

Red flag hoisted at Shek O Beach

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 (April 9) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Shek O Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island. Beachgoers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Exchange Fund Bills tender results

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

Exchange Fund Bills tender results:

Tender date	: April 9, 2024
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2415
Issue date	: April 10, 2024
Maturity date	: July 10, 2024
Amount applied	: HK\$164,650 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$63,968 MN
Average yield accepted	: 4.31 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 4.36 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 42 PCT
Average tender yield	: 4.42 PCT

Tender date	: April 9, 2024
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2444
Issue date	: April 10, 2024
Maturity date	: October 9, 2024
Amount applied	: HK\$53,878 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$19,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 4.30 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 4.34 PCT

Pro rata ratio*	: About 90 PCT
Average tender yield	: 4.48 PCT

Tender date	: April 9, 2024
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Y2488
Issue date	: April 10, 2024
Maturity date	: April 9, 2025
Amount applied	: HK\$16,700 MN
Amount allotted	: HK\$4,000 MN
Average yield accepted	: 4.15 PCT
Highest yield accepted	: 4.20 PCT
Pro rata ratio*	: About 50 PCT
Average tender yield	: 4.35 PCT

*"Pro rata ratio" refers to the average percentage of allotment with respect to each tender participant's tendered amount at the "highest yield accepted" level.

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held in the week beginning April 15, 2024:

Tender date	: April 16, 2024
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q2416
Issue date	: April 17, 2024
Maturity date	: July 17, 2024
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$63,188 MN

Tender date	: April 16, 2024
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H2445
Issue date	: April 17, 2024
Maturity date	: October 16, 2024
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$19,000 MN

Update on cluster of Candida auris cases in Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

Regarding an earlier announcement on Candida auris carrier cases, the spokesperson for Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital (HKBH) gave the following update today (April 9):

One more female patient and another male patient, aged 100 and 86 respectively, in the medical ward of HKBH were confirmed to carry Candida auris without signs of infection. Two patients are now being treated in isolation and are in stable condition.

The hospital will continue the contact tracing investigation of close contacts of the patients in accordance with the prevailing guidelines. A series of enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted to prevent the spread of Candida auris:

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the ward concerned;
2. Enhanced admission screening for patients and environmental screening procedures; and
3. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene of staff and patients.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the patients. The case has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Effective Exchange Rate Index

The effective exchange rate index for the Hong Kong dollar on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 is 105.5 (down 0.1 against yesterday's index).

Inspection of aquatic products imported from Japan

In response to the Japanese Government's plan to discharge nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station, the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene issued a Food Safety Order which prohibits all aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds originating from the 10 metropolis/prefectures, namely Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi, Chiba, Gunma, Tochigi, Niigata, Nagano and Saitama, from being imported into and supplied in Hong Kong.

For other Japanese aquatic products, sea salt and seaweeds that are not prohibited from being imported into Hong Kong, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will conduct comprehensive radiological tests to verify that the radiation levels of these products do not exceed the guideline levels before they are allowed to be supplied in the market.

As the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water is unprecedented and will continue for 30 years or more, the Government will closely monitor and step up the testing arrangements. Should anomalies be detected, the Government does not preclude further tightening the scope of the import ban.

From noon on April 8 to noon today (April 9), the CFS conducted tests on the radiological levels of 171 food samples imported from Japan, which were of the "aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt" category. No sample was found to have exceeded the safety limit. Details can be found on the CFS's thematic website titled "Control Measures on Foods Imported from Japan" (www.cfs.gov.hk/english/programme/programme_rafs/programme_rafs_fc_01_30_Nuclear_Event_and_Food_Safety.html).

In parallel, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also tested 50 samples of local catch for radiological levels. All the samples passed the tests. Details can be found on the AFCD's website (www.afcd.gov.hk/english/fisheries/Radiological_testing/Radiological_Test.html).

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has also enhanced the environmental monitoring of the local waters. No anomaly has been detected so far. For details, please refer to the HKO's website (www.hko.gov.hk/en/radiation/monitoring/seawater.html).

From August 24 to noon today, the CFS and the AFCD have conducted tests on the radiological levels of 41 149 samples of food imported from Japan (including 27 249 samples of aquatic and related products, seaweeds and sea salt) and 11 330 samples of local catch respectively. All the samples passed the tests.