



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1980

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SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1980

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## TWO HAILSTORMS IN MARCH

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THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE WEATHER LAST MONTH WAS THE HAILSTORMS ON MARCH 5 AND 6, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HAIL WAS REPORTED ON TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS SINCE 1940 AND WITH THE EARLIER HAILSTORM ON FEBRUARY 27, A NEW RECORD WAS SET OF THREE HAILSTORMS IN NINE DAYS.

MARCH WAS WARMER, CLOUDIER, MORE FOGGY AND HUMID THAN USUAL.

TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 76.9 MM, WHICH WAS 27.6 MM MORE THAN NORMAL. MOST OF THIS FELL ON MARCH 6 WHEN A TOTAL OF 73.2 MM WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

DURING THE MONTH, THERE WERE ONLY 80.3 HOURS OF SUNSHINE WHICH WAS 26 HOURS LESS THAN AVERAGE.

COASTAL FOG PERSISTED FOR NINE DAYS FROM MARCH 1 TO 9. THIS LONG PERIOD OF FOGGY DAYS AT WAGLAN ISLAND WAS ANOTHER RECORD SINCE 1953. FOG WAS ALSO REPORTED INSIDE THE HARBOUR ON SIX OF THESE DAYS.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH WAS MISTY WITH FOG PATCHES OVERNIGHT. TEMPERATURES FELL TO THE MONTH'S MINIMUM OF 14.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ON MARCH 2 ON THE ARRIVAL OF AN EASTERLY SURGE.

FOGGY CONDITIONS WITH OCCASIONAL RAIN AND DRIZZLE PERSISTED WITHIN THE HARBOUR UNTIL THE MORNING OF MARCH 5. A 3 139-TON CONTAINER SHIP RAN AGROUND IN THICK FOG AT LEI YUE MUN ON MARCH 4.

HAIL ACCOMPANIED THE PASSAGE OF A COLD FRONT AT NOON ON MARCH 5 BRINGING THE NUMBER OF HAILSTORMS OBSERVED IN HONG KONG SINCE 1940 TO EIGHT. THE BIGGEST HAILSTONES MEASURED 30 MM IN DIAMETER.

ON THE EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 6 HAIL WAS AGAIN REPORTED AND IT WAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THUNDERSTORMS AND HEAVY RAIN. WIDESPREAD FLOODING WAS REPORTED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR.

FOGGY CONDITIONS RETURNED OVERNIGHT ON MARCH 6. VISIBILITY WAS REDUCED TO 200 METRES AT THE AIRPORT ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 7. IN THE AFTERNOON, THE FOG INSIDE THE HARBOUR CLEARED AND TEMPERATURES ROSE RAPIDLY TO 26.7 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE HIGHEST IN THE MONTH. FOG RETURNED ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 8.

THE ARRIVAL OF A COLD FRONT ON MARCH 9 CLEARED THE FOG AND BROUGHT DRIER AND COOLER AIR FROM THE MAINLAND. FROM MARCH 10 TO 16, THE WEATHER WAS DULL AND GLOOMY WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN ON THE FIRST THREE DAYS.

ANOTHER COLD FRONT PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG ON MARCH 14 AND THE MONTH'S MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 14.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED AGAIN ON MARCH 15.

APART FROM A CLOUDY DAY ON MARCH 19, THE WEATHER WAS MAINLY FINE WITH SUNNY PERIODS BETWEEN MARCH 17 AND 22.

/ANOTHER SURGE .....

ANOTHER SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED ON MARCH 22 BRINGING SLIGHTLY COOLER WEATHER. THE PASSAGE OF A WEAK COLD FRONT ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 26 BROUGHT CLOUDY CONDITIONS ON THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS BUT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DROP IN TEMPERATURES AND THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH WAS QUITE WARM.

A TROPICAL DEPRESSION DEVELOPED ABOUT 170 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF YAP ON MARCH 20. IT CROSSED THE PHILIPPINES AND DISSIPATED OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ON MARCH 29.

