

CHINA

Typhoon expected to approach Jilin

Haishen poses high flood risk since soil is already saturated from previous rain

By ZHAO XINYING
zhaoxinying@chinadaily.com.cn

Typhoon Haishen, the 10th typhoon of the year, is expected to approach Jilin province on Tuesday, and local authorities have strengthened preparations to reduce losses.

The province is facing a relatively high risk of flooding and mountain torrents, as the soil is already saturated due to rain brought by previous typhoons, according to local authorities.

The province has prepared emergency supplies worth over 130 million yuan (\$18.9 million) and has organized 70 warehouses stocked with emergency supplies across the province.

Jilin has also set up more than 1,900 emergency response and rescue teams and a special fund of 230 million yuan for disaster relief.

China's national observatory renewed a blue alert for Haishen on Monday, warning that from Monday to Tuesday, gales are expected to hit parts of the Bohai and the Yellow seas as well as coastal regions of the Liaodong and the Shandong peninsulas.

It also issued an orange alert for mountain torrents and a blue alert for geological disasters for parts of Northeast China due to the typhoon.

China has a four-tier color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe weather, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

The National Meteorological Center also said Haishen weakened from a strong typhoon to a strong tropical storm on Monday after it landed on the southern coastal areas of South Korea.

After moving to Jilin province on

early Tuesday morning, it will further head to Heilongjiang province on Tuesday afternoon, and morph into a post-tropical cyclone gradually as it weakens, the NMC said, adding that there would be strong winds in some areas of Northeast China, as well as the East China, Yellow and Bohai seas on Monday and Tuesday.

Central and northern areas of Liaoning province, most parts of Jilin and central and eastern areas of Heilongjiang will experience heavy or torrential rain. The accumulated rainfall over the two-day period could reach 40 to 130 millimeters or even 150 to 180 mm in some areas, it said.

Compared with other provinces in eastern and southern China, typhoons are less common in China's northeastern region, as only 1.2 typhoons on average hit the area annually.

However, Typhoon Bavi and Typhoon Maysak, the eighth and ninth typhoons of this year, both brought strong rain and wind to the region, making Haishen the third to affect the region in half a month.

Meteorological experts have advised people in disaster-prone areas to take shelter from winds and that vessels in these areas should be cared for. They warned that farmlands in central and eastern areas of Heilongjiang and Jilin faced high risks of flooding, and management should be strengthened to reduce adverse effects on crops such as corn, rice and soybeans.

People should also be aware of the adverse impacts brought by the typhoon to the sailing, fishery and breeding industries, the experts added.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

White Dew is here



Farmers harvest lotus roots in Huaian, Jiangsu province, on Monday. The day marked the Chinese solar term White Dew, which signifies the beginning of transition from hot to cooler weather. It also marks the busiest time for harvesting. WANG HAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Briefly

Symposium marks 75th year since war victories

The China Committee on Religion and Peace held a symposium on Monday in Beijing to commemorate the 75th anniversary of victories in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and World War II. Pagbalha Geleg Namgyai, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and president of the religion and peace committee, called on religious figures and believers to make greater contributions to religious harmony, social harmony and world peace. He said every year, the committee will call on religious circles to pray for peace to commemorate the victories, carry forward the tradition of loving the country and religion, and express their goal of safeguarding world peace and development.

XINHUA—CHINA DAILY

Bus links Badaling wall to downtown Beijing

Beijing opened a bus route on Saturday that allows tourists to travel between the Badaling Great Wall and downtown Beijing without transferring. The bus linking the two destinations is named "Darling Bus" due to the similar pronunciation of the two words "daling" after Badaling, one of the most visited sections of the ancient Great Wall. The bus is scheduled to depart from Exit C of the National Library subway station at 9 am every Saturday and Sunday and return at 3:30 pm. The round-trip ticket will cost 80 yuan (about \$11.70). All the Darling Buses are new energy vehicles, each with a carrying capacity of 45 passengers.

Ferocious flow



Visitors enjoy the Huangguoshu Waterfall in Anshun, Guizhou province, on Sunday. Thanks to persistent rainfall upstream, the Huangguoshu, one of the most renowned waterfalls in China, is experiencing a peak flow. CHEN XI / XINHUA

Guizhou's efforts cut school dropout rate

By LI LEI in Beijing
and YANG JUN in Guiyang

When two students failed to register for the start of the Grade 8 autumn semester at his middle school in Southwest China's Guizhou province in late August last year, head teacher An Huaqiang was quick to notice their unexplained absence.

He grew suspicious as both were from registered poor families — the target of China's sweeping poverty reduction campaign that aims to eradicate absolute poverty by the end of this year. Word was spreading in the classroom that they had left for Guangdong province with their parents, probably to seek illegal employment there.

As part of efforts to end the poverty cycle in mountainous Guizhou, provincial authorities have enlisted schools and teachers in the fight against rural poverty. They have been tasked with ensuring that every school-age child attends classes until at least the end of China's nine years of compulsory education.

To fulfill his duties, An booked a bus ticket to Jiangmen, Guangdong — where the boy and girl, both 15, were believed to be — determined to bring the pair back before the new semester started.

Once there, he learned the boy's father — the head of a timber processing factory in Jiangmen — had recently been sentenced to three years in prison over a fatal accident at the plant and compensation payments had left the family mired deep in debt. The girl, from a single-parent family, had become less sociable after her father had died a decade earlier and was unwilling to continue with her studies.

He spent two grueling days explaining the benefits of attending school to the children's parents, while also encouraging the boy and girl to complete their nine years of compulsory education. After being

told by the two students and their parents that they would return to school, he then traveled to the nearby city of Zhongshan, where a 14-year-old boy from another class was believed to be.

