

At least 20 killed, 19 missing in China rainstorms

August 1 2023, by Jing Xuan TENG



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At least 20 people were killed and 19 were missing after heavy rains lashed Beijing and surrounding provinces, state media said Tuesday, in

downpours that have submerged roads and deluged neighborhoods with mud.

Storm Doksuri, a former super typhoon, swept northwards over China after hitting southern Fujian province on Friday, following its battering of the Philippines.

Heavy rains began pummeled the capital and surrounding areas on Saturday, with nearly the [average rainfall](#) for the entire month of July dumped on Beijing in just 40 hours.

Swaths of suburban Beijing remain badly hit by the rains—some of the city's heaviest in years.

On the banks of the Mentougou river, one of the worst affected areas, AFP reporters saw muddy debris strewn across the road.

One man told AFP he had not seen flooding this bad since July 2012, when 79 people were killed and tens of thousands evacuated.

"This time it's much bigger than that," he said, declining to give his name.

"It's a natural disaster, there's nothing you can do," a 20-year-old man surnamed Qi, who was waiting for a taxi with his grandmother outside a hospital, told AFP.

"(We) still have to work hard and rebuild."

On Tuesday, state broadcaster CCTV said that the rains had killed at least 11 people in Beijing, two of whom were workers "killed on duty during rescue and relief".



People inspect a damaged car following heavy rains in Beijing.

Thirteen people were still missing, but another 14 had been found safe, the broadcaster said.

In neighboring Hebei province, nine people were killed and six were missing, it said.

Another two casualties were reported in northeastern Liaoning province over the weekend.

President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for "every effort" to rescue those

"lost or trapped" by the rains.

More than 100,000 people deemed at risk across Beijing have been evacuated, according to state-owned Global Times newspaper.

Authorities have allocated 110 million yuan (\$15.4 million) for disaster relief work in the capital and surrounding provinces, CCTV said.

'Endure what we can'

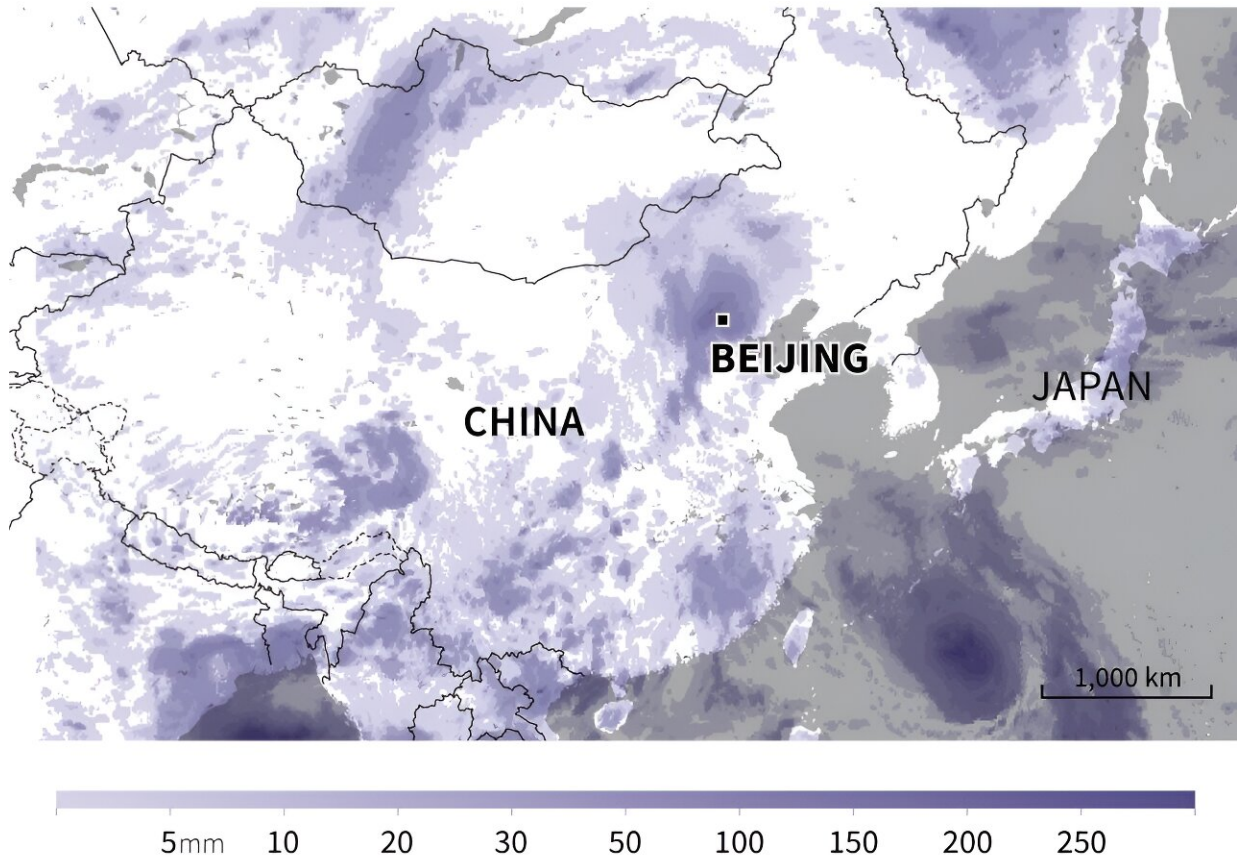
On Tuesday, emergency vehicles and workers were spotted on the road between Shijingshan and Mentougou districts.

