



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MAY 12, 1975

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LAST MONTH'S WEATHER WAS ABNORMALLY WARM

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HONG KONG HAD AN ABNORMALLY WARM APRIL THIS YEAR.

THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 24.2 DEGREES CELSIUS AND THE MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27.3 DEGREES CELSIUS RECORDED DURING THE MONTH WERE THE HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR APRIL WHILE THE MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 21.8 DEGREES CELSIUS RANKED AS THE THIRD HIGHEST FOR THE SAME MONTH.

EXCEPTIONAL HEAVY RAIN ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASSAGES OF TWO ACTIVE TROUGHS OF LOW PRESSURE BROUGHT A TOTAL OF 345 MM OF RAINFALL, MAKING THE MONTH THE FOURTH WETTEST APRIL SINCE RECORD BEGAN IN 1884.

THE RAINFALL OF 92.4 MM RECORDED BETWEEN NOON AND 1 PM ON APRIL 30 WAS THE FIFTH HIGHEST HOURLY VALUE EVER MEASURED IN HONG KONG, AND A NEW RECORD FOR APRIL AS WELL.

ON APRIL 28, AN ACTIVE TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE REACHED HONG KONG FROM THE NORTH AND BROUGHT FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS AND HEAVY SQUALLY SHOWERS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM RESIDENTS IN KWUN TONG AND NORTH POINT, THE THUNDERSTORMS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY HAILSTONES.

ALTHOUGH THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON APRIL 29, HEAVY SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS RETURNED ON THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH, RESULTING IN FLOODINGS IN LOW-LYING AREAS AND SOME MINOR LANDSLIPS. AN OLD WOMAN AND A BOY LOST THEIR LIVES IN TWO SEPARATE LANDSLIPS WHILE A GIRL ACCIDENTALLY FELL INTO A DITCH ON THAT DAY AND WAS DROWNED.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH WAS OVER 300 MM.

TWO AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN APRIL OWING TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

THE THUNDERSTORM WARNING WAS ISSUED 10 TIMES DURING THE MONTH AND THE THUNDERSTORM AND HEAVY RAIN WARNING WAS ISSUED ON APRIL 30.

THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS ISSUED ON APRIL 2 WHILE THE YELLOW WARNING WAS ENFORCED ON THREE OCCASIONS.

THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 30.8 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON APRIL 21 WHILE THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 16.4 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON APRIL 2.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A FULL WEATHER REPORT FOR APRIL PREPARED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WILL BE BOXED FOR COLLECTION LATER TODAY.

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THE FIGHT AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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BEHIND THE DOORS OF A \$3 MILLION BUILDING IN POKFULAM, A SMALL BAND OF TECHNICIANS QUIETLY CARRIES OUT ITS VITAL TASK OF PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

THEY MANUFACTURE AND TURN OUT A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF HUMAN VACCINES TO MEET THE NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY DEMAND AND KEEP ADEQUATE STOCKS FOR EMERGENCY USE.

THE BUILDING IS THE INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOLOGY RUN BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THE INSTITUTE PRODUCES THREE TYPES OF BACTERIAL VACCINES AND TWO TYPES OF VIRAL VACCINES.

THE BACTERIAL VACCINES PRODUCED INCLUDE THOSE FOR PREVENTING CHOLERA, TYPHOID-PARATYPHOID AND PLAGUE, WHILE THE VIRAL VACCINES ARE FOR RABIES AND SMALLPOX.

BACTERIAL VACCINES ARE MADE FROM ARTIFICIAL CULTURE MEDIA AND VIRAL VACCINES ARE PRODUCED FROM ANIMALS SUCH AS GOATS AND BUFFALO CALVES.

THE VACCINES HAVE TO UNDERGO A SERIES OF TESTS TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND POTENCY BEFORE RELEASE FOR USE.

LAST YEAR, THE INSTITUTE PRODUCED NEARLY 900,000 MILLILITRES OF VACCINES. ALL VACCINES PRODUCED ARE MEANT FOR USE LOCALLY AND ARE SUPPLIED TO GOVERNMENT CLINICS AND PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS FREE OF CHARGE. HOWEVER, VACCINES ARE SOMETIMES SUPPLIED TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINES, SOUTH KOREA, CAMBODIA AND IRAQ TO MEET THEIR URGENT NEEDS.

♦THE INSTITUTE IS AWARE OF AND PREPARED FOR ANY INCREASE IN DEMAND OF THESE VACCINES,♦ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INSTITUTE SAID. ♦IN CASE OF EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA OR TYPHOID, THE STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE TOGETHER WITH REINFORCEMENT FROM THE INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY CAN PRODUCE 80,000 TO 100,000 DOSES OF THE BACTERIAL VACCINES A DAY.♦

THE INSTITUTE, LOCATED IN VICTORIA ROAD, WAS OPENED IN 1972 TO REPLACE THE OLD VACCINE LABORATORY IN CAINE LANE BUILT IN 1905.

IT COMPRISES FOUR BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS ACCOMMODATING OFFICES, LABORATORIES, COLD STORAGE FOR VACCINES, AND ANIMAL HOUSES AS WELL AS QUARTERS FOR RESIDENT STAFF.

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DR. CHOA VISITS REFUGEE CAMPS
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. G.H. CHOA, SPENT THE DAY VISITING THREE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO REVIEW THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE, WHICH HAS BEEN MADE TO COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY SITUATION.

HE INSPECTED THE MEDICAL FACILITIES AT THE CAMPS IN SEK KONG, FANLING AND SAI KUNG AND DISCUSSED WITH HEALTH OFFICERS THE VARIOUS MEASURES ADOPTED IN THESE CAMPS, IN EACH OF WHICH THERE ARE NOW ESTABLISHED MEDICAL POSTS FOR OUT-PATIENTS AND +SICK-DAYS+ FOR THE ADMISSION OF MINOR CASES.

DR. CHOA ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT THE FOOD SERVED TO THE REFUGEES. ACCOMPANYING HIM DURING THE VISIT WERE TWO DIETICIANS WHO ALSO GAVE ADVICE ON BABY-FEEDING.

THE DIRECTOR SAID AFTER THE VISIT THAT THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE REFUGEES WAS GOOD BUT HE CONSIDERED THAT FURTHER MEASURES WOULD HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED, FOR INSTANCE, IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE CHILDREN, MALARIA CONTROL AND PROPHYLAXIS.

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WEEKLY WATER SITUATION REPORT

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THE TOTAL WATER STORAGE IN ALL RESERVOIRS IN HONG KONG AS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) WAS 46,031 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 69.4 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY OF 67,300 MILLION GALLONS.

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE STORAGE FIGURE WAS 33,004 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR ALONE HELD 35,156 MILLION GALLONS THIS MORNING. THIS STANDS FOR 69.6 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY OF 50,500 MILLION GALLONS AND WAS UP SLIGHTLY ON LAST YEAR'S STORAGE WHICH WAS 30,095 MILLION GALLONS.

A TOTAL OF 9.5 MILLIMETRES (0.37 INCHES) OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 AM TODAY. THE TOTAL RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 539.9 MILLIMETRES (21.22 INCHES).

THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR IS 355.9 MILLIMETRES (14.01 INCHES).

THE DAILY MEAN CONSUMPTION FOR THE WEEK IS 213.4 MILLION GALLONS A DAY.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KOWLOON ON THURSDAY (MAY 15).

STARTING FROM 10 A.M. ON THAT DAY, BROADCAST DRIVE WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY CLOCKWISE, MARCONI ROAD ONE-WAY WESTBOUND AND FESSENDEN ROAD ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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