

**\$2.3m for
new hostel**

THE Royal Hongkong Jockey Club has given \$2.3 million to the Social Welfare Department to set up a second 24-hour hostel for street-sleepers.

The Secretary for Health and Welfare Brian Chau Tak-hay said they would prefer to have a place in Wan Chai but had had difficulties in finding a suitable disused building.

The first hostel, set up in disused building in Yau Ma Tei, has been in operation since last November. It is run by the Salvation Army and offers 18 residential places for street-sleepers.

**Caution over
pharmacy poll**

CLAIMS that 70 per cent of Hongkong's pharmacists were considering emigration, should be treated with caution, said the Government.

A survey by the Practising Pharmacists' Association said 103 pharmacists had left Hongkong in the past two years, leaving 667 in the territory.

But the Secretary for Health and Welfare Brian Chau Tak-hay told health care representative Ronald Chow Mei-tak that an average of 53 qualified pharmacists registered with the authorities every year and that there had been a steady increase in the past decade.

**Untapped
workforce**

AN untapped labour force of 13,900 women could enter the job market if child care was available, according to Secretary for Education and Manpower Ron Bridge.

Quoting a 1987 census survey, he said that these women were hampered by the lack of such services.

There were 4,000 children on the waiting list for day nurseries at the end of December and 480 children waiting for places in subvented day creches, he told councillor Mrs Elsie Tu.

Maths failure

PLANS for Hongkong to host an international mathematics olympics in 1997 have been called off because of lack of Government support.

The Secretary for Education and Manpower Ron Bridge told Mr Chan Ying-lun that the Hongkong Mathematics Society decided not to make a bid for the event after its \$1.5 million funding request was rejected by the administration.

Ambulance fee

A DECISION on whether to levy a charge for the use of ambulances when there is no emergency will be made by the Executive Council soon, Secretary for Security Geoffrey Barnes said.

A group reviewing ambulance services has just submitted its report to the administration, he told Mr Chung Pui-lam.

LRT claims

VICTIMS of accidents involving the Light Rail Transit System can now claim compensation under the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Scheme.

Anyone involved in an accident on an integrated part of the LRT system since March 1, last year when public trials began, will be able to make a claim.

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