

## Red flags hoisted at several beaches

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 31) that due to big waves, red flags have been hoisted at Repulse Bay Beach, Middle Bay Beach, Chung Hom Kok Beach, St Stephen's Beach, Turtle Cove Beach, Shek O Beach and Big Wave Bay Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island; Hung Shing Yeh Beach, Lo So Shing Beach, Pui O Beach, Upper Cheung Sha Beach, Lower Cheung Sha Beach and Tong Fuk Beach in Islands District; and Hap Mun Bay Beach and Clear Water Bay First Beach in Sai Kung District.

Meanwhile, due to inclement weather, red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District.

Beach-goers are advised not to swim at these beaches.

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## Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (August 31) will be cancelled.

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## Police open fire in Tai Po

Police are investigating a Police open fire case in Tai Po today (August 30).

At about 1.30pm, Police received a report from a 23-year-old man that someone was driving the light goods vehicle (LGV) of his employer on Jockey Club Road in Sheung Shui which was previously reported missing. After pursuit, the suspicious LGV collided with the LGV driven by the informant at Lam Kam Road Interchange. A man from the suspicious LGV got on a private car at scene and fled.

When officers attempted to intercept the private car, the car was

directed towards a male police officer. An officer fired one shot at the target. The private car then fled towards Tai Po direction.

At about 3.30pm, officers located a private car in suspected connection with the case near Kwong Fuk Estate, Tai Po. Police seized trace amount of suspected "ice" drugs inside the recovered LGV.

The 23-year-old man and four police officers felt unwell. They were sent to Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital in conscious state.

Investigation by the Regional Crime Unit of New Territories North is underway. Anyone who witnessed the case or has any information to offer is urged to contact the investigating officers on 3661 3388.

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## **Hong Kong Customs combats unfair trade practices at fitness centre**

Hong Kong Customs today (August 30) arrested two female staff members of a fitness centre suspected of engaging in aggressive commercial practices in the course of selling fitness service, in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO).

Customs earlier received information alleging that staff members of a fitness centre in Causeway Bay imposed undue influence in selling fitness services to a customer who was forced to procure fitness club membership and personal trainer sessions valued at \$47,280 and \$1,600 respectively.

After investigation, Customs officers today arrested two women aged 25 and 28.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested women have been released on bail pending further investigation.

Customs reminds traders to comply with the requirements of the TDO and consumers to procure services at reputable shops. Before making the purchase decision, consumers should not easily provide their identity cards or credit cards to a salesperson. Consumers should firmly refuse signing any sales documents if they have no intention to purchase.

Under the TDO, any trader commits an offence of engaging in aggressive commercial practices if harassment, coercion or undue influence is used to impair consumer's freedom of choice or conduct, causing the consumer to make a transactional decision. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected violations of the TDO to

the Customs 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).

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## **CFS follows up on illegal import of burdock from Japan**

The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (August 30) that a carton of burdock, totalling ten kilograms, from Gunma Prefecture, Japan was illegally imported into Hong Kong. None of the product concerned has entered the market. The CFS is following up on the case.

A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS inspected a consignment of food imported from Japan and found the abovementioned burdock product from Gunma Prefecture therein. It was not accompanied with a radiation certificate and an exporter certificate issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan, breaching the relevant Food Safety Order. The product concerned has not entered the market and has been marked and sealed by the CFS. The Centre has taken a sample of the product concerned for testing of radiation level and no radiation has been detected.

"According to the Order, the import of vegetables, fruits, milk, milk beverages and dried milk from four Japanese prefectures, namely Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba and Gunma, must be accompanied with radiation certificates and exporter certificates issued by the MAFF of Japan. The CFS conducts a radiation test on each consignment of Japanese food import, and requires importers not to sell the products until the test result turns out to be satisfactory. The aforementioned illegal import was detected by the CFS during inspection and the product concerned did not enter the market. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the CFS' gate-keeping work."

The CFS will continue to follow up on the incident and take appropriate action, including informing the Japanese authorities concerned of the incident. Prosecution will be instituted against the importer concerned should there be sufficient evidence. Investigation is ongoing.