



WANG DINGCHANG / XINHUA

More than 700 stranded tourists and residents prepare to walk over a newly built makeshift bridge at a scenic spot in Anji county, Zhejiang province, on Thursday. The original bridge was destroyed by floods after Typhoon Haikui swept through the province.

Haikui continues to threaten East China

By WANG ZHENGHUA
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Torrential rain from Haikui continues to threaten a large part of East China as the typhoon hovers over the area.

The third typhoon to hit China in a week, Haikui snuck into inland Anhui province on Wednesday night after shattering the coastal area with strong winds and torrential rain, killing at least four and forcing 2.14 million residents in East China to evacuate.

As of 8 pm on Thursday, Haikui affected more than 6 million people in Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui provinces, Xinhua News Agency quoted the latest figure released by the Office of State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters on Thursday night.

It lessened to a storm and then a tropical depression — the lowest level of a tropical cyclone — at noon Thursday near Anhui's Chizhou. Its center was near Anqing at 5 pm on Thursday, packing up winds up to 16 meters per second.

China's National Meteorological Center said Haikui's strength would ebb slowly as it lingered in the southern part of Anhui.

"More than 24 hours after it landed, Haikui still remained a storm and that shows it is very powerful," the center said.

It also forecast that rainstorms would continue to batter parts of Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Fujian and Shandong provinces on Friday with rainfall reaching 200 millimeters.

In Anhui, 1.35 million residents have been affected by the storm and 156,000 residents evacuated as of Thursday as winds and rainstorms destroyed crops, damaged roads and threatened the area with floods and mudslides.

Haikui also destroyed 53,000 hectares of crops, damaged 13,700 houses and caused direct economic losses of 670 million yuan (\$105 million) in the province.

The biggest threats are from floods and mudslides, Cai Zhengzhong, spokesman for the Office of Anhui Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, said on Thursday.

The provincial government has banned outdoor group activities unrelated to flood control and demanded strengthened management on people traveling outdoors.

Schools, training institutions, scenic spots and entertainment venues that might pose safety

6
million people
in Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui provinces had been affected by Haikui as of 8 pm on Thursday

hazards were requested to close.

The government also ordered the reinforcement of flood control projects and enhanced patrols at rivers and reservoirs.

Authorities in the city of Huangshan evacuated 19,000 people before the typhoon arrived on Wednesday night.

In Shanghai and Zhejiang, where the influence of Haikui has greatly subsided, urban centers slowly came back to life, though the typhoon has pushed up the price of some commodities.

The two airports in the financial center of Shanghai resumed operations Wednesday night, and prolonged operations to transport nearly 2,000 stranded passengers.

On the ground, more than 100 high-speed trains linking Shanghai with other cities remained suspended on Thursday, though the city lifted its red alarm for Haikui on early Thursday.

Haikui, which means "sea

anemone", came on the heels of Saola and Damrey, which caused extensive damage to coastal China earlier this month.

Meteorologists said that the typhoons that landed on the Chinese mainland this year outnumbered and were more powerful than those in previous years.

People's Daily cited Gao Shuanzhu, a senior engineer at China Meteorological Administration, as saying on Thursday that it is rare for three typhoons to land in 10 days but that could be explained by the fact that July and August are the peak seasons for typhoons to form in the northwestern Pacific.

Ye Dianxiu, chief weather forecaster at the administration, told the newspaper 12 tropical cyclones have formed since the beginning of this year. Of the 12 storms, five landed on the mainland.

In addition, Damrey landed within 12 hours of Saola, the shortest time bracket recorded. The previous record is 24 hours.

In July, 61.8 million residents were affected by natural disasters in China, with 402 people killed, 91 missing and 4.6 million people relocated or needing emergency relief, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said.

Shanghai residents offer luxury rides home

By SHI YINGYING
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Building on Beijing's spirit of helping stranded people get home in the heavy rain, Shanghai resident Xia Yuchun offered his own rides — in his 1 million yuan Audi sport utility vehicle — with a dozen fellow members of the Shanghai Super Car Club.

"A dozen Land Rovers, Audis and Toyota SUVs joined me on Wednesday to function as free taxis to give people rides to subway stations, so that we could help more people," said the 20-year-old Xia, a university student.

Unlike in Beijing, where netizens posted their addresses and contact information on micro blogs for help, the taxi dispatching system was applied to Wednesday's rescue, Xia said.

"We were inspired by what happened in Beijing. And I don't mind soaking my car all afternoon to help people," he said. Jumping into his SUV at around 3 pm on Wednesday, Xia headed to the city's financial hub of Lujiazui and didn't return home until 7 pm.

"Some of our club members didn't come back until 9 pm. In total, we carried more than 100 stranded passengers, and I helped 15 or 16. I didn't really count," Xia said.