DURING THE MONTH, 33 AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG WHEN FOGGY CONDITIONS PREVAILED. THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS HOISTED FROM MARCH 23 TO 25.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MARCH 3, 5 AND 6. THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS EFFECTIVE ON ONE DAY AND THE YELLOW WARNING ON NINE DAYS.

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#### CHEUNG CHAU BUN FESTIVAL \* \* \* \*

THE TRADITIONAL BUN FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE ON CHEUNG CHAU NEXT MONTH WITHOUT THE USUAL SCRAMBLE FOR BUNS.

ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICKY LO, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE BUN SCRAMBLE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE +IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE CELEBRATIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.+

MR LO SAID, INSTEAD, THE BUNS WOULD BE HANDED OUT ON MAY 20, THE DAY AFTER THE MAIN PROCESSIONS.

THE CELEBRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER FIVE DAYS BEGINNING ON MAY 16. THE HIGHLIGHT WILL BE PROCESSIONS DOWN THE MAIN STREET ON MAY 19.

MR LO SAID AT A MEETING WITH THE CHEUNG CHAU RURAL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL RESIDENTS RECENTLY THAT HE CONFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR A BUN FESTIVAL ORGANISED AND FINANCED BY CHEUNG CHAU PEOPLE.

+WHERE NECESSARY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE THAT THE FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO BE A COLOURFUL AND JOYFUL EVENT FOR ALL,+ HE SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, MR LO SAID, THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO ARRANGE FINANCIAL BACKING FOR SETTING UP THREE TALL BUN TOWERS THIS YEAR, ADDING: +CONTRIBUTIONS BY LOCAL RESIDENTS TOWARDS THE COST OF BUILDING THESE BUN TOWERS WILL NOT THEREFORE BE NECESSARY.+

HE SAID THAT TO PROMOTE THE EVENT AS A TRADITIONAL LOCAL FESTIVAL CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO DESIGNING A FESTIVAL LOGO.

THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION IS ALSO CONSIDERING PLAYING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FESTIVAL. BESIDES BEING INVITED TO SPONSOR THE SETTING UP OF BUN TOWERS THIS YEAR THE ASSOCIATION WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE JOINTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT THE FEASIBILITY OF FURTHER DEVELOPING THE FESTIVAL AS A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATIONS ARE BEING CO-ORDINATED BY AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE ON WHICH CHEUNG CHAU RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE REPRESENTED.

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KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MAKING HEADWAY IN ITS WORK

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE SET UP LAST DECEMBER IS MAKING HEADWAY IN ITS TASK TO IMPROVE THE HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

UNDER THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE COMMITTEE AND COLLABORATION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, A +TIDY-UP+ OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT LAST MONTH TO REMOVE REFUSE, DEBRIS AND ABANDONED VEHICLES FROM TING FU STREET IN NGAU TAU KOK WHERE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CROWN LAND WAS EXTENSIVE.

THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, KWUN TONG, MR WILFRED WONG SAID: +AS A RESULT OF THIS OPERATION, THE SPACE ONCE OBSTRUCTED BY JUNK AND ABANDONED CARS IS NOW CLEARED TO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH MORE RESTING AREA.

+BENCHES HAVE BEEN PUT THERE FOR RESIDENTS' USE AND CONCRETE FLOWER POTS WITH PLANTS HAVE ALSO BEEN PLACED IN THE AREA TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT.+

THE OPERATION ALSO HELPED TO PROMOTE A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THE RESIDENTS. THIS WAS REFLECTED BY THE FAVOURABLE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE TIDY-UP OPERATION DURING WHICH SOME RESIDENTS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP BY HOSING DOWN THE DIRT AND GREASE WITH DETERGENT FROM THE ROAD SURFACE FOLLOWING THE CLEARANCE.

+IT PROVES THAT THE INTRACTABLE PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED WITH BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF DEPARTMENTAL EFFORTS AT DISTRICT LEVEL,+ MR WONG SAID.

