

Haikui hammers Shanghai, East China

By WANG ZHENGHUA and LI XINZHU in Shanghai

Typhoon Haikui battered the country's coastal areas with strong winds and floods on Wednesday, killing at least one person, and is expected to linger in East China through Friday.

China's third typhoon in a week landed in Hepu township, Xiangshan county in Zhejiang province, at 3:20 am, causing widespread flooding and landslides, paralyzing traffic and triggering blackouts throughout the area.

In Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu province, a 68-year-old cyclist was crushed by a tree leveled by strong winds from Haikui. The man died later in a hospital, China News Services reported on Wednesday.

China's National Meteorological Center said Haikui, which means "sea anemone", lessened to a strong storm on Wednesday afternoon, packing winds of up to 108 kilometers per hour. It would move northwest at a speed of 15 km/h, with its center expected to enter East China's Anhui province on Wednesday night, the center said.

It will linger near the border area of Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang on Thursday and Friday, as its strength slowly ebbs, the center said.

"Haikui moved very slowly on land because of the lack of a strong air current to lead it more quickly, and it is located in a weak meteorological area between continental high pressure and the secondary high pressure on the sea," Shanghai Meteorological Bureau's chief meteorologist, Man Liping, said on Wednesday.

In Shanghai, the meteorological department raised the typhoon alarm to red, the highest level, at 11:30 am on Wednesday. The entire city was subject to the storm's wrath,

with maximum rainfall in areas close to 130 millimeters.

Many companies closed for the day, and hundreds of thousands of residents living on the city's outskirts were evacuated. Haikui's impact on Shanghai was expected to subside slightly between Wednesday night and early Thursday.

As of 2 pm Wednesday, a total of 700 flights had been canceled at Shanghai's two major airports.

On the ground, Haikui paralyzed hundreds of long-distance bus services that were scheduled to depart from Shanghai to nearby regions. At Shanghai South Long-Distance Bus Station alone, more than 600 bus runs were called off, representing almost 60 percent of its services.

Shanghai railway authorities said on Wednesday that it has suspended all high-speed railway services linking the city with Nanjing and Hangzhou, and some of the services to Beijing. Haikui also delayed almost all other trains, including the one from Beijing to Hangzhou carrying Olympic gold medal swimmers Sun Yang and Ye Shiwen.

It also paralyzed the city's magnetic levitation line and part of the service on Metro Line 2. It was the first time these lines were suspended because of a storm.

The strong wind ripped open the scaffold on top of the Shanghai Tower, which will be China's tallest building upon completion. Police evacuated the area on the ground. The alarm was lifted after the structure was reinforced.

The city's flood control department said on Wednesday afternoon that the city's inundation threat was under control and the city was operating normally.

In nearby Zhejiang, Haikui caused widespread flooding



Women walk into the wind on Nanjing Road as Typhoon Haikui hits Shanghai on Wednesday.

PEIXIN / XINHUA



Electricians repair fallen lines after the typhoon blew down electricity poles in Wenling, Zhejiang province, on Wednesday.

SUN JINBAO / FOR CHINA DAILY



Rescuers drive amphibious vehicles through flooded streets to save trapped residents in Yiwu city, Zhejiang province.

ZHANG YIN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

and traffic interruption as its center moved past densely populated Shaoxing, Hangzhou and

Huzhou. According to the Office of Zhejiang Flood Control and

Drought Relief Headquarters, more than 3.2 million residents in Zhejiang were affected by

Haikui by noon on Wednesday. A total of 2,900 houses were flattened, and 30,000 businesses

suspended production. About 220 roads and 770 electric lines were affected. The direct economic loss stood at about 6.8 billion yuan (\$1.07 billion).

Qinshan Nuclear Power Station in Zhejiang's Haiyan county reduced its electricity generation on Wednesday but returned to normal later when the typhoon's threat subsided.

At least 18 villages and townships in Zhejiang suffered blackouts on Wednesday, affecting more than 80,000 residents.

"The electrical power and water supply were cut on Tuesday evening," said Zhu Jiaqi, a self-employed resident of Ningbo. "It was very difficult to walk outside because the road was filled with puddles from the heavy rain."

In Hangzhou, more than 180 trees were uprooted by the strong wind.

"Trees along the West Lake were flattened," said 22-year-old Lai Gaoyue in Hangzhou. "No memo was issued yesterday to tell us to stay at home, but most of my colleagues chose to take the day off. The boss told us to leave after lunch. It is very hard to get a taxi."

Floods triggered by Haikui also trapped 44 Shanghai tourists in a remote village in Zhejiang's Pan'an county on Wednesday.

