

# Rains spawn deadly floods, mudslide

By AN BAIJIE in Beijing and WUYONG in Benxi, Liaoning

At least nine people in Liaoning province, five in Hubei province and one in Yunnan province were confirmed dead in floods and mudslides triggered by rainstorms on Monday.

Six in Xiuyan county and three in Haicheng city were found dead, and four others remain missing after Typhoon Damrey swept through Northeast China's Liaoning during the weekend, flood control authorities said.

Floods trapped 201 construction workers in a tunnel of a high-speed railway in the province's Benxi about 9:40 am on Monday, said Ban Yue, a publicity official for the city's government.

The flood destroyed a bridge and blocked the workers' escape route, he said.

Benxi rescue crews managed to transfer all of the workers to safety within four hours, said Zhang Jingqi, a firefighter.

When China Daily reporters arrived at the scene, two dark-colored rivers were flowing quickly through the tunnel, and a temporary bridge was severely damaged.

Most of the construction workers returned to their tents after being rescued, while several others carried on with the construction work in safe areas.

"I never expected that they could be rescued within such a short time," said a Benxi resident named Zhang. "I thought it would take at least a day to transfer so many people."

The typhoon cut off electricity, paralyzed road traffic and damaged drinking water facilities in Xiuyan, leaving more than 110,000 people homeless.

Floods triggered by rainstorms in Dalian, Liaoning, retreated on Sunday night, as many residents in Chengzitan township tried to dry their clothes in the sun on Monday.

In Southwest China's Yunnan, a 92-year-old woman was found dead and a 82-year-old woman was missing in Eryuan county of the Dali Bai autonomous prefecture, where a mudslide occurred on Monday morning.

Forty villagers were injured by the mudslide and all were sent to hospital for treatment, Zhou Hongbing, a publicity official for Eryuan, said on Monday.

The mudslide initially trapped



WANG SHIJE / FOR CHINA DAILY

Rescuers save a child trapped by floods in Benxi, Liaoning province, on Monday.

more than 200 people in the mountainous Fengyu and Liantie townships. The rescuers managed to save more than 80 as of Monday afternoon and authorities are still working to free the remaining trapped people, Zhou said.

Li Xiangyang, a resident of Fengyu, said that the rainy weather had lasted for nearly half a month.

"A loud noise from the valley behind my house woke me and my two children this morning," he said. "Mud poured down before I know what was happening."

The mudslide caused eco-

nomical losses of more than 98 million yuan (\$15 million) in Eryuan, with 193 hectares of farmland destroyed, 81 houses collapsed, 488 heads of livestock killed, 17 roads and eight bridges destroyed, and three power plants damaged, according to the county government.

As of 2 pm on Monday, at least five people had been confirmed dead and one remained missing due to heavy rain in Shiyan and Xiangyang in Central China's Hubei province, according to the provincial flood control headquarters.

More than 1,200 people were

trapped by flood in Gucheng county of Xiangyang, said Xiao Haifeng, a firefighter.

Rescuers managed to transfer more than 830 people to safety and rescued 324 people from places surrounded by deep water by Monday afternoon.

The heavy rain collapsed 178 houses and destroyed 409 hectares of crops, the Xiangyang government said on Monday.

Zhang Xiaomin in Dalian contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at [anbaijie@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:anbaijie@chinadaily.com.cn) and [wuyong@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:wuyong@chinadaily.com.cn)

## Third typhoon in week expected

By JIN ZHU in Beijing and LI XINZHU in Shanghai

China was braced on Monday for a record third typhoon within a week as torrential rains and floods brought by two powerful storms still affected many regions.

The country is faced with a tremendous burden from floods and other disasters due to frequent typhoons since mid-July, Chen Lei, minister of water resources, said on Monday.

"It is the first time that the country will have been hit by three typhoons one after another within seven days," he said in a statement posted on the ministry's website.

While the country is still dealing with the impact of typhoons Saola and Damrey that caused extensive damage over the weekend, typhoon Haikui is fast approaching, said Chen, who is also deputy commander-in-chief of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.

New tropical cyclones will be formed in the next two days, which may continue to challenge the country's flood control capacity.

Haikui strengthened into a

fierce tropical storm on Sunday and further strengthened into a typhoon on Monday afternoon. It is approaching the coastal area of East China's Zhejiang province. The center of Haikui was in the ocean, about 580 kilometers southwest of Shanghai by 3 pm on Monday.

Heavy rainstorms brought by Haikui are expected to hit Shanghai and Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian and Jiangsu provinces in next three days, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

According to the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau, Haikui is moving northwestward at 15 kilometers an hour.

The bureau issued a blue typhoon alert on Monday.

Haikui is expected to move over the central and northern coastal areas of Zhejiang between midnight on Tuesday to noon on Wednesday, wind speed may reach 108 to 119 kilometers per hour as the center of the storm moves across the coast.

