

Appeal for information on missing man (with photo)

Police today (April 21) appealed to the public for information on a man who went missing.

Lin Hanxiang, aged 51, cannot be reached by his friend since he was last contacted on April 20 night. His friend made a report to Police on the same day.

He is about 1.8 metres tall, 80 kilograms in weight and of medium build. He has a long face with yellow complexion and short black hair.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing man or may have seen him is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Kowloon West on 3661 8036 or 9020 6542 or email to rmpu-kw-2@police.gov.hk, or contact any Police station.



AFCD continues to close barbecue sites and campsites in country parks until May 7

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) announced

today (April 21) that, in light of the latest development of COVID-19 and to reduce social contact, the barbecue sites and campsites in country parks will continue to be closed until May 7 (11.59pm of Thursday night).

There are currently 163 barbecue sites and 41 campsites under the management of the AFCD, and all of them have been closed since 6pm on March 28 until April 23. In view of the latest development of the epidemic, the Department decided to continue extending the closure until May 7. Details of these sites are available on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk). During the closure of the above facilities, no one should carry out barbecuing or camping activities in country parks. Staff of the AFCD will step up patrols of the sites concerned. Violation of relevant regulations may be subject to prosecution. In the past two weeks, the AFCD has taken enforcement action against 34 persons who carried out barbecuing or camping activities in country parks in contravention of the regulations.

The AFCD will continue to closely monitor the situation and review the above arrangement as appropriate. For enquiries, please call 1823. For the latest updates on the facilities in the country parks, members of the public can also visit the "Enjoy Hiking" website (www.hiking.gov.hk).

The AFCD would like to remind visitors to country parks to ensure personal and environmental hygiene and maintain social distancing. Visitors should properly handle used masks and waste and take their litter home.

Triggering of the Strong-side Convertibility Undertaking

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The strong-side Convertibility Undertaking (CU) of HK\$7.75 to US\$1 under the Linked Exchange Rate System (LERS) was triggered today (April 21) during the Hong Kong trading hours. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) sold HK\$1,550 million to the market in exchange for US dollars, and the Aggregate Balance will increase by the same amount. Taking into account the reduction of HK\$5 billion of Exchange Fund Bills issuance earlier today, the Aggregate Balance will increase to HK\$60.6 billion on April 23. This is the first triggering of the strong-side CU since October 2015.

The Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Eddie Yue said, "The Hong Kong dollar exchange rate has been on a strengthening bias recently, mainly driven by increases in market carry-trade activities and equity-related demand for Hong Kong dollars. In addition to the current strong market demand for Hong Kong dollars, increases in fiscal spending will also raise demand for Hong Kong dollars. Upon triggering of the strong-side CU, the HKMA bought US

dollars from and sold Hong Kong dollars to the market. This was conducted in accordance with the design of the LERS, which has been operating effectively."

"As risks posed by the COVID-19 on global economy are still evolving, financial markets will continue to see considerable volatility. The HKMA will continue to closely monitor the market situation and ensure Hong Kong's money and foreign exchange markets operate smoothly. We will also maintain our currency stability in accordance with the LERS," he added.

CHP investigates four additional cases of COVID-19

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health has announced that as of 4pm today (April 21), the CHP was investigating four additional confirmed cases of COVID-19, taking the number of cases to 1 030 in Hong Kong so far (comprising 1 029 confirmed cases and one probable case).

The newly reported cases announced today involve two males and two females aged between 13 and 39. Among them, all had a travel history during the incubation period and one is an overseas student. The CHP's epidemiological investigations and relevant contact tracing on the confirmed cases are ongoing. For case details and contact tracing information, please see the Annex.

The CHP urged members of the public to maintain an appropriate social distance with other people as far as possible in their daily lives. In particular, they should go out less and avoid social activities such as meal gatherings or other gatherings to reduce the chance of contacting infected persons, who may not present any symptoms, and minimise the risk of outbreak clusters emerging in the community.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "Given that the situation of the COVID-19 infection remains severe and that there is a continuous increase in the number of cases reported around the world, members of the public are strongly urged to avoid all non-essential travel outside Hong Kong.

"The CHP also strongly urges the public to maintain at all times strict personal and environmental hygiene, which is key to personal protection against infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. On a personal level, members of the public should wear a surgical mask when having respiratory symptoms, taking public transport or staying in crowded places. They should also perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes.

"As for household environmental hygiene, members of the public are advised to maintain drainage pipes properly, regularly pour water into drain outlets (U-traps) and cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use. After using the toilet, they should put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs."

The CHP will report the cases to the World Health Organization, the National Health Commission, the Health Commission of Guangdong Province, relevant health authorities and the Hospital Authority.

The CHP has set up hotlines (2125 1111 and 2125 1122), which operate from 8am to midnight daily, for public enquiries. As at 4pm today, a total of 96 074 calls had been received.

Moreover, the Government has launched the website "COVID-19 Thematic Website" (www.coronavirus.gov.hk) for announcing the latest updates on various news on COVID-19 infection and health advice to help the public understand the latest updates.

To prevent pneumonia and respiratory tract infection, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene. They are advised to:

- Wear a surgical mask when taking public transport or staying in crowded places. It is important to wear a mask properly, including performing hand hygiene before wearing and after removing a mask;
- Perform hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes, after touching public installations such as handrails or door knobs, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing;
- Maintain drainage pipes properly and regularly (about once a week) pour about half a litre of water into each drain outlet (U-trap) to ensure environmental hygiene;
- Cover all floor drain outlets when they are not in use;
- After using the toilet, put the toilet lid down before flushing to avoid spreading germs;
- Wash hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds. Then rinse with water and dry with a disposable paper towel. If hand washing facilities are not available, or when hands are not visibly soiled, performing hand hygiene with 70 to 80 per cent alcohol-based handrub is an effective alternative;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue paper when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of soiled tissues into a lidded rubbish bin, then wash hands thoroughly; and
- When having respiratory symptoms, wear a surgical mask, refrain from work or attending class at school, avoid going to crowded places and seek medical advice promptly.

Police's response to CA's decision on complaints against "Pentaprism"

A Police spokesman said today (April 21) that Police had taken note of the press release issued by the Communications Authority (CA) yesterday (April 20) covering its decision regarding complaints against an episode of the Radio Television Hong Kong TV programme "Pentaprism" broadcast on November 20, 2019.

According to the findings of the CA, the host's remarks made in the programme was irresponsible, and could be regarded as a hate speech with the effect of inciting hatred against the Police, unfair to and were capable of adversely affecting the reputation of the Police. The CA took the view that the complaints in respect of accuracy, incitement of hatred, fairness and factual content of personal view programme were substantiated and decided that RTHK should be seriously warned.

The Police spokesman welcomed CA's decision. Since the anti-extradition protests in June last year, rumours have been circulating to defame and smear the Force, with an attempt to disrupt Police-community relations. Police expressed strong condemnation against it. The spokesman stressed that Police are willing to accept criticisms which are constructive and based on goodwill. However, Police absolutely do not accept inaccurate or misleading reports and remarks, and will follow up as appropriate.