After undergoing X-ray body scanning, he was suspected to have swallowed suspected dangerous drugs before admission. He was therefore separated and put under close monitoring.

By 6.47pm today, he had discharged six pellets of suspected dangerous drugs wrapped in plastic sheet. The case has been reported to the Police for follow-up.

A spokesperson for the Correctional Services Department said, "The department takes every measure to stop the introduction of dangerous drugs or unauthorised articles into correctional institutions in order to maintain good order and discipline and a drug-free environment for all persons in custody."

Labour Department highly concerned about fatal work accident that happened today

The Labour Department (LD) is highly concerned about the work accident that happened in Tuen Mun this morning (July 17), in which a male worker was suspected to have been struck by falling objects when he was working outside a building at which dismantling of bamboo scaffolds was being carried out at the external walls. He was seriously injured and was certified dead later in the hospital. The LD is saddened by the death of the worker and has expressed its deepest sympathy to the victim's family.

A LD's spokesman said, "We commenced immediate on-site investigation as soon as we were notified of the accident and issued suspension notices to the contractors suspending the dismantling of bamboo scaffolds at external walls of buildings. The contractors cannot resume the work process until LD is satisfied that measures to abate the relevant risk have been taken."

The spokesman added, "We will complete investigation as soon as possible to identify the cause of the accident, ascertain the liability of the duty holders and recommend improvement measures. We will take actions pursuant to the law if there is any violation of the work safety legislation."

The general duty provisions of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance require employers to provide safe working environments, safe plant and safe systems of work for their employees. Those who contravene the above provisions are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for six months.

In regard to today's accident, the LD will issue a Work Safety Alert through its website and email, giving a brief account of the accident concerned to duty holders, workers' unions, professional bodies of safety practitioners and others, and reminding the industry of the importance of following safety precautionary measures to prevent recurrence of similar accidents.

The LD will also remind the employer concerned of the liability for employees' compensation under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, assist family members of the deceased to claim employees' compensation and closely follow up on the case. For those with financial difficulties, the LD will assist them to apply for appropriate emergency funds. Subject to the needs and wishes of family members of the deceased, the LD will also liaise with the Social Welfare Department for financial or other assistance.

For the sake of securing the safety and health of employees at work, the LD appeals to employers to provide plant and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health. Employees should co-operate with their

employers, adopt all safety measures and use personal protective equipment provided properly to avoid endangering their own work safety and that of other workers.

Man holding charged with murder

Police today (July 17) laid a holding charge against a 27-year-old man with one count of murder.

The man was suspected to be in connection with a murder case happened on July 6 in Yuen Long in which a 17-year-old man died.

The case will be mentioned at Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (July 18).