



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Saturday, August 12, 1995

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Typhoon Roundup 5

Land transport services are returning to normal following the passage of Tropical Storm Helen.

The No 8 storm signal was lowered at 2.15 pm this (Saturday) afternoon, but the bus companies had started to resume services from 11 am, starting with feeder services to MTR and KCR stations.

The MTR and KCR are running normally. Most bus routes, including cross harbour tunnel buses, have been or are being brought back into service. The LRT is running at 10 minute intervals. Peak tram services have also been resumed.

Ferry services to Discovery Bay will resume at 3.30 pm and the Star Ferry will resume limited services at 4.30 pm.

A total of 59 people are taking refuge at 46 shelters set up by the Home Affairs Department. The Social Welfare Department has so far distributed 28 hot meals and relief articles.

The flood and landslip warnings were issued earlier today.

Up to 3 pm today, ten cases of flooding were reported and there were also 12 cases of dangerous signboards and scaffoldings.

There was a minor landslip at Tai Hang Road, and 66 cases of fallen trees were reported.

Since the hoisting of the No 8 signal, 20 men and 10 women sustained minor injuries. Sixteen of them have been treated and discharged from hospitals, while eight others were admitted in satisfactory condition and one in fair condition.

At Kai Tak Airport, four incoming flights were diverted, 28 delayed and 12 cancelled.

For departing flights, 31 were delayed and 11 cancelled.

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Welfare recipients urged to watch for tricksters

The Social Welfare Department (SWD) today (Saturday) urged recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) to watch out for tricksters.

A spokesman for the department said no money would be demanded from SWD staff in order to process applications for CSSA.

The spokesman said: "It had been found that elderly recipients receiving assistance payments from the department could easily fall prey to impostors claiming to be officers of the department or volunteers. It had been reported that unruly elements usually gained access into the flats of the elderly and robbed them of their money.

"We urge CSSA recipients, elderly people in particular, to be on guard and be wary of tricksters. They should check the departmental identity cards of visitors who claimed to be SWD staff."

He reiterated that the services for processing CSSA applications were entirely free of charge and any demand for money from people claiming to be SWD staff should be brought to the attention of the nearest social security field unit or the Police for follow-up investigations.

Posters advising welfare recipients beware of tricksters have been posted up at the department's social security field units to arouse public awareness.

"Members of the public can call the nearest social security field unit or the SWD hotline 2343 2255 when in doubt," the spokesman said.

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Weather of July

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July was very wet with above average monthly rainfall registered for the first time this year. The total rainfall in the month, 668.7 millimetres, was more than twice the average, making it the seventh wettest July since records began in 1884. The accumulated rainfall in the first seven months of this year rose to 1,096.3 millimetres, but was still some 17 per cent below the normal for the same period.

Unsettled conditions associated with low pressure troughs and active southwest monsoon characterised the weather on most days of the month. There were seven days with rainfall of over 50 millimetres. The tropical cyclone warning signal was hoisted for the first time this year with the approach of Severe Tropical Storm Gary.

The first day of the month was mainly fine apart from some brief showers. With the active southwest monsoon setting in, the weather turned showery with heavy thunderstorms prevalent during the next couple of days. Twenty-two reports of flooding were received on July 3. A landslide destroyed two houses in Tsuen Wan and rendered 22 people homeless. Under the influence of a trough of low pressure over Guangdong, more rain fell on the following two days.

A ridge of high pressure extended westwards from the Pacific to the south China coast and dominated the local weather from July 6 to 8. There were lengthy periods of sunshine amidst isolated showers. As the ridge retreated on July 9, showers became frequent.

In the next couple of days, it was generally fine and hot. An unstable maritime airstream brought widespread rain and thunderstorms to the coastal areas of Guangdong on July 12. Locally, heavy showers in the early morning were followed by torrential rain in the evening and more than 150 millimetres of rain fell in Sha Tin and Tai Po that day. During the deluge, a man working on a barge at Tuen Mun fell into the sea and was reported missing.

Torrential rain and thunderstorms continued to affect Hong Kong until July 15. There were a total of 16 landslips and 75 floodings reported. Four persons were injured in Sha Tin and Tai Po and 17 others had to be evacuated from their huts in Tsing Yi. Temperatures fell to the month's minimum of 23.5 degrees during a heavy downpour on the afternoon of July 15.

There were still some isolated thundery showers the next day after several days of continuous heavy rain. A flash flood at the Tai Shing Stream swept a group of hikers into the Shing Mun Reservoir. Three men and a woman died in the incident.