Shanghai is expected to be lashed by rainstorms brought by Haikui from Tuesday to Thursday, with heavy rains in some areas, said Yao Jianqun, deputy director of the Shang-

hai Central Meteorological Station.

Real-time weather information will be sent to residents via TV, radio, micro blogs and text messages.

The Shanghai Railway Bureau has decided to suspend the sale of train tickets of the Ningbo-Taizhou-Wenzhou Railway along the southeast coast on Wednesday in order to ensure the safety of passengers.

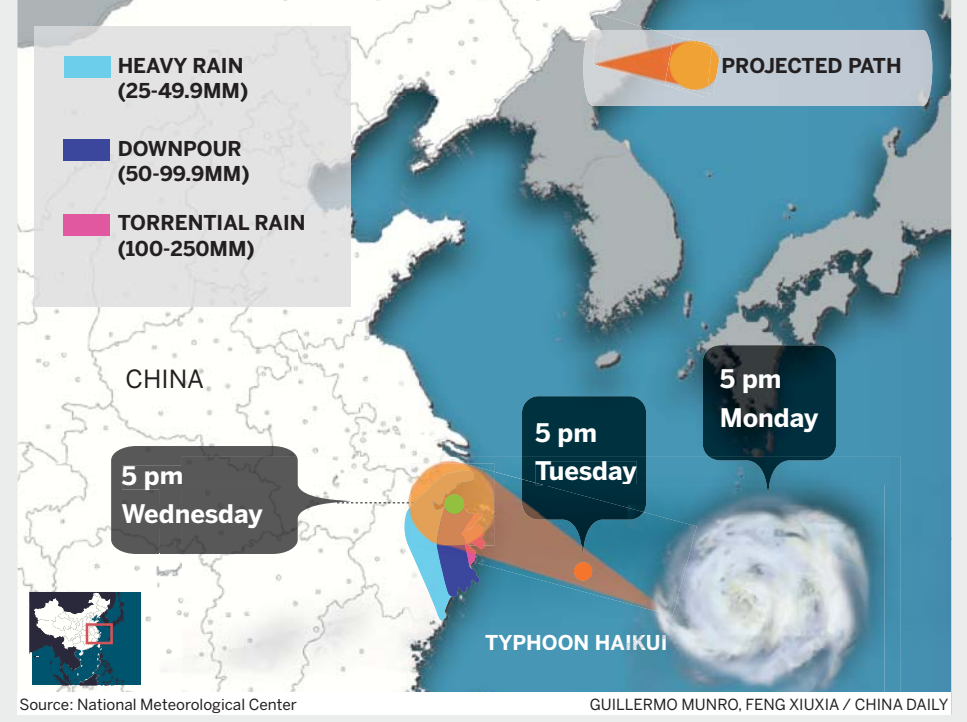
Tourism authorities in Zhoushan, Zhejiang, issued a notice on its micro blog, warning tourists to evacuate, and saying all sightseeing places will be temporarily closed.

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters sent four work teams on Monday to Shanghai and Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Jiangxi provinces to supervise flood control work.

Local authorities should step up inspections to prevent any potential typhoon inflicted damage to major facilities such as the chemical industry, nuclear power plants and railroads.

Contact the writers at [jinzhu@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:jinzhu@chinadaily.com.cn) and [lixinzh@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:lixinzh@chinadaily.com.cn)

## RAINFALL TO BE BROUGHT BY TYPHOON HAIKUI from 8 pm Monday to 8 pm Tuesday



## Revised draft of labor law attracts huge public attention

By CHEN XIN and ZHAO YINAN

Four proposed amendments to the Labor Contract Law have received a massive amount of public interest, with a record number of people contacting authorities to have their say on the law by Sunday night.

Nearly 560,000 online comments were made on the proposed amendments to the Labor Contract Law over the monthlong public suggestion period, according to the website of the National People's Congress. The number of comments sent by post is unavailable.

It is the highest number of comments that the top legislature has received on a legal revision, the second highest number received was 331,000 regarding the Budget Law.

It is not the first time since drafts of laws started to be published online in 2005 that the labor contract bill has attracted wide attention due to its effect on labor rights.

The draft labor contract law received nearly 190,000 public comments within a month in 2006 when the law was drafted, a record at the time.

Wang Xiaolong, a consultant with the Chinese Education, Science, Culture, Health and Sport Workers' Union, said such a large number of opin-

ions collected showed labor outsourcing is overused and it should have been regulated earlier.

"In general, outsourced workers do not enjoy the same wages or social security benefits as regular workers who are doing the same jobs and they are often offered long-term posts rather than the temporary, supportive and substitute positions that the law demands for labor outsourcing," he said.