A few passengers, though,



In total, we carried more than 100 stranded passengers."

XIA YUCHUN
A SHANGHAI RESIDENT WHO OFFERED HIS CAR WITH FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE SHANGHAI SUPER CAR CLUB TO HELP STRANDED PEOPLE GET HOME

were suspicious of the good Samaritans.

"Some people just won't trust you, they didn't believe we'd offer luxury cars as free taxis to give them rides. They thought we weren't telling the truth, and that we wanted to blackmail them," he said.

Meanwhile, in nearby Zhejiang province's Ningbo, Chen Gang's two-story house was under water when the 26-year-old finished his 120-km volunteer excursion to get four stranded people home at 3 am on Thursday.

Chen, who runs a foreign-trade company, said the trip from the train station to Ningbo's Free Trade Zone wasn't as safe as he thought it would be.

"The ride was nearly 30 kilometers long and it was raining and the wind was blowing so hard — there's even water in

my car, plus the brakes won't work sometimes when there are puddles," he said.

"But I didn't think too much before heading to the train station to rescue people stuck there," Chen added.

As the risk of outdoor travel became apparent, Shanghai residents started an online campaign that called on residents not to order food delivery in the foul weather.

"The deliverers are risking their own lives in such strong winds and heavy rain," said Lu Xinyi, a clerk from a downtown office building of Shanghai. "I brought instant noodles and fruits for lunch on Wednesday."

A delivery person in Shanghai was hospitalized after getting an electric shock while trying to deliver food by bike in deep water on Wednesday evening. According to nearby residents, the man got shocked because a falling tree had broken an electrical wire that then fell in the water.

"To deliver food in rainy days is always an unpleasant task," said Wang Jun, a food deliverer from a snack bar in Shanghai's downtown. "Umbrellas and raincoats are both useless when typhoon comes, and I look like a drowned rat every time I come back."

Ma Yiyun contributed to this story.

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Batten down the hatches: Climate change will bring more heavy rains

By CHENG YINGQI
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Climate change has triggered more floods in China and challenged drainage systems in big cities, experts say.

"Although the rain is still more frequent in the south than in the north, there is a tendency that rainstorms sweeping northern provinces are as strong as those in the south," Wu Zhenghua, a researcher of the Beijing Meteorological Bureau and member of Beijing Disaster Relief Association, said at a news conference on coping with urban flood disasters held by the China Association for Science and Technology.

The record precipitation was 126.4 mm in one hour in Beijing, while it was not very different from the 115 mm record in Hong Kong, 107 mm in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, and 185 mm in Jinan, East China's Shandong province, Wu said.

The July 21 rainstorm in Beijing, the heaviest in 61 years, caused precipitation as high as 541 mm in a township in Fangshan district, Wu said.

The 16-hour rain brought 170



YANG DUODUO / FOR CHINA DAILY
A worker removes a manhole cover to accelerate drainage on a waterlogged road in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on Thursday. The city experienced heavy rain when it was hit by Typhoon Haikui.

mm of precipitation on average to the city and killed at least 79 people.

Statistics show that the rainfall intensity in northern provinces in China has increased in recent years, especially after 2008, Wu said.

"Global warming has increased the temperature in the middle and high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, resulting

in more water-vapor exchange and heat exchange with low-latitude regions, and thus bringing more frequent heavy precipitation," he said.

Wu said he is not sure whether the rainy climate will last for one or two decades, as some other experts say, but he suggests the government make long-term plans, including increasing the urban drainage capacity.

Since 2011, Shanghai, Wuhan and Guangzhou have announced multibillion-yuan projects to maintain and upgrade drainage systems.

But these cities still suffered floods because their drainage systems were poor, said Fang Chuanglin, an urban-planning expert of the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The problems with the drainage systems include improper arrangement of pipelines and outdated design. Most pipes are designed for the worst rainstorm in three or five years, some can only cope with the heaviest rain once a year," he said.

According to a recent report from Science Technology

Weekly magazine, more than 90 of Beijing's underpasses rely completely on water pumps to deal with heavy rain, and most drainage pipes in the city can only cope with 36 to 45 mm of rainfall per hour.

The situation in Guangzhou is not much better, as 83 percent of the pipes are only capable of dealing with rain of 50 mm per hour.

"The design of Beijing's drainage system follows a standard published in 2006. We are not setting the standard of the pipelines according to the areas they cover. Instead, the standard is based on the significance of a road or an area," said Huang Qian, one of the designers of Beijing's drainage system, quoted by the Beijing News on Wednesday.

A new drainage standard published by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning follows the old tradition the work area of central government bodies should be capable of resisting the worst rain in 10 years; municipal-level government and cultural relic sites should withstand the worst rain in five years; and the standard for other regions is to handle the biggest rain in three years.

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