

Red flags hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (February 25) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Silverstrand Beach and Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

Hong Kong Flower Show invites enrolment in photo competition

Photography enthusiasts are invited to join the "When Dreams Blossom" photo competition, which is to be held in conjunction with the annual spectacular Hong Kong Flower Show in March.

The competition is jointly organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB). It aims to promote the awareness of greening with impressive photographs of flowers and plants on display, interesting or touching scenes captured at the showground, and portraits of TVB artistes and Miss Hong Kong 2018 titleholders with gorgeous garden displays as a background.

The competition is divided into three categories. Category A, "Portrait of TVB Artistes and Miss Hong Kong", comprising Open and Student Sections, will hold its shooting session at 3.30pm on March 14 at Victoria Park. The shooting session will last about an hour.

Entrants in Category A may enrol in person at any LCSD Leisure Link outlet from today (February 25) to March 13. The maximum number of entrants is 1,000. Entrants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Entry fees are \$50 for the normal rate and \$25 for students, senior citizens aged 60 or above and persons with disabilities.

It is not necessary to apply in advance for Category B, "Flowers", and Category C, "Snapshots". However, entrants are required to pay admission fees for taking photographs at the showground during the show period. Photographs must be related to this year's Hong Kong Flower Show.

All entries must be submitted by mail or in person by 6pm on April 16 to the Secretariat, Hong Kong Flower Show, 11/F, Leisure and Cultural Services Department Headquarters, 1-3 Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin.

For details of the photo competition, please refer to the leaflets and entry forms available at the flower show webpage www.hkflowershow.hk/en/hkfs/2019/photo_rs.html. For enquiries, please call 2601 8260.

Featuring the main theme "When Dreams Blossom" and with the Chinese hibiscus as the theme flower, this year's flower show will be held in Victoria Park from March 15 to 24 from 9am to 9pm daily.

The flower show is organised by the LCSD. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust is supporting the flower show for the seventh consecutive year and has been the Major Sponsor of the flower show since 2014. The photo competition is sponsored by Vitec Imaging Distribution (HK) Limited and Tamron Industries (Hong Kong) Limited.

Henan Liaison Unit relocates to new office

The Henan Liaison Unit (HALU) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government moved to its long-term office today (February 25). The new address and detailed contact information is as follows:

Address: Unit 23A01, Block A, Kai Xuan Plaza, junction of Huayuan Road and Nongke Road, Jinshui District, Zhengzhou, Henan Province

Tel: (86-371) 6123 1206

Fax: (86-371) 6123 1213

Email: halu@wheto.gov.hk

Website: www.wheto.gov.hk

The HALU, under the purview of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Wuhan of the HKSAR, commenced operation in September 2016. It strives to strengthen Hong Kong's connections with Henan Province as well as its municipalities; promote economic and trade relations with Henan Province; organise activities to promote Hong Kong's advantages; liaise with Hong Kong people or groups living, working or studying in Henan Province; and provide support to Hong Kong residents and enterprises in the area.

CE to visit Thailand and Beijing

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, will depart for Bangkok, Thailand on February 27 to officiate at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok to be held the next day. She will then leave for Beijing to attend the second plenary meeting of the leading group for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area on March 1 and the opening ceremony of the second session of the 13th National People's Congress on March 5.

During her stay in Bangkok, Mrs Lam will also meet with senior officials of the Thailand government, address a business seminar co-hosted by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, and officiate at the opening ceremony of collaboration activities of Zuni Icosahedron, a Hong Kong arts group, and the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Mr Edward Yau, will join the visit.

Mrs Lam will depart Bangkok in the evening on February 28 for Beijing. While in Beijing, she will also attend a ceremony marking the donation by Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation to the Palace Museum, call on the central ministries and take part in visits and exchange activities in various organisations. The Director of the Chief Executive's Office, Mr Chan Kwok-ki, will accompany Mrs Lam during the trip and the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, will join part of the programme.

Mrs Lam will return to Hong Kong in the morning on March 7. During her absence, the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, will be the Acting Chief Executive.

