



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 1979

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JULY -- MUCH HOTTER AND SLIGHTLY WETTER THAN USUAL

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LAST MONTH (JULY) WAS SUNNIER, MUCH HOTTER AND SLIGHTLY WETTER THAN USUAL, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 29.2 DEGREES CELSIUS AND MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 32.1 DEGREES RANK FOURTH AND FIFTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR JULY RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE TOTAL DURATION OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE OF 273.7 HOURS RANKS NINTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL AMOUNTED TO 339.4 MM OR SIX PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL, BRINGING THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL FROM THE BEGINNING OF 1979 TO THE END OF JULY TO 1,390.1 MM WHICH IS FIVE PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL.

MOST OF THE MONTH'S RAINFALL WAS RECORDED WITHIN THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH, FOUR TROPICAL CYCLONES -- TYPHOON ELLIS, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM FAYE, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GORDON AND TYPHOON HOPE -- DEVELOPED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNALS WERE HOISTED IN HONG KONG FOR TYPHOON ELLIS AND SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GORDON.

THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH WAS CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL HEAVY SHOWERS.

APART FROM A FEW ISOLATED SHOWERS, THE PERIOD JULY 2-4 WAS FINE AND HOT. THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 33.8 DEGREES FOR THE MONTH WAS RECORDED ON JULY 5.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE SOME ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS AND SHOWERS ON JULY 5 AS SEVERE TROPICAL STORM ELLIS MOVED CLOSE TO HONG KONG, WITH WINDS BECOMING STRONG EASTERLY IN THE AFTERNOON AND THEN MODERATED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

MORE FREQUENT SHOWERS OCCURRED DURING THE NIGHT AND EARLY ON JULY 6 BUT CONDITIONS SOON IMPROVED IN THE AFTERNOON.

FROM JULY 7 TO 28, THERE WAS A LONG SPELL OF FINE AND HOT CONDITIONS WITH BRILLIANT SUNSHINE AND DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF AROUND 30 DEGREES.

THE SUNNY PERIOD CAME TO AN END AS SEVERE TROPICAL STORM GORDON APPROACHED FROM THE EAST. WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY WITH SOME SHOWERS ON JULY 29.

IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 30, WEST-SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS BECAME STRONG FOR A FEW HOURS OFFSHORE.

WHILE GORDON WAS CROSSING SOUTHERN GUANGDONG (KWANGTUNG) AND WEAKENING, VIOLENT SHOWERS AND PERIODS OF RAIN OCCURRED ON JULY 30.

/THE HEAVIEST .....

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THE HEAVIEST DOWNPOUR OCCURRED BETWEEN 2 A.M. AND 4 A.M. WHEN THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY RECORDED 77.1 MM OF RAINFALL.

THE MONTH'S MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 24.4 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON THE SAME DAY.

RAIN CEASED FOR A WHILE DURING THE EVENING AND THE NIGHT BUT HEAVY SHOWERS SET IN AGAIN THE FOLLOWING MORNING AND PERSISTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL BROUGHT BY GORDON AMOUNTED TO 260.2 MM WHICH WAS ABOUT 77 PER CENT OF THE MONTH'S TOTAL.

DURING THE MONTH THREE AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

NO FIRE DANGER WARNINGS WERE ISSUED WHILE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON JULY 1 AND 31.

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FIVE MARINE DEPARTMENT FROGMEN  
HELP KEEP 200 LAUNCHES SEAWORTHY  
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MARINE DEPARTMENT FROGMEN HAVE BEEN PLAYING A VITAL BUT UNSEEN ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO STEM THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES.

THE DEPARTMENT'S FIVE VOLUNTEER DIVERS WORK IN CO-ORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENT DOCKYARD STAFF TO KEEP SOME 200 GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES, MANY USED ON ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT DUTIES IN HONG KONG WATERS, IN SHIP-SHAPE CONDITION.

IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE FROGMEN UNDERTOOK 196 UNDERWATER MAINTENANCE TASKS INVOLVING :

- \* CLEARANCE OF FOULED PROPELLERS AND SEA-SUCTION GRATINGS-
- \* INSPECTION OF TAIL-SHAFTS, PROPELLERS AND RUDDERS AFTER MINOR ACCIDENTS AND,
- \* CLEARANCE OF SLIPWAYS OR RENEWAL OF PULLING WIRE ROPES UNDER THE SLIPWAYS.

THERE WERE 320 DIVING ASSIGNMENTS LAST YEAR -- REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF SOME 25 PER CENT OVER THE 1977 FIGURE OF 239. IN 1976 THE FIGURE WAS 143.

QUOTING THE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE WORKLOAD OF THE DIVERS IS INCREASING EVERY MONTH.

HE SAID THE MAIN REASON FOR THE INCREASE COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE EXPANSION OF THE GOVERNMENT FLEET FROM 130 VESSELS IN 1969 TO THE PRESENT TOTAL OF 192.

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+IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS MOST OF THE LAUNCHES OPERATED BY THE POLICE, MARINE AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY USED TO DEAL WITH THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES,+ HE SAID.

+NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE MORE FREQUENTLY THE LAUNCHES ARE USED, THE MORE OFTEN THEY HAVE TO COME IN FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE.+

APART FROM THESE LAUNCHES, THE DIVERS ALSO HANDLE VESSELS OPERATED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS, CIVIL AVIATION, FIRE SERVICES, PORT HEALTH, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, PRISONS AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENTS.

THE DIVERS, WHO HOLD VARIOUS POSTS RANGING FROM ORDINARY SAILORS, FITTER AND CARPENTER, EACH SPEND UP TO TWO HOURS UNDERWATER EVERYDAY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TO QUALIFY AS A DIVER, A PERSON MUST HAVE STRONG PHYSIQUE AS WELL AS A DEEP INTEREST IN DIVING.

HE MUST ALSO PASS A MEDICAL TEST BEFORE HE COULD UNDERGO AN INTENSIVE TRAINING COURSE WITH THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHERE HE WOULD BE TRAINED IN DIVING AND THE OPERATION OF THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, HE SAID.

THE VOLUNTEER DIVERS, WHO RECEIVE NOMINAL PAY FOR THEIR EXTRA EFFORTS, HAVE HELPED THE GOVERNMENT SAVE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME, MANPOWER AND MONEY, HE SAID.

+THEIR EXCELLENT WORK ENABLES US TO AVOID CONTRACTING OUT TO PRIVATE DIVERS, UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, WHO NORMALLY CHARGE A MINIMUM OF \$250 EVERY TIME THEY GO UNDER,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+FURTHERMORE, IN CERTAIN CASES WE DON'T HAVE TO 'SLIP' A VESSEL FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS BECAUSE THE JOB CAN BE DONE UNDERWATER BY OUR OWN DIVERS. SUCH 'SLIPPING' COULD INVOLVE EIGHT MEN WITH THE DAILY RENT OF A SLIPWAY BEING \$600,+ HE ADDED.

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NEW SHA TIN FIRE STATION UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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THE NEW DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN SHA TIN IS MORE THAN HALF COMPLETE.

STANDING ON A 9,000-SQUARE-METRE SITE ADJACENT TO THE SHING MUN RIVER, THE THREE-STOREY STATION WILL HAVE ROOM FOR 10 FIRE APPLIANCES.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE DUTY AND SERVICES ROOMS, OFFICES, LECTURE ROOM, BARRACKS ACCOMMODATION FOR THE ESSENTIAL OPERATIONAL STAFF ON DUTY, DINING AND RECREATIONAL AREAS AND A STORE FOR DANGEROUS GOODS.

IN THE DRILL YARD, THERE WILL BE A NINE-STOREY DRILL TOWER FOR FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING PURPOSES.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ONE OF THE FEATURES OF THE STATION WOULD BE THE ELECTRIC-OPERATED SHUTTER DOORS ALL OF WHICH COULD BE OPENED IN LESS THAN 10 SECONDS AFTER PRESSING THE CONTROL BUTTON.

