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Aircraft mishaps at Kai Tak

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AVIATION safety officials are investigating a string of incidents involving jets using Kai Tak airport over the past four days, two involving Airbuses that suffered engine failure.

In the latest incident yesterday morning, airport emergency services were placed on alert for the approach of a China Airlines' Airbus flying on only one engine.

The plane from Taipei, with 244 passengers on board, landed safely just after 10 am. A Civil Aviation Department (CAD) spokesman said the pilot

had shut down the engine as a safety precaution after it developed problems.

On Sunday, a four-metre by one-metre wing flap of a Korean Airlines 747 fell off at a height of 45 metres as the aircraft came in to land, narrowly missing Olympic Avenue. The part landed on a stretch of grass without hurling anyone.

On Friday night, a Malaysian Airlines Airbus A-300 on its way to Kuala Lumpur was forced to turn back 15 minutes into the flight after one engine was shut down.

The flight left Kai Tak for the second time at

11.20 pm after a 3½ hour delay and reached Kuala Lumpur safely.

The KAL aircraft was yesterday still grounded at Kai Tak awaiting repair.

CAD's Chief Safety Officer (Safety Regulation), Mr H. C. Kwan, said a team was checking the circumstances of the incident to determine whether an official investigation was necessary.

The department came under fire from Kowloon City residents last summer after a Thai Airways MacDonnell Douglas MD-11 smashed into the runway, breaking off part of its wing.