SIMILAR OPERATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. AS THESE OPERATIONS WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL MANPOWER, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED ARE WORKING OUT THEIR STAFF REQUIREMENTS AND A STAFF PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

APART FROM UNDERTAKING THESE TIDY-UP OPERATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ALSO AIMS AT LOOKING INTO TRAFFIC, AND OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT WHICH REQUIRE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CO-OPERATION AND CONSULTATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

OI MAN POST OFFICE OPENS ON WEDNESDAY

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR A.C. HEATHCOTE, AND TWO KAIFONG LEADERS WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A NEW POST OFFICE AT OI MAN ESTATE IN HO MAN TIN AT 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 16).

THE TWO KAIFONG LEADERS ARE THE PRESIDENT OF THE HO MAN TIN KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION, MR NG TOR-TAI, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HO MAN TIN SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE, MR CHENG WO-YICK.

THE NEW POST OFFICE, AT F11 OI MAN COMMERICAL COMPLEX, WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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PRISONS DEPARTMENT HOLDS ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

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THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HELD ITS ANNUAL SPORTS MEET THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON AT THE STANLEY FOOTBALL FIELD.

THE ANNUAL EVENT WAS ONE OF THE MANY RECREATIONAL FUNCTIONS ORGANISED FOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT.

AT THE ATHLETIC MEET, STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS COMPETED IN A WIDE RANGE OF FIELD AND TRACK EVENTS INCLUDING 100-METRE RACE, SHOTPUT, JAVELIN AND DISCUS THROW, HIGH JUMP AND TUG OF WAR. THERE WAS ALSO AN INVITATION RELAY WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TAKING PART.

A MARCHING DISPLAY WAS PERFORMED BY THE CORPS OF DRUMS OF THE CAPE COLLINSON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

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TUEN MUN SCHOOL CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT  
ADVISORY BOARD WILL JOIN HANDS NEXT MONTH TO PLANT TREES IN THE  
NEW TOWN.

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A TREE PLANTING DAY, ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, WILL BE HELD ON MAY 16, IN WHICH MORE THAN 100 CHILDREN FROM THREE LOCAL SCHOOLS WILL TAKE PART.

MOST OF THE TREES WILL BE PLANTED AROUND THE SHEK PAI TAU PLAYGROUND, WHILE OTHERS WILL BE PLANTED ON THE VERGES OF NEARBY STREETS.

THEY ARE COTTON TREES (BOMBAX MALABARICUM) PROVIDED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$5 000. THESE TREES GROW WIDELY THROUGHOUT INDIA, SOUTH CHINA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER NORTHWESTERN NEW TERRITORIES, MR JIMMY SWEETMAN, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE TREE PLANTING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE TUEN MUN SAID THE TREE PLANTING IDEA WAS TO INCREASE YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEAUTIFYING THE AREA.

TREE PLANTING WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE DURING MAY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING SHA TIN, YUEN LONG, SAI KUNG, TAI PO AND TSUEN WAN.

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PLB PROHIBITED ZONES AND URBAN CLEARWAYS IN SHA TIN  
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A NUMBER OF ROADS IN SHA TIN WILL BE DESIGNATED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS ZONE FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 15).

THEY ARE ROAD P6, ROAD T1, A SECTION OF ROAD P2 BETWEEN ROAD P6 AND AN UNNAMED ROAD BETWEEN LEK YUEN AND WO CHE ESTATES- AND THE SLIP ROAD OF ROAD T2 LEADING TO ROAD P6.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THESE ZONES UNLESS AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

FROM 10 AM ON THAT DAY, TWO SECTIONS OF ROAD IN SHA TIN WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAY.

THEY ARE A SECTION OF ROAD P6 FROM THE INTERSECTION WITH THE ESTATE ROAD SOUTH OF THE BUS STATION IN AREA 16B AT FO TAN TO THE JUNCTION WITH ROAD P2- AND A SECTION OF ROAD P2 BETWEEN THE JUNCTION WITH ROAD P6 AND THE JUNCTION WITH THE ACCESS ROAD TO LEK YUEN AND WO CHE ESTATES.

WITHIN THESE CLEARWAYS, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY.

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FIRING PRACTICE  
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON FIVE DAYS NEXT WEEK.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING THE TIME OF PRACTICE.

THE PRACTISING TIMES ARE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
APRIL 14 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
APRIL 15 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
APRIL 16 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
APRIL 17 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
APRIL 18 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM

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