

Appeal for information on missing woman in Chai Wan (with photo)

Police today (February 22) appealed to the public for information on a woman who went missing in Chai Wan.

Lo Ching-man, aged 23, went missing after she left her residence on Yiu Hing Road on January 26 morning. Her family made a report to Police on February 20.

She is about 1.65 metres tall, 50 kilograms in weight and of medium build. She has a pointed face with yellow complexion and long brown hair. She was last seen carrying a red backpack.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of the missing woman or may have seen her is urged to contact the Regional Missing Person Unit of Hong Kong Island on 2860 1040 or 9886 0034, or email to rmpu-hki@police.gov.hk, or contact any police station.



Public hospitals daily update on COVID-19 cases

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

As at 9am today (February 22), 15 COVID-19 confirmed patients were discharged from hospital in the last 24 hours. So far, a total of 10 404

patients with confirmed or probable infection have been discharged.

At present, there are 677 negative pressure rooms in public hospitals with 1 224 negative pressure beds activated. A total of 237 confirmed patients are currently hospitalised in 24 public hospitals and a community treatment facility, among which 18 patients are in critical condition, 12 are in serious condition and the remaining 207 patients are in stable condition.

The Hospital Authority 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.

Details of the above-mentioned patients are as follows:

Patient condition	Case numbers
Discharged	10456, 10470, 10655, 10674, 10697, 10704, 10744, 10758, 10762, 10775, 10780, 10781, 10792, 10813, 10833
Critical	1989, 3496, 6125, 6547, 6607, 6794, 8018, 8078, 9049, 9135, 9612, 9907, 9953, 10358, 10367, 10379, 10585, 10611
Serious	6386, 7076, 7468, 8221, 9055, 9550, 9733, 9793, 9867, 10023, 10083, 10708

EDB announces suspension of Territory-wide System Assessment 2021

The Education Bureau (EDB) announced today (February 22) that in view of the volatility of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Territory-wide System Assessment (TSA) 2021 (including all speaking assessments and pen-and-paper assessments) will be suspended so that schools can make the most out of the remainder of the current school year to conduct face-to-face lessons.

The EDB will collaborate with the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) and Hong Kong Education City Limited (HKEdCity) again to roll out the "Gainful Use of Territory-wide System Assessment 2021 Materials" arrangement, enabling schools to make best use of the TSA materials already prepared and consolidated by the HKEAA with the original pen-and-paper mode or the online assessment mode provided on the Student Assessment Repository (STAR) platform, so as to understand the learning situation of students under the epidemic and follow up on their support needs.

A spokesman for the EDB said that having made reference to the experience from the "Gainful Use of Territory-wide System Assessment 2020

Materials" arrangement last year and views from schools, the EDB and the HKEAA were finalising the details of the arrangement this year with enhancement measures, enabling schools to gainfully use the TSA 2021 materials to inform learning and teaching and the EDB to collect system-level data to learn about the overall learning performance of students.

The EDB and the HKEAA will hold face-to-face or online briefing sessions in late April to brief schools on the arrangements and participation details. HKEdCity will also launch a series of new and enhanced functions on the STAR platform between March and April to complement the "Gainful Use of Territory-wide System Assessment 2021 Materials" arrangement and streamline administrative arrangements, as well as strengthen the support to schools, teachers and students in conducting online assessments, details of which will be introduced during the briefing sessions.

Fraudulent website related to Citibank (Hong Kong) Limited

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

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) wishes to alert members of the public to a press release issued by Citibank (Hong Kong) Limited on fraudulent website, which has been reported to the HKMA. Hyperlink to the press release is available on [the HKMA website](#) for ease of reference by members of the public.

Anyone who has provided his or her personal information to the website concerned or has conducted any financial transactions through the website should contact the bank concerned using the contact information provided in the press release, and report to the Police or contact the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force at 2860 5012.

Illegal worker jailed

A Vietnamese illegal worker was jailed by Fanling Magistrates' Courts on February 20.

During operation "Twilight" conducted on February 18, Immigration Department (ImmD) investigators raided a vegetable store in Wan Chai. A Vietnamese woman, aged 48, was arrested while working as an odd-job worker.

An employer suspected of employing the illegal worker was also arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

The illegal worker was charged at Fanling Magistrates' Courts on February 20 with taking employment after landing in Hong Kong unlawfully and remaining in Hong Kong without the authority of the Director of Immigration or while being a person in respect of whom a removal order or deportation order was in force. She pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. Meanwhile, she was also charged with one count of using a forged Hong Kong identity card and one count of being in possession of a forged Hong Kong identity card. She was sentenced to 15 months' and 12 months' imprisonment respectively. All sentences are to run concurrently, making a total of 15 months' imprisonment.

The ImmD spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. Under the prevailing laws, it is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to the court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening on vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers who are arrested during any operation, with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threats and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various

forms of support and assistance, including urgent intervention, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.