

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected heroin worth about \$26 million (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 30 kilograms of suspected heroin with an estimated market value of about \$26 million at Hong Kong International Airport yesterday (January 26).

Through risk assessment, Customs on that day inspected two air consignments, declared as carrying cookies, arriving in Hong Kong from Thailand. Customs officers found one of the consignments containing 22 carton boxes, of which five carton boxes had contained 80 tin boxes of biscuits, each with a piece of suspected heroin concealed inside. The total weight of the 80 pieces of suspected heroin was about 30kg.

Upon investigation, Customs officers on the same day arrested two men, aged 45 and 40, suspected to be connected with the case. Two goods vehicles were also searched and a suspected drug-inhaling apparatus was seized inside one of the vehicles.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs officers further seized about 2.5 grams of suspected methamphetamine and a suspected drug-inhaling apparatus inside a residential premises in Yuen Long on the same day. A 41-year-old woman suspected to be connected with the case was arrested.

An investigation is ongoing.

Customs reminds members of the public to stay alert and not to participate in drug trafficking activities for monetary return. They must not accept hiring or delegation from another party to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong. They are also reminded not to carry unknown items for other people, nor to release their personal data or home address to others for receiving parcels of goods.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

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



[Man sentenced for violating Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation](#)

A 43-year-old man was sentenced by the Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (January 27) for violating the Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A).

The man was earlier issued with a compulsory quarantine order. Before the expiry of the quarantine order, he left the place of quarantine on June 29 last year. He was charged with contravening sections 22 (1), (4) and (6) of the Regulation and was fined \$5,000 by the Fanling Magistrates' Courts today.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that co-operation and support by members of the public play a critical role in the anti-epidemic work. They must strictly observe relevant requirements in order to fight the pandemic and minimise the risk of transmission in the community. The spokesman reiterated that resolute actions will be taken against anyone who breaches the relevant regulations.

[Extension of term of Inspector appointed by Financial Secretary to investigate affairs of Next Digital Limited](#)

The Government announced today (January 27) the further extension of the appointment of Mr Clement Chan Kam-wing as the Inspector to investigate the

affairs of Next Digital Limited (NDL) by three more months, up to April 27, 2023.

Pursuant to the power conferred on him by sections 841(2) and (3) of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), the Financial Secretary appointed Mr Chan on July 28, 2021, as the Inspector to investigate the affairs of NDL, with a view to submitting a Final Report to the Financial Secretary in six months. As the above investigation had yet to be completed, the Financial Secretary extended the Inspector's appointment four times up to January 27, 2023.

As the Inspector has indicated to the Financial Secretary that the above investigation was still ongoing, the Financial Secretary has therefore decided to further extend the Inspector's appointment by three more months up to April 27, 2023.

Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at yesterday (January 26), a total of 2 233 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 were hospitalised for treatment. Among the hospitalised confirmed patients, 165 were new patients, 1 013 required isolation, 334 required oxygen therapy and 45 required ventilator support. There were nine newly reported critical patients and four newly reported serious patients. There were a total of 107 patients in critical condition and 102 in serious condition, of which 25 critical patients were receiving intensive care. Moreover, there were 274 patients who had recovered, including 174 patients who had been discharged. In addition, 22 patients who passed away in public hospitals were reported. According to preliminary analysis, the cause of death of seven patients was related to COVID-19, while that of the remaining 15 patients was not.

The overall occupancy of medical beds in acute hospitals is around 98 per cent.

The HA will maintain close contact with the Centre for Health Protection to monitor the latest developments and to inform the public and healthcare workers on the latest information in a timely manner.

Postal services to Mauritius subject to delay

Hongkong Post announced today (January 27) that, as advised by the postal administration of Mauritius, due to heavy rain, all mail delivery services to Mauritius are subject to delay.