An SOS message on a micro blog at about 9 am on Wednesday said the group was stranded in a four-story building at the riverside, and their lives were in danger because the building's lower part was undermined by floods.

They were later relocated to the houses of local residents with ample food and water supply.

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HOTONWEB

Some posts on Sina Weibo related to Typhoon Haikui on Wednesday:

@Sun Yang (the Olympic gold medal swimmer):

The high-speed train has been stopped for three hours due to Haikui. Can I get home today?
Netizens replied: Swim back when the water is deep enough.

@Wangxing WX:

The ferris wheel of Ningbo city, Zhejiang province, was born on Feb 16, 1999. At a height of 35 meters, the landmark was a dream place for many children. On Aug 3, 2012, the 13-year-old (structure) was destroyed.

@Shunying Kualeide Hudie:

My classmate's dog was blown away!

@Dongqu Luojie:

A bonus of Typhoon Haikui: I'll marry whoever picks me up after work today. Please meet at the Puruan Tower (in Shanghai)!

Typhoon chasers use weibo to help public

By SHI YINGYING in Shanghai shiyingying@chinadaily.com.cn

It was the worst of times when Typhoon Haikui landed in Zhejiang province, and people hunkered down. But it was also the best of times for weather enthusiasts, who had been anxiously waiting for the deadly phenomenon since it formed on Aug 3.

Shao Jun, 24, was one of them.

"It's not often that a typhoon hits Shanghai, and that's why a few members of our club got excited and started to discuss questions such as how intense Haikui would be and where exactly it would land," said the young man, who works full time at an auto parts company in Shanghai.

Shao is also an active member of Fengyunhui, a weather enthusiasts' club organized by the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau.

"Some of us are fans of thunderstorms, and some of us get excited every time the record



Shao Jun is a weather enthusiast in Shanghai.

minimum temperature is broken because of cold air. But for me, it's always typhoons," said Shao, who started to develop an interest in weather, especially typhoons, after Matsa hit Shanghai in 2005.

Instead of taking pleasure in the suffering of Zhejiang and Shanghai because of Haikui, Shao believed his passion actually could help the public to better understand typhoons and

better protect themselves.

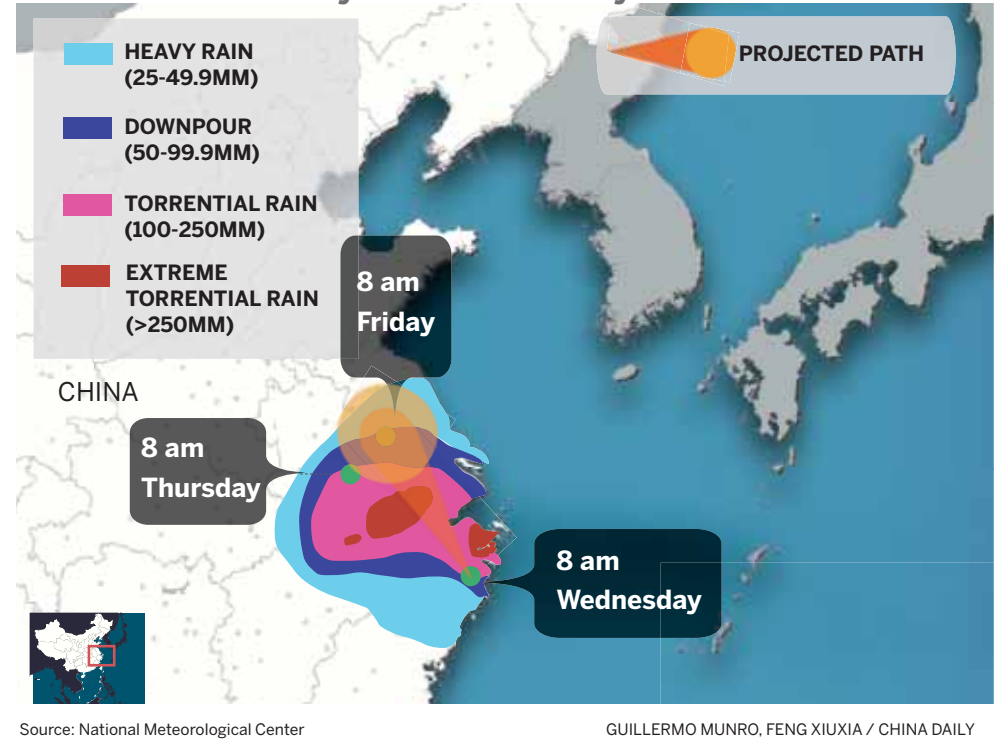
"We posted all kinds of satellite cloud pictures and radar maps through weibo (the Chinese equivalent of Twitter) — not only those from official Chinese websites, but also figures from abroad, including the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts," he said. "Most importantly, we explained what's going on out there with the plainest language so that everybody could understand."

