

Eighteen building plans approved in April

The Buildings Department approved 18 building plans in April, with five on Hong Kong Island, four in Kowloon and nine in the New Territories.

Of the approved plans, seven were for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, five were for commercial developments, two were for factory and industrial developments, and four were for community services developments.

In the same month, consent was given for works to start on 13 building projects which, when completed, will provide 83 517 square metres of gross floor area for domestic use involving 1 813 units, and 185 747 sq m of gross floor area for non-domestic use. The department has received notification of commencement of superstructure works for eight building projects.

The department also issued 20 occupation permits, with four on Hong Kong Island, seven in Kowloon and nine in the New Territories.

Of the buildings certified for occupation, the gross floor area for domestic use was 65 772 sq m involving 1 545 units, and 178 009 sq m was for non-domestic use.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in April totalled about \$7.4 billion.

In addition, five demolition consents involving five building structures were issued.

The department received 3 509 reports about unauthorised building works (UBWs) in April and issued 1 490 removal orders on UBWs.

The full version of the Monthly Digest for April can be viewed on the Buildings Department's homepage (www.bd.gov.hk).

Shanghai Yue Opera Group to perform with all-star cast

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Chinese Opera Festival will present four Yue opera performances in July, with the Shanghai Yue Opera Group staging an all-star cast featuring National Class One Performers and winners of the Plum Blossom Award for Chinese Theatre including Qian Huili of the Xu (Yulan) school; Fang Yafen of the Yuan (Xuefen) school; Zhang Ruihong

of the Fan (Ruijuan) school; and Shan Yangping and Wang Zhiping of the Wang (Wenjuan) school.

The star cast and their signature repertoire offer an exciting showcase for Yue opera's dulcet melodies, lyricism and aesthetic appeal, with the various schools each boasting its own unique charm. There will be four full-length traditional classics – "Romance of the West Chamber", "Meng Lijun", "Tale of the West Garden" and "Southeast the Peacocks Fly".

"Romance of the West Chamber", a love story with an elegant libretto, is adapted from the "zaju" play of the same title by Wang Shifu of the Yuan period. With an emphasis on poetic ambience, the company's staging of this classic in the repertoire of the Yuan school has been hailed as one of the most faithful adaptations of the original play among contemporary works. "Meng Lijun", a comedy with an imperial court setting, follows the repertoire of the Wang school. The libretto is based on the the "tanci" lyrics of "Eternal Happiness" by the poetess Chen Duansheng of the Qing period. The light-hearted comedy, "Tale of the West Garden", is the signature play of the legendary duo of Yue Opera, Xu Yulan and Wang Wenjuan. The script is based on the work of the same title by dramatist Wu Bing from the late Ming period, as well as the Kunqu Opera adaptation by dramatist Bei Geng in the 1960's. The play moves at a lively pace and is presented with graceful staging and design. The story of "Southeast the Peacocks Fly" originates from "An Ancient Poem Written for the Wife of Jiao Zhongqing" of the East Han period and is in the stock repertoire of the Fan and Fu (Quanxiang) schools. The arias, "The Lonely Chamber after That Person is Gone" and "A Fond Farewell", have become classics and remain popular to this day.

Performances (with Chinese and English surtitles) details are as follows:

July 25 (Thursday); 7.30pm

"Romance of the West Chamber"

Main cast: Fang Yafen, Qian Huili

July 26 (Friday); 7.30pm

"Meng Lijun"

Main cast: Shan Yangping, Zhang Ruihong, Ding Xiaowa

July 27 (Saturday); 7.30pm

"Tale of the West Garden"

Main cast: Qian Huili, Huang Hui, Wang Zhiping

July 28 (Sunday); 2.30pm

"Southeast the Peacocks Fly"

Main cast: Zhang Ruihong, Chen Ying

Performances will be staged at the Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Tickets priced at \$180, \$280, \$380 and \$480 are now available at URBIX (www.urbtix.hk) and the Xiqu Centre Ticket Office. For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and

concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7325 or visit www.cof.gov.hk/2019/en/yue.html.

A meet-the-artists session entitled "A Guided Appreciation of the Artistic Features of Yue Opera Classics" will be held at 7.30pm on July 24 (Wednesday) at AC2, Level 4, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Speakers include Qian Huili, Shan Yangping, Zhang Ruihong, Fang Yafen and Wang Zhiping as well as Elbe Lau as moderator. Admission is free. Limited seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Exchange Fund Bills Tender Results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: June 18, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1925
Issue date	: June 19, 2019
Maturity date	: September 18, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$106,455 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$43,485 MN
Average yield accepted	: 2.08 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 2.13 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 83 PCT
Average tender yield	: 2.19 PCT

Tender date	: June 18, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1954
Issue date	: June 19, 2019
Maturity date	: December 18, 2019
Amount applied	: HK\$30,655 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$10,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 1.97 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 2.00 PCT
Pro rata ratio	: About 66 PCT
Average tender yield	: 2.13 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning

June 24, 2019:

Tender date	: June 25, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1926
Issue date	: June 26, 2019
Maturity date	: September 25, 2019
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$43,411 MN

Tender date	: June 25, 2019
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1955
Issue date	: June 26, 2019
Maturity date	: December 27, 2019
Tenor	: 184 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$9,000 MN

Lifesaving services at Cafeteria Old Beach resume

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at regular intervals:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that the lifesaving services at Cafeteria Old Beach in Tuen Mun District resumed today (June 18). The lifesaving services at the beach were suspended earlier due to an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty.

Additional public forum on proposals for enhancing animal welfare

The Government, through amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance (Cap. 169), proposes to extend the existing legislation which prohibits and penalises acts of cruelty to animals to include taking positive actions on looking after animals well. A three-month public consultation has been launched and four public forums were held to gauge the views of members of the public. To facilitate public attendance and expression of opinions, the Government will hold an additional public forum, the details of which are as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Primary language
July 15 (Monday)	8pm to 10pm	Theatre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre	Cantonese

Members of the public are welcome to register to attend. The registration arrangements have already been posted on the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's dedicated website on the public consultation (www.pets.gov.hk/english/animal_health_and_welfare/Proposals_to_Enhance_Animal_Welfare.html).

People who would like to attend the consultation forum should register via the dedicated website for seat reservation. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Apart from the public consultation forums, views on the consultation paper can be delivered by post to the Office of the Animal Management (Development) Division, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, 5/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Hong Kong, by fax to 3110 1336, or by email to cap169_amendment@afcd.gov.hk on or before July 31 this year.

The consultation paper can be downloaded from the dedicated website, the Food and Health Bureau's website (www.fhb.gov.hk) and the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/en/residents/government/publication/consultation/current.htm).