18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition of 7th Hong Kong Games held today (with photos)

The 18 Districts' Pledging cum Cheering Team Competition of the 7th Hong Kong Games (HKG) was held at Queen Elizabeth Stadium today (February 24), showing the full support of relevant organisations as well as the readiness of athletes from 18 districts to strive for success in the Games. The Cheering Team Competition encouraged members of the public to give support to the athletes and created a cheerful atmosphere for the 7th HKG.

Officiating at the ceremony, the Under Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Jack Chan, said Hong Kong athletes have had outstanding performances in international sports events in recent years. "To achieve such excellence in the international sports arena, apart from athletes' strenuous training and cultivation, building a solid foundation by continuous promotion of a 'Sport for All' culture at the community level is also important. The biennial HKG has fulfilled the mission and is a major event of the Government to promote 'Sport for All' in the community."

The inter-district sports competitions of the 7th HKG will commence soon. Athletes from the 18 districts will represent their districts to compete at the Games, enhancing communication and fostering friendship among the 18 districts. Mr Chan encouraged members of the public to watch the Games and cheer on the athletes. They can also show support for the Games by taking part in community participation programmes, he added.

Also officiating at the ceremony, the Chairman of the 7th HKG Organising Committee, Mr David Yip, said that rugby sevens will be included as a new demonstration sport in the 7th HKG. Two competitions, namely the Wheelchair Basketball Challenge and the Swimming Invitation Competition for People with Intellectual Disabilities, will continue to be organised in the 7th HKG, providing more opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in sports.

He said, "Members of the public participated actively in the athlete selection of the 7th HKG, with the participation of more than 7 400 people, an increase of 1 000 compared to the last HKG. More than 3 300 athletes were nominated to represent their districts to take part in the competition. A new promotional video featuring local elite athletes and sports ambassadors has been produced to appeal to the public to watch the sports competitions and take part in the community participation programmes of the HKG."

The pledging ceremony was staged at Queen Elizabeth Stadium for the first time together with the 18 Districts' Cheering Team Competition, allowing a larger audience to witness the event. Results of the competition will be announced today on the dedicated HKG website (<http://www.hongkonggames.hk/>).

Cheerleaders from the 18 districts showcased the uniqueness and vitality of their districts today through their performances combining dancing, cheering and chanting, and competed for the Best Performance Award, the Best Local Characteristics Award and the Highest Popularity Award.

The Best Performance Award assesses the content, action arrangement and onstage presentation of performers, as well as the skills in movements and overall performance. The Best Local Characteristics Award recognises teams that present the best overall impression, with techniques, costumes and appearance, slogans, music and songs that reflect the characteristics of their districts. The Highest Popularity Award will be given to the team which obtains the most votes from the audience through "one person, one vote". The winning teams will give performances at the Opening Ceremony of the 7th HKG on April 28. The prizes will be presented at the Closing cum Prize

Presentation Ceremony of the 7th HKG on June 2.

The HKG is a territory-wide major multi-sports event held biennially with the 18 District Councils (DCs) as the participating units. The inter-district sports competitions of the 7th HKG will be held between April 28 and June 2 this year, covering eight sports competitions, namely athletics, badminton, basketball, futsal, swimming, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

Other community participation programmes of the HKG will also commence, including the Jockey Club Vitality Run to be held on March 10 alongside the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin. A carnival will also be held at Yuen Wo Playground on the event day. Members of the public can enjoy activities such as stage performances, sports demonstrations, game booths, a family area and a photo corner to share the fun of sports. They can also vote for "My Favourite Sporty District" and guess the "Overall Champion of the 7th HKG". Photography enthusiasts can take pictures of the exciting scenes of sports competitions and activities of the 7th HKG to participate in the "Dynamic Moments Photo Contest". Details of the sports competitions and community participation programmes are available at the dedicated [website](#).

Also officiating at today's ceremony were the President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, Mr Timothy Fok; the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Ms Michelle Li; and the Vice Chairman of the 7th HKG Organising Committee, Professor Patrick Yung. Representatives of the 18 DCs and relevant National Sports Associations also attended the event to show their support.

The 7th HKG is organised by the Sports Commission and co-ordinated by the Community Sports Committee along with the 18 DCs; the Leisure and Cultural Services Department; the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China; and relevant National Sports Associations as co-organisers. The Hong Kong Jockey Club is recognised as the Principal Contributor.