Regarding himself as an interpreter of professional meteorological vocabulary for the ordinary person, Shao said the role of weather enthusiasts is important for those who can't understand the weatherman.

"Our official weather forecast comes out slowly. Take Haikui as an example. It was formed on Aug 3, but Haikui didn't attract much local news until Aug 7, when it was on the verge of nearby cities," said Shao, adding that his group started to broadcast about Haikui six days ago.

In addition to excited enthusiasts, professionals also got

RAINFALL BROUGHT BY TYPHOON HAIKUI from 8 am Wednesday to 8 am Thursday



Source: National Meteorological Center

GUILLERMO MUNRO, FENG XIUXIA / CHINA DAILY

involved in monitoring the typhoon.

Zhao Bingke, 46, is the leader of Typhoon Chaser, a three-member team established by the Shanghai Typhoon Institute of the China Meteorological Administration to collect real-time data about the internal structure of typhoons for research purposes.

He jumped into his 20-ton

vehicle on Tuesday afternoon and headed to Shanghai's Jiaxing district, one of the suburbs that was greatly affected.

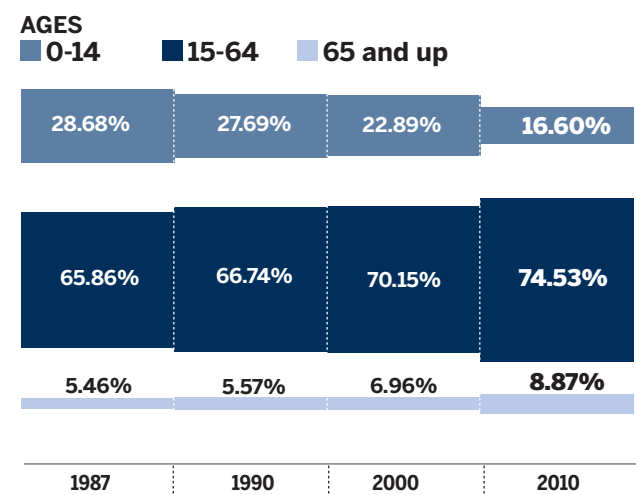
"We need to be there, to be as close to the center of the typhoon as possible — it's our mission," said Zhao. "Typhoons are as destructive as they are dynamic. But we know little about what's behind their dynamics — how they pick up

speed, change direction or die down all of a sudden."

Data to map the internal structure of typhoons, however, can only be gathered through observation on the ground, according to Zhao. "Satellites are not so reliable because there are too many interruptions."

Li Xinzhu contributed to this story.

CHINESE GETTING OLDER



Source: Science Technology Weekly

CHINA DAILY

Family: 'Parents who put country's interest first deserve reward'

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"We didn't expect such a subsidy but are happy to receive it as a show of respect," said Ni Guoqing, a retired civil servant in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province.

Starting in 2011, the provincial government began to give out a monthly subsidy of 106 yuan to all retired parents in urban areas who had just one child.

"After handing in our single-child certificate, my wife and I began to receive the subsidy from our work units," Ni said.

"We don't count on the money but it might be of great help to some people who are struggling and they deserve that."

Lu said the initiative was "another major breakthrough after the government began to give financial support in 2003 for parents older than 55 in rural areas who followed the family planning policy."

Rural areas traditionally had little in terms of social welfare and insurance and people tended to rely on children to look after them in their old age, according to Lu.

Yuan Xin, a professor at Nankai University's population and development institute in Tianjin, expressed optimism that the program will expand.

"More government policies and measures favorable for all single-child families, regardless of their residence, will be introduced," he said.

Li Bin, former head of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said previously that those who put the country's interest first, in answering the government's call to have only one child,

should be taken care of and rewarded.

"But we have to consider the economic situation as well," she said.

China's family planning law, issued in 2001, recognized such policies. Apart from the decades-old policy to give a single-child subsidy, 5 yuan a month, which ends when the child reached 14, other policies have been gradually introduced, according to Yuan.

Lu, however, urged policymakers to adjust the sum to reflect present-day reality.

A special subsidy was introduced in 2007 for single-child parents whose children died or suffered disability through birth or accident.

Last year, the commission and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued an official document which touched upon subsidies for elderly single-child parents in urban areas.

"That needs to be further strengthened and institutionalized as a supplement to the family planning policy," Lu urged.

"It also matters a lot to social stability," he stressed.