As a ridge of high pressure became established over south China, local weather turned fine and hot from July 17 to 23. The month's highest temperature of 33.4 degrees was reached on a sunny afternoon on July 22.

Showery weather returned two days later. With a trough of low pressure over the coast of Guangdong, disturbed weather and once again thunderstorms affected the territory for three more days.

Tropical Depression Gary developed over the Philippines and moved into the South China Sea on July 28. Weather in Hong Kong was fine but hazy as Gary intensified and approached the south China coast. Gary made landfall near Shantou on July 31 and its associated rainbands brought more than 20 millimetres of rainfall to the urban areas.

There were two tropical cyclones over the western North Pacific and the South China Sea in the month of July. Details of the issuance/hoisting and cancellation/lowering of various warnings/signals in the month are summarised in Table 1.1. Monthly meteorological figures and departures from normal of July are tabulated in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Warnings and signals in July 1995

Warnings /Signals		Effective date and time
Tropical Cyclone Name of T.C.	Warning Signal Signal No	
Gary	1	28 Jul 1545 - 31 Jul 1430
Landslip Warning		13 Jul 1055 - 15 Jul 2100
Flood Warnings		3 Jul 1110 - 3 Jul 1545 4 Jul 1645 - 4 Jul 1800 5 Jul 0045 - 5 Jul 0305 9 Jul 0640 - 9 Jul 0800 12 Jul 0615 - 12 Jul 0725 12 Jul 1945 - 12 Jul 2315 13 Jul 1000 - 13 Jul 1500 14 Jul 0730 - 14 Jul 1605 15 Jul 0755 - 15 Jul 1515 25 Jul 1640 - 25 Jul 1800 27 Jul 0845 - 27 Jul 1110
Thunderstorm Warnings		1 Jul 0545 - 1 Jul 0645 1 Jul 2345 - 2 Jul 0545 2 Jul 1345 - 2 Jul 1545 2 Jul 2330 - 3 Jul 0630 3 Jul 1100 - 3 Jul 1500 3 Jul 1905 - 3 Jul 2105 3 Jul 2300 - 4 Jul 0600 4 Jul 0740 - 4 Jul 0940 4 Jul 1210 - 4 Jul 1800 4 Jul 2300 - 5 Jul 0800 6 Jul 0320 - 6 Jul 0520 7 Jul 0905 - 7 Jul 1105 9 Jul 0615 - 9 Jul 0815 9 Jul 1500 - 9 Jul 1800 12 Jul 0500 - 12 Jul 0800 12 Jul 1145 - 12 Jul 1345 12 Jul 1715 - 12 Jul 1915 12 Jul 1935 - 13 Jul 1500

14 Jul 0645 - 14 Jul 1145
15 Jul 0705 - 15 Jul 1600
15 Jul 1955 - 16 Jul 0700
16 Jul 1505 - 16 Jul 1705
24 Jul 1115 - 24 Jul 1315
25 Jul 0425 - 25 Jul 0625
25 Jul 1610 - 25 Jul 1910
25 Jul 2015 - 26 Jul 0600
26 Jul 1415 - 26 Jul 1800
26 Jul 2140 - 27 Jul 1130
27 Jul 1245 - 27 Jul 1445
30 Jul 1755 - 30 Jul 1955
31 Jul 1210 - 31 Jul 1510
31 Jul 1615 - 31 Jul 1815
31 Jul 2300 - 1 Aug 0800

Table 1.2 Figures and Departures from Normal - July 1995

Total Bright Sunshine	179.0 hours; 52.1 hours below normal
Mean Daily Global Solar Radiation	15.26 MJ/SQM; 3.89 MJ/SQM below normal
Total Rainfall	668.7 mm; 345.2 mm above normal
Mean Cloud Amount	72%; 7% above normal
Mean Relative Humidity	84%; 4% above normal
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	30.6 Degree Celsius; 0.9 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Air Temperature	28.0 Degree Celsius; 0.8 Degree Celsius below normal
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	26.0 Degree Celsius; 0.6 Degree Celsius below normal

Mean Dew Point 25.0 Degree Celsius; 0.1 Degree Celsius
above normal

Total Evaporation 114.1 mm; 57.5 mm below normal

Remarks: All measurements were made at the Royal Observatory except sunshine,
solar radiation and evaporation which were recorded at King's Park.

End/Saturday, August 12, 1995

New District Officer for Kwun Tong

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Mr Tsang Hing-kay will assume duty as the new Kwun Tong District Officer tomorrow (Monday) to replace Mr Wong Hon-ho.

Mr Tsang, aged 35, joined the Government as Administrative Officer in 1981 and was promoted to Senior Administrative Officer in April 1989.

