Fatal traffic accident in Mong Kok

Police are investigating a fatal traffic accident in Mong Kok today (June 26), in which an 87-year-old woman died.

At about 4.43am, a medium goods vehicle (MGV) driven by a 40-year-old man reportedly knocked down the 87-year-old woman when it reversed on Cheung Wong Road near Shamchun Street junction.

Sustaining injury on head, the woman was certified dead at scene.

The MGV driver was arrested for dangerous driving causing death and is being detained for further enquiries.

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

Anyone who witnessed the accident or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 9000 or 3661 9058.

Ombudsman invites public views on Education Bureau’s mechanism for approving applications for school fee revision

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, today (June 26) invited members of the public to provide information and/or views on the mechanism of the Education Bureau (EDB) for approving applications for school fee revision.

According to information published by the EDB in September 2017, a total of 147 Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS)/private/international schools had been granted approval by the EDB to increase their school fees for the 2017/18 school year. Some schools charge an annual school fee of over $200,000. The EDB says that it has established procedures for approving applications for school fee revision submitted by DSS/private/international schools. Nevertheless, there are concerns in the community that the bureau's approval mechanism is lax and lacks transparency, such that those schools can often easily obtain approval to raise their school fees, thereby placing a heavy financial burden on parents.

Ms Lau said, "Parents have been relying on the EDB to scrutinise the schools' budgets and their justifications for fee increase. The bureau should ensure that the levels of fee increase are reasonable and protect the interests of students and their parents. If schools are at liberty to unreasonably hike their school fees year after year, that would bring about a heavy financial burden for parents to bear. We are, therefore, very concerned about whether the EDB has in place a sufficiently strict mechanism and proper procedures for approving applications for school fee revision."

The Office of The Ombudsman has initiated a direct investigation into the EDB's criteria and procedures for approving applications for school fee revision, and the bureau's regulatory system for school fees collected by schools. The Office will also examine whether there are inadequacies in the EDB's current approval mechanism and administrative procedures, with a view to making recommendations to the bureau for improvement.

To make the investigation more comprehensive, The Ombudsman now invites members of the public, particularly parents, parents' associations, the education sector and sponsoring bodies, to send information and/or views in writing to the Office of The Ombudsman by July 26, 2018:

Address: 30/F, China Merchants Tower, Shun Tak Centre, 168-200 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong
Fax: 2882 8149
Email: complaints@ombudsman.hk

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First quarter 2018 issue of “Quarterly Supplement to Statistical Digest of the Services Sector” published

The first quarter 2018 issue of "Quarterly Supplement to Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" is published by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) today (June 26). This issue is now available for download free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp70.jsp?productCode=B1080008).

The services sector is the heart of Hong Kong's economy. Accurate and detailed statistics play an important role in support of the Government's initiatives on promoting the services sector. This issue of the Quarterly Supplement provides up-to-date quarterly statistics (from the fourth quarter of 2016 to the first quarter of 2018) for the more important statistical series on 14 major service industries/domains of Hong Kong.

Enquiries about this publication can be directed to the Logistics and Producer Prices Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7255 or email: services@censtatd.gov.hk).

FSD holds briefing on optimising measures on processing of acceptance inspection of fire service installations

The Fire Services Department (FSD) held a briefing at the Kowloon Tong Fire Station today (June 25) on the results of the newly introduced measures to optimise the processing of acceptance inspection of fire service installations (FSIs) and equipment. Participants included stakeholders in architecture, construction and engineering industries, and representatives of private corporations and various government departments.

The briefing aimed to share the FSD's experience with the industry in effectively conducting acceptance inspection of FSIs. The department also urged the industry to collaborate in order to expedite such processes. The FSD also put forth some best practices for acceptance inspections and document submissions during the briefing for reference by the participants.

"For the sake of optimising the process of accepting inspection of FSIs, the FSD has implemented a series of new measures and that positive feedback has been received. The department will maintain regular communication and connection with the industry in order to refine both approval and acceptance procedures," the Assistant Director of Fire Services (Licensing and Certification), Mr Leung Kwun-hong said, when concluding the briefing.

The briefing was attended by about 160 representatives from the construction industry; professional institutes of architects, engineers and surveyors; registered FSI contractors; private corporations; and related government departments.