THIS SHOULD REDUCE THE TIME TAKEN TO GET TO THE SCENE OF FIRE.

ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE SAME SITE IS A TWO-STOREY BUILDING WHICH WILL PROVIDE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES FIRE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.

ON THE ADJOINING SITE, WHICH MEASURES 2,060 SQUARE METRES, WORK IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY ON THE SHA TIN AMBULANCE DEPOT.

THE TWO-STOREY DEPOT WILL ACCOMMODATE FOUR AMBULANCES, DUTY AND SERVICE ROOMS, OFFICES, A DINING AND RECREATION ROOM, BARRACKS FOR THE STAFF ON DUTY AND ABLUTION FACILITIES.

WORK ON THESE PROJECTS WHICH AIM TO COPE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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SUMMER COURSE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS

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A SIX-DAY SUMMER COURSE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH THE MODERN APPROACHES AND CONCEPTS IN BIOLOGY TEACHING WILL START TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE COURSE WILL BE HELD FROM TOMORROW TO AUGUST 25 AT THE SCIENCE CENTRE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

IT IS ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, AND WILL BE RUN BY STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY'S BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE MICROBIOLOGY, QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS OF BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY FIELD STUDIES AND EVOLUTION.

PARTICIPATING TEACHERS, APART FROM ATTENDING LECTURES, WILL SPEND MORE THAN HALF OF THE COURSE TIME TO CARRY OUT EXPERIMENTS AND TO OBSERVE DEMONSTRATIONS.

AN EXHIBITION OF BOOKS, AUDIO VISUAL AND BIOLOGY EQUIPMENT WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 24.

TEACHERS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN AN OVER-NIGHT STAY AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG SO THAT THEY CAN DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS NOT ONLY WITH THEIR TUTORS BUT ALSO AMONG THEMSELVES.

MR. ARTHUR BROWN, SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT), WILL ADDRESS THE PARTICIPATING TEACHERS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

PROFESSOR L.B. THROWER OF THE UNIVERSITY'S BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CEREMONY, AND PROFESSOR S.T. CHANG WILL LECTURE ON +MICROBIOLOGY+ DURING THE COURSE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SUMMER COURSE FOR BIOLOGY TEACHERS WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 11.45 A.M. TOMORROW (MONDAY), AT THE LECTURE ROOM, L3, SCIENCE CENTRE, THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

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### CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR SHA TIN

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A CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE FORMED IN THE FAST GROWING NEW TOWN OF SHA TIN SHORTLY.

TO BE CALLED THE SHA TIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR, IT IS ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID: +THIS IS PART OF THE BOARD'S PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT.

+CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN SEVEN AND TEN LIVING IN SHA TIN ARE INVITED TO JOIN AS MEMBERS,+ HE SAID. +ABOUT 40 TO 60 SUITABLE CHILDREN WILL BE SELECTED AND TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN BY INSTRUCTORS FROM THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE DURING SATURDAYS IN A LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CHOIR WOULD BE EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS FIRST CONCERT IN MARCH NEXT YEAR.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) UNTIL AUGUST 29 AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, LEK YUEN COMMUNITY HALL, SHA TIN RURAL COMMITTEE, SHA TIN YOUTH CENTRE AND SHA TIN CARITAS SOCIAL CENTRE.

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### WATER CUT

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON TUESDAY TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY 17-106 HILL ROAD, 71A-C POKFULAM ROAD, PO TUCK STREET, CLARENCE TERRACE, CHUN SING STREET AND 450-496 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

IN KOWLOON, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. ON TUESDAY FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI SHING STREET, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, SHA TIN PASS ROAD, SHEUNG TAK STREET, INCLUDING BLOCK NOS. 3, 4, 5, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 AND 23, LOWER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE, TAK MING LAU AND KAI MING LAU.

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