He has served in the Industry Department, the former City and New Territories Administration and was the Assistant Director (Privatisation) of the Urban Services Department for more than three years. Mr Tsang's last posting was Music Administrator of the Music Office, Recreation and Culture Branch.

End/Sunday, August 13, 1995

Exhibition to promote employment for the disabled

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The Labour Department's Selective Placement Division (SPD) will hold a three-day exhibition from Friday (August 18) in Sha Tin to enhance public understanding of the working abilities of the disabled.

"The exhibition is part of the department's continuous efforts to promote employment opportunities for the disabled and dispel public misconceptions about them," Senior Labour Officer (Selective Placement), Mrs Jennie Chor, said today (Sunday). There will be video shows and exhibits introducing the work of the disabled and the free placement and recruitment services offered by the SPD.

Experienced officers will be manning an enquiry counter and distributing pamphlets on the work of the SPD.

"Employers who wish to recruit disabled workers can give details of their vacancies to our staff on the spot. Disabled job-seekers can also register at the counter and interviews will be arranged later," Mrs Chor said.

A quiz game with souvenirs will be held during the exhibition to enhance public understanding of the disabled.

A similar exhibition held last month in Tsim Sha Tsui had attracted over 9,500 visitors and about 1,000 of them had taken part in the quiz.

"More than 30 per cent of the participants could not get all the answers correct. This showed that some people still have misunderstandings about the working abilities of the disabled," Mrs Chor said.

"We hope that through our promotional efforts, prejudice against the disabled can be dispelled," she added.

The exhibition, to be held at the Atrium Gallery, Phase Three, New Town Plaza, Sha Tin, will be open between 10.30 am and 6.30 pm from August 18 to 20.

Mrs Chor also said the annual "Outstanding Disabled Employees Award" was inviting nominations until August 20.

Interested parties can contact Miss Yung of the Publicity and Promotion Unit of SPD on 2852 4803 for nominations.

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52 new building plans approved in May

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A total of 52 new building plans had been approved by the Buildings Department in May.

Of the plans, 19 were for Hong Kong Island, 21 for Kowloon and 12 for the New Territories.

The approved plans included 16 for apartment and apartment/commercial developments, 14 for commercial development and nine for factory and industrial developments.

In the same month, consents were given for work to start on 37 building projects, which involved 49,563.6 square metres of usable domestic floor area and 147,129.4 square metres of usable non-domestic floor area. The department had also issued 29 Occupation Permits - nine for Hong Kong Island, eight for Kowloon and 12 for the New Territories.

Among the buildings certified for occupation in the month, usable floor areas for domestic and non-domestic uses were 146,392.9 square metres and 107,623.2 square metres respectively.

The declared cost of new buildings completed in the month totalled about 2,801 million.

In the same month, 13 demolition consents involving 27 buildings were issued.

The Buildings Department's Control and Enforcement Division had received 1,055 complaints of unauthorised building works, and had issued 284 removal orders on unauthorised works.

End/Sunday, August 13, 1995

Water cuts in Mong Kok, Fo Tan and Ma On Shan

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Fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (August 16) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The suspension will affect all the premises at Kadoorie Avenue and Braga Circuit.

Meanwhile, flushing water supply to some premises in Fo Tan and Ma On Shan will also be cut off from 8 am on Wednesday (August 16) to 8 am the next day and from 6 pm on Wednesday (August 16) to 6 pm the next day respectively to allow for conversion of the existing supply of fresh water to salt water for flushing.

In Fo Tan, the affected areas will include Fo Tan Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCRC) Station, KCRC Workshop, Au Pui Wan Street, Wo Heung Street, Wo Shing Street, Wo Shui Street, Wo Liu Hang Road, Min Fong Street, Shek Lau Tung Street, Tsung Tau Ha Road, Kwei Tei Street, Tat Yip Lane, Fo Tan Road, Fo Tan Village, Cheung Lek Mei Street, Shan Mei Street, Ho Lek Pui Street, Sui Fung Lane, Sui Wo Road, Ngau Wu Tok Street, Wong Chuk Yeung Street, Yuen Kong Au Street, Man Hang Street, Sui Wo Court, Sha Tin 33 and Scenery Garden.

The affected areas in Ma On Shan will include Chevalier Garden, Yiu On Estate, Hing On Temporary Housing Area, Kam Hay Court, Fok On Garden, Sunshine City, Fu Fai Garden, Bayshore Towers, Ma On Shan Centre, Villa Athena, Saddle Ridge Garden, Kam Lung Court, Lee On Estate as well as all the premises at On Shan Lane and Ma On Shan Road.

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