

**HONG KONG
GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
SERVICES**

**DAILY
INFORMATION
BULLETIN**

Sunday, May 14, 1972

THE WEATHER OF APRIL, 1972

Normal Rainfall And Air Temperature

Following the driest March since 1884, April 1972 was a near normal month with regard to rainfall and also air temperature.

However, the mean cloudiness, 84 per cent, was 4 per cent above average; and, despite the fact that sunshine was recorded during twenty-five days in the month, the total duration of sunshine, 80 hours, was only about two-thirds of the normal figure for April.

The first day of the month was overcast with some light rain. The Strong Monsoon Signal, the Black Ball, was hoisted from 10 p.m. on April 1 to 2.10 p.m. on April 2 and the weather in Hong Kong was relatively cool under the influence of the strong monsoon surge.

During the next three days until April 5 the skies remained cloudy to overcast and there were periods of drizzle. Some heavy showers occurred on the morning of April 6.

The weather was brighter with temperature returning to normal on April 7; but a cold surge arrived that night and brought thunderstorms and some heavy rain. The Royal Observatory issued a thunderstorm and heavy rain warning at 6.30 p.m. that evening.

/Cooler

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Cooler and much drier weather was experienced during the next two days with the minimum temperature of the month, 14.5°C , recorded on April 9.

From April 10 to April 14, the temperatures rose slowly as winds turned to easterly. Increasingly warmer and moister air reached Hong Kong during this period while the weather remained cloudy with some light rain and drizzle patches. Mist and fog occurred on the morning of April 15 but they soon lifted and there were no interruptions to air or sea traffic.

From April 16 to 21 it was fine and warm with prevailing southerly winds. The maximum temperature of the month, 30.4°C , was recorded on April 19.

On April 20, a trough formed across central China and moved slowly southwards. A weak cold surge reached the south China coast in the afternoon of April 21. The weather in Hong Kong became cloudy and slightly cooler and remained so from April 22 to 26 with some rain recorded on April 24.

The weather was fine during the next two days, but the passage of an active trough of low pressure on April 29 caused some heavy showers. The last day of the month was sunny and it was hot during the afternoon with a maximum temperature of 30.1°C .

There were no tropical cyclones over the western north Pacific or the South China Sea, and there were no aircraft diversions from Hong Kong during the month. No fire hazard warnings were issued.

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The month's figures and departures from normal were:-

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|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Sunshine | 80.0 hours; | 34.6 hours below normal |
| Rainfall | 134.8 mm; | 1.0 mm below normal |
| Cloudiness | 84%; | 4% above normal |
| Relative Humidity | 82%; | 3% below normal |
| Mean Maximum Temperature | 24.5°C; | 0.6°C above normal |
| Mean Temperature | 21.5°C; | 0.2°C above normal |
| Mean Minimum Temperature | 19.7°C; | 0.2°C above normal |
| Mean Dew Point | 18.2°C; | 0.6°C below normal |
| Total Evaporation | 119.4 mm; | 5.1 mm below normal |

Maximum Temperature of 30.4°C was recorded on April 19.

Minimum Temperature of 14.5°C was recorded on April 9.

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EXPANSION OF HARBOUR CLEANSING FLEET

For Better Refuse Collection

The Marine Department is to expand the existing harbour cleansing fleet in order to provide better refuse collection services in typhoon shelters and in the harbour.

The department will provide a boat-to-boat refuse collection service within the Yau Ma Tei and Causeway Bay Typhoon shelters, a general scavenging service within the port of Aberdeen, and a free ship-to-ship refuse collection service in the harbour for a trial period of six months.

A department spokesman said the existing harbour cleansing service for the whole of Victoria Harbour came into operation in October 1964, and is provided by a fleet of four mechanised cargo boats and 12 sampans.

In typhoon shelters, he said, refuse dumping by boat people constitutes a source of harbour pollution affecting not only the shelters but, because of the action of wind and tides, also the entire Victoria harbour area.

"The only feasible method of inducing the boat people to dispose of their refuse in a hygienic manner is the introduction of a boat-to-boat refuse collection service," he said.

The collection sampans will be stationed permanently in the shelters and will operate to a fixed schedule. At least five sampans, each with a crew of three men, will be required to provide the service at Yau Ma Tei and Causeway Bay typhoon shelters.

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For the Port of Aberdeen, the spokesman said, the same refuse collection service is not considered practical as it is doubtful whether a population comprising mainly of constantly moving fishing vessels could be educated to make full use of such a service.

The scavenging fleet in Aberdeen will consist of one mechanised cargo boat and six sampans with the cargo boat acting as a "mothership" for the sampans and transporting the refuse to the disposal sites on shore. It would also be used to remove large pieces of timber, log, etc. which cannot be handled by the sampans.

"The effectiveness of these services will be reviewed after a trial period of 12 months to determine whether they should continue, or whether the arrangements should be adjusted in the light of experience."

The spokesman said the free refuse collection service for ships in the Victoria harbour will be limited to the collection of domestic refuse which is usually buoyant and the main cause of the pollution emanating from ships.

"The disposal of commercial refuse has always been the responsibility of ship owners and their agents, and it is intended that it should remain so."

Two motor cargo boats similar to those employed on harbour cleansing will be required. Each of these vessels will have a capacity to hold some 100 x 22 - gallon drums.

"It is estimated that the craft can call on approximately 28 ships per day collecting an average of three drums of domestic refuse from each ship. The service will be operated on a selective basis, taking into consideration the vessels' length of stay in and reports received from Port Health officers."

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Release Time: 3.00 p.m.