"Traveling long distances to talk students into going back to school is exhausting, but fulfilling as well," said An, who eventually reunited with all three students on campus.

Guizhou saw a significant decline last year in dropout rates in the first nine years of schooling. Provincial government figures show there were just 52 by the end of last year, compared with more than 10,000 at the beginning of the year.

Since 2012, Guizhou has stepped up efforts to reduce dropout rates at primary and middle schools — which are covered by China's compulsory education period — as part of a nationwide effort to empower the rural poor and break the poverty cycle.

Early dropouts used to be widespread in impoverished regions, even though the country's Compulsory Education Law warns against keeping school-age children away from campus.

Many dropouts turned out to be from poor households, with parents who wanted them to start working earlier to help relieve the family's financial woes.

Some of the others who failed to attend school were so called "left-behind" children, whose parents worked in other cities to earn better salaries but failed to ensure their children received a proper education. The 2008 report estimated that China had 58 million left-behind children that year — 28 percent of the rural child population.

Guizhou was home to many left-behind children for years due to a constant outflow of rural workers. The provincial authorities even faced scrutiny after several tragedies involving such children

“Traveling long distances to talk students into going back to school is exhausting, but fulfilling as well.”

An Huaqiang, middle school teacher in Guizhou province

attracted national attention.

In November 2012, five boys died of carbon monoxide poisoning in a trash bin in Bijie, Guizhou. Their parents were working elsewhere and the five children were believed to have started a fire with charcoal inside the trash bin to seek shelter from the cold. Three years later, four siblings in Bijie killed themselves by drinking pesticides. Their parents were migrant workers and had been away from home for a long time.

The absence of proper parental guidance in Guizhou was widely suspected to have taken a toll on youngsters' education. According to provincial government figures, the enrollment rate for compulsory education there was 78.6 percent by the end of 2012, significantly lower than the national average at the time of 91.8 percent. Meanwhile, the dropout rates in Guizhou had been climbing for years, and in some counties more than a quarter of teenagers had dropped out of middle school.

The tragic deaths prompted the provincial government to step up efforts to "control the dropouts and protect schooling" — an easy way to track disadvantaged children — and made it a critical part of year-end evaluations of local officials' jobs. The province also set up a special fund to aid children's schooling.

Over the years, the province also

initiated other mechanisms to boost school turnouts. Among them was a "complete handover" principle, which requires primary and secondary schools to share data in a bid to quickly identify students who discontinue schooling after graduation. "Persuasion teams" would be dispatched to find them and urge their parents to let them return to campus.

In a 2018 circular, the provincial government required that the enrollment of school-age children should reach 95 percent by the end of 2020, a politically important juncture by which time the central authorities have pledged to eliminate absolute poverty domestically so that the nation can complete the building of a *xiaokang shehui* — moderately prosperous society — a term created by ancient Chinese scholars to describe an envisioned society of affluence and vibrancy. Students who missed classes for three consecutive days would be recorded in a digital registration system, the circular said, and follow-up efforts would be made to persuade them to return to classes.

Last year, Guizhou prosecutors and other provincial agencies also drafted a guideline to blacklist employers who hired underage workers, as part of a broader effort to make dropping out of school less tempting.

An Jinlin, the 14-year old who quit school to work in Guangdong and was later brought back to school in Guizhou, said working conditions were harsh for underage workers.

"We cannot enter licensed factories," he said. "The only places that want us is back kitchens at some small diners. We work as hard as a bull but get little money."

Che Weiwei contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at
lilei@chinadaily.com.cn

Japanese surrender video captures images of history

CHANGSHA — Sept 7 is a day of great significance each year in Zhijiang Dong autonomous county, Hunan province, when people gather to remember history.

Qian Dexiang, a 70-year-old artist who was born in Zhijiang, was among those who returned home on Monday to relive the joy of victory.

On Aug 15, 1945, Japan announced its surrender, and in Zhijiang on Aug 21 of that year, Japanese representatives handed over a map of Japanese troops deployed in China and signed a surrender memorandum.

Public memorial activities were held in Zhijiang to mark the 75th victory anniversary of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and World War II.

In the United States, Qian man-

aged to find the original video of the surrender in Zhijiang and sent a copy back in 2014.

In 2008, Qian, who had been developing his painting career in the US, returned to China to visit his hometown.

While visiting the Memorial Hall of the Anti-Japanese War and the Acceptance of the Japanese Surrender in Zhijiang, Qian was asked by curator Wu Jianhong to create a large oil painting featuring the surrender ceremony, and the two spoke of the lost footage of the ceremony recorded by US journalists.

"I've been to many places and asked my friends to help look for the video clip for many years, but ended up with nothing," Wu said.

He asked Qian to help locate the video.

Having searched for some time, Qian received a short video clip of some 10 seconds from a Japanese student. The clip further motivated Qian and his wife, Tan Mingli, to find the original film.

They began to visit museums and archives across the United States, but their efforts at the beginning were fruitless. They tried to use the Pinyin spelling of Zhijiang as a keyword to search for clues but found no references to it.

"Zhijiang was once an air base during World War II where the famed Flying Tigers were stationed. The county was called 'Chihkiang' in a memoir written by the pilots," Wu said. He immediately informed Qian of this fact.

The couple soon identified a clue in the National Archives in

Washington after some online research.

Using the keywords provided by Tan, the National Archives staff found a full cart of CDs and films. The first two videos recorded the Japanese surrendering in Nanjing and Guangzhou. The third was the one the couple had been looking for.

In 2014, this 20-minute copy of the video was sent back to China and was later collected by Zhijiang's memorial hall.

"Historical memory is significant for a country," Wu said.

He added that the video recording will be a constant reminder of the victory in World War II as well as of the preciousness of peace.

XINHUA