In Shijingshan, next to the 2022 Winter Olympics Big Air jump, the Yongding River had completely flooded a park, burying benches in mud.

China rainfall

24-hour accumulated rain

As of Aug 1



Source: GSMaP/JAXA



Map of China showing accumulated rainfall for the past 24 hours.

In Mentougou, 62-year-old florist Wang Yongkun had piled sandbags around the door of his shop, but the floor inside was still coated in mud.

He said in 15 years working there he had never experienced anything like the last few days.

"We started cleaning up in the afternoon yesterday... and woke up again at seven today to continue," he said.

"You just have to deal with it... We will endure what we can."

Further south in Fangshan district, the Dashi River had also overflowed, with trees along the riverbank partially submerged, and some sections of the road cordoned off.

Roads were caked in mud, foliage and various debris, including an upturned armchair.

AFP reporters saw collapsed bridges at two locations, with locals saying the damage had happened during the rains.

Earlier social media videos tagged in Fangshan had shown multiple cars being swept along roads turned into fast-flowing streams.



A man stands near a damaged car after heavy rains in Mentougou district in Beijing.

Live images from broadcaster CCTV on Tuesday morning showed a row of buses half submerged in floodwater.

In the parking lot of a high-rise apartment complex, cars were piled on top of each other, alarms still sounding, while people lined up with buckets and other containers to collect fresh water.

Chaotic scenes

Parts of Hebei remain under red alert for rainstorms, with authorities

warning of potential flash floods and landslides.

In Zhuozhou, a city of around 655,000, local media reported the roof of an underground carpark had fallen through.

Accompanying video showed the neighboring building almost completely encircled by what looked like a raging waterfall falling into the sinkhole created by the collapse.

Zhuozhou's police department said the entire city's water supply had been cut off, with some areas also affected by power outages.

In Handan, Hebei province, rescuers lifted by crane reached a man trapped on top of his car in floodwaters, lifting him to safety before the car was flipped and washed away by the current.



A man watches a collapsed bridge on the Dashihe River after heavy rains.

China has been experiencing [extreme weather](#) and posting record temperatures this summer, events that scientists say are being exacerbated by climate change.

The country is already preparing for the arrival of typhoon Khanun, the sixth such storm of the year, as it nears China's east coast.

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