The law allows employment agencies to be established to provide companies with workers for temporary, supportive and substitute positions, and stipulates that outsourced workers should receive the same pay as those doing the same jobs for the same employers.

Unlike people employed directly by companies, outsourced workers have labor contracts with employment agencies. Those organizations pay the workers' wages and, in return for supplying the workers, charge employers commission and management fees.

There are more than 60 million outsourced workers in China, making up almost 20 percent of the urban workforce, according to a report released last year by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

State-owned enterprises and public institutions and indus-

tries, such as petrochemical, telecommunication, finance and banking companies, employ the most outsourced workers, the report said.

Wang said in many public hospitals, doctors, pharmacists and nurses are outsourced and in many universities, teachers, researchers and administrative staff are also outsourced.

"All those positions are so important that they should not be regarded as only supportive roles or temporary," he said.

Ye Jingyi, a labor law expert at Peking University, said although the draft defines the three types of positions for the first time, it is not specific enough, and could still leave loopholes for employer manipulation.

Temporary positions refer to jobs that last for no longer than six months; supportive positions refer to jobs that provide a supportive service to main posts; and substitute positions refer to vacancies left by regular workers who leave their jobs to take vacations or study full time, the draft stipulates.

"The definitions of the three types of positions are vague in the draft and what if employers make workers hold supportive and substitute posts for a long time?" she said.

"I think the draft should add a clause, which stipulates that supportive positions should

### TIMELINE

DRAFT LAWS OR AMENDMENTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE LABOR CONTRACT LAW, 2012

Days open for advice: 31  
Pieces of advice: 557,243

2. DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET LAW, 2012

Days open for advice: 31  
Pieces of advice: 330,960

3. DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX LAW, 2011

Days open for advice: 37  
Pieces of advice: 237,684

4. DRAFT LABOR CONTRACT LAW, 2006

Days open for advice: 30  
Pieces of advice: 187,773

5. DRAFT ASSET APPRAISAL LAW, 2012

Days open for advice: 32  
Pieces of advice: 156,122

not include those that cannot be separated from main posts.

"The draft should also stipulate that if outsourced workers remain in supportive or substitute positions longer than two or three years, employers should stop outsourcing them and directly employ them," she said.

Contact the writers at [chenxin1@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:chenxin1@chinadaily.com.cn) and [zhaoyinan@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:zhaoyinan@chinadaily.com.cn)

## Proposed amendment draws people's interest

By ZHAO YINAN [zhaoyinan@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:zhaoyinan@chinadaily.com.cn)

A draft amendment to the Budget Law, the latest attempt to shore up supervision on government spending, has apparently struck a chord with the public.

During a monthlong online campaign to solicit feedback on the proposed changes, the proposal received almost 331,000 comments and suggestions from about 20,000 members of the public, as of Sunday, according to the National People's Congress, the top legislature.

This is the second-largest number of comments received by a draft law since the practice of publishing drafts online to solicit opinions was introduced in 2005.

The largest number, 560,000 comments, was received by a Labor Contract Law draft amendment. A proposed amendment that would slash the tax burden levied on personal incomes elicited more than 230,000 comments last year.

Details about the comments directed at the Budget Law have not yet been released.

However, several analysts said such attention to the draft shows an unusual public inter-

est in levies and expenses, as the government continues to harvest surplus revenue.

The amendment, if passed, would establish a set of requirements on budget making and enforcing, such as requiring governments to include all revenues and spending in annual budgets, making the budget public after it is approved by the people's congresses, and submitting budget adjustments for local legislature's review before making any fiscal changes. Many of the proposed requirements are unprecedented, and others improve existing obligations.

Liu Jianwen, a financial law professor at Peking University, said the draft makes progress in outlawing undeclared incomes and sets up a system to supervise all revenues and spending.

He said the amount of undeclared income has reduced significantly in recent years, especially since a regulation requiring governments to publicize information on spending was introduced in 2008.

"Ruling out undeclared funds can help reduce the possibility of randomly collecting fees. It can also prevent (officials using) private bank accounts and curb corruption," he said.

The annual amount of undeclared funds can reach 300 to 400 billion yuan (\$47 billion to \$63 billion), said Yang Zhengwu, a deputy to the NPC Standing Committee, during a session to discuss the draft in June.

Li Weiguang, a professor of government finance at Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, approved of some of the changes proposed in the draft, but said the proposal dodged the basic principle of budget making and implementation.

For instance, he said, although the draft requires government budgets and adjustments to be approved by legislatures before being carried out, it does not specify the procedures if legislatures decide not to approve the proposed budgets.

The authority of legislatures in reviewing and approving budgets, Li said, is the cornerstone of other measures in the draft law to regulate government income and spending.

The Budget Law, the country's fundamental law to regulate government spending, was first introduced in 1995, a year after China reformed its taxation system and drastically improved the fiscal power.