

Typhoon forces widespread evacuation

Haikui strengthens to severe storm with wind reaching up to 115 km/h

By **SHI YINGYING** and **WANG ZHENGHUA** in Shanghai

China evacuated 374,000 people from Shanghai and 250,000 from Zhejiang as the third typhoon in a week bore down on the eastern coast.

Haikui strengthened into a severe typhoon on Tuesday as it approached the coast of East China's Zhejiang province, the provincial meteorological observatory said.

The typhoon was moving northwest at 10 to 15 km per hour and is expected to make landfall in coastal areas in central or northern Zhejiang between early morning and noon on Wednesday, lashing the province and Shanghai with torrential rains.

The Shanghai Meteorological Bureau raised the typhoon alarm to orange, the second-highest level, at 3 pm on Tuesday. Forecasters predicted winds would reach speeds up to 115 km per hour near the city's coast.

The meteorological department in Zhejiang raised the typhoon alarm to red, the highest level, on Tuesday afternoon.

Sitting in her wheelchair, 83-year-old Zhou Lijun from Shanghai's Jinshan district didn't seem worried. "This isn't the first time I have relocated to avoid a storm. We spent the night at a nearby school when a typhoon hit Jinshan last year as well," Zhou said, adding the house where she lives is "in a state of disrepair".

"The whole process isn't too complicated. My husband and I just packed a few bags with some necessary items, such as my medicine and a blanket," Zhou said.

Food and drinking water are available at a nearby vocational school, said Zhu Qinfang, a staff member from the neighborhood committee organizing the relocation.

"Apart from making arrangements for those who are old, weak, ill or disabled, our toughest task is to inform the migrants who won't be home until late in the day. The only solution will be to send staff to wait so that nobody is left behind."

Around 22,000 of the 27,690 people who were forced to evacuate from Jinshan district work at construction sites.

In Zhejiang's Zhoushan, a city made up entirely of islands, all water traffic and tourist attractions had been closed by Tuesday. The city also relocated more than 56,000 people from the low-lying areas.

The 35.7-km Hangzhou Bay Bridge, which connects Zhejiang's Jiaxing and Ningbo, was also closed on Tuesday afternoon.

The municipal government of Shanghai issued an emergency notice on Tuesday afternoon, suspending all outdoor group activities from 9 pm on Tuesday until the orange alarm is lifted.

All parks, scenic spots and amusement grounds will remain closed, and all training classes for students during the



GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

A girl and her grandmother move to a school in Jinwei, a village in the suburb of Shanghai, to find shelter from Typhoon Haikui on Tuesday.

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summer break were canceled. Laborers were asked to stop working on outdoor projects, while organizations and companies unrelated to people's livelihood and city operation are allowed to take vacations.

Employees who don't come to work or arrive late should not be held responsible, the government said.

Shanghai municipal traffic department was preparing to shut down expressways and

elevated roads on Tuesday afternoon for fear of low visibility caused by possible torrential rains.

Air carriers including China Southern Airlines and Hainan Airlines decided on Tuesday

morning to cancel flights to and from Hangzhou, Ningbo and Wenzhou cities in Zhejiang and Shanghai later in the day.

Apart from emergency tasks, all vessels of Shanghai have been

ordered to stay in harbor or seek shelter at designated areas.

Contact the writers at shiyyingying@chinadaily.com.cn and wangzhenghua@chinadaily.com.cn

Migrant children have greater chance of missing out on school

By **CHEN XIN** chenxin1@chinadaily.com.cn

The percentage of children of young migrant parents in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou who do not attend school is higher than the national average, according to a report on migrants under age 35 released by the National Population and Family Planning Commission.

The commission looked at the lives of the "floating population" — migrants who do not acquire permanent resident permits, or *hukou*, in their new cities — of people younger than 35.

It found that more than 60 percent of these migrants in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou brought their children with them.

In Beijing, 82 percent of those children ages 7 to 13 go to public schools, and in Guangzhou, 56 percent, according to the report.

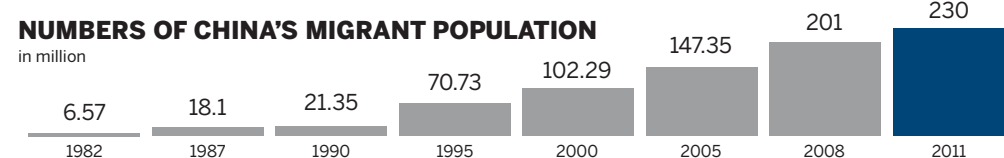
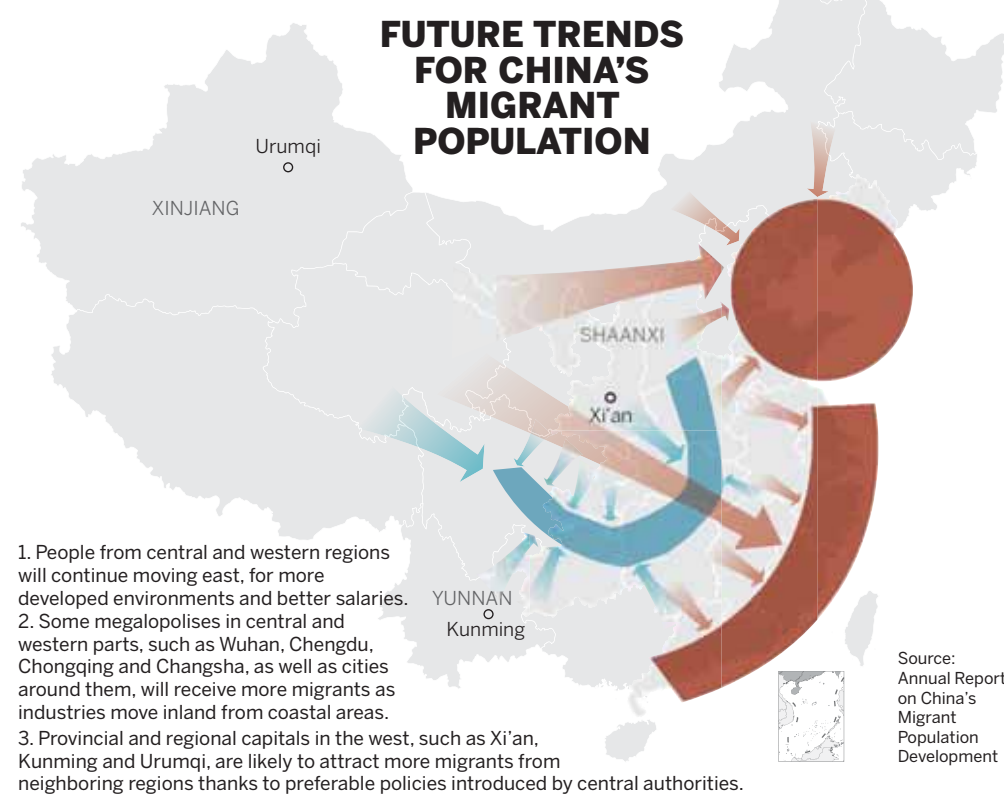
However, 3.5 percent of those children in Beijing do not attend school; in Shanghai, 5.1 percent and in Guangzhou, 5.3 percent.

Nationwide, only 2 percent of the school-age children of the young floating population do not go to school, the report said.

Zhang Yi, a demographics expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said around 75 percent of the floating population in big cities are migrants who leave rural areas to find manual jobs in cities.

Zhang said most floating population children who do not go to school are from migrant laborer families, who usually live on the outskirts of big cities, where education resources are limited.

"Migrant workers often change jobs and place of residence, and this would easily cause delays in their children's schooling," he said. "Some schools charge addi-



tional fees for the children of migrant families, which are beyond the families' means. This contributes to these children's comparatively high rate of non-enrollment in schools in big cities."

Although some private schools are established in city outskirts for migrant children, Zhang said, some of these have been demolished to make way for urban renewal projects, because most of these schools are set up in deserted factories.

Zhang suggested the government think twice before demolishing such schools because this is likely to increase the number of children dropping out of school.

Feng Xiliang, a labor expert

at the Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing, suggested allocating more education resources to city outskirts to close the gap between those and downtown areas.

"The government should consider basing the allocation of public resources on each region's population instead of the number of *hukou*-holders," Zhang suggested.

The report also said that in Beijing, the average per capita income of the young floating population is 3,280 yuan (\$515) a month; in Shanghai, it's 3,000 yuan and in Guangzhou, 2,470 yuan. The national average is about 2,500 yuan.

Those who hold a bachelor's

or higher academic degree earn 5,650 yuan a month in Beijing; 5,760 yuan in Shanghai and 6,570 yuan in Guangzhou. The national average is 4,600 yuan.

In those three cities, the proportion of the young floating population working in high-income and knowledge- or technology-intensive sectors such as finance, real estate, scientific research, education and health are much higher than the national level, said the report.

In those cities, they are more likely to find jobs via the Internet, it said, while elsewhere, they generally seek help from their families, relatives and friends, it said.

Attitude toward sex, pregnancy changing

By **HE DAN** hedan@chinadaily.com.cn

Almost half of female migrant workers under 30 have become pregnant before marriage, a dramatic jump in the number of unwed mothers compared with only a generation ago, according to a report on the migrant population's changing behavior in sexual and marital affairs.

Experts warn that increased pregnancy before marriage may result in more violations of women's rights.

The report, based on monitoring results of migrant workers in 2011 and released by the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said nearly 43 percent of second-generation female migrant workers got pregnant before getting married, 16 percentage points higher than their coun-

terparts of older generations.

The report defines migrant workers born in the 1970s and earlier as the first generation and those born later as the second generation.

The second generation of migrant workers marry later in life compared with their older counterparts, according to the report. It showed only about 35 percent got married before the age of 23, 15 percentage points lower than the first generation.

Increasing numbers of younger migrant workers get married after migration. The report said more than half of those married did not wed in their home villages, double the number of their older counterparts.

Jiang Yongping, a researcher at the Women's Studies Institute of China in Beijing, attributed the changes to the fact Chinese society is now more open to sex before marriage and unwed

couples living together.

However, Jiang said the high rate of pregnancy outside marriage among migrant workers also indicates that China should work harder to educate this group about safe sex and popularize measures of contraception.

Chen Wei, a lawyer at Beijing Yingke Law Firm specializing in marital affairs, said on Tuesday she has noted an increase in legal disputes related to pregnancy before marriage. Chen warned that women's rights are more vulnerable in cases where they get pregnant before marriage. "It's very difficult to ask the child's father to give child support without official marriage registration in cases where the couple break up," she said.

"Some women resort to abortion, which hurts their health in varying degrees and in extreme cases can result in infertility."

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