Typhoon damages buildings, floods roads on Korean Peninsula
27 August 2020, by Kim Tong-Hyung

A woman holds an umbrella against the strong wind and rain caused by Typhoon Bavi in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020. Typhoon Bavi that grazed South Korea and caused some damage has made landfall in North Korea early Thursday. South Korean authorities said there were no immediate reports of casualties, and North Korea has not reported any damages. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

A typhoon barreled through the Korean Peninsula on Thursday, damaging buildings, flooding roads and toppling utility poles before weakening into a tropical storm.

No casualties have been immediately reported in either South or North Korea as a downgraded Typhoon Bavi headed into China after passing near the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, South Korea's weather agency said.

Bavi had packed maximum winds of 133 kilometers (83 miles) per hour when it made landfall early Thursday in a western coastal region of North Korea that is a major source of farming and fishing in a nation that deals with chronic food shortages.

The North's Korea Central TV showed footage of snapped trees and utility poles and flooded roads. It reported damages to houses and public facilities in North Hwanghae and South Hwanghae provinces, where the typhoon made landfall. Roads were also flooded in the city of Nampo, which is closer to Pyongyang.

In South Korea, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety reported damages to buildings, walls, roads and other structures.

By Thursday afternoon, power had been restored to most of more than 9,300 South Korean homes, including over 3,500 in cities and towns near Seoul and around 900 in the southern resort island of Jeju, which was hit by the typhoon on Wednesday.

In this undated photo provided on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020, by the North Korean government, staff of the Tedongan tie up the restaurant ship in preparation for approaching Typhoon Bavi in Pyongyang, North Korea. Typhoon Bavi that grazed South Korea and caused some damage has made landfall in North Korea early Thursday. South Korean authorities said there were no immediate reports of casualties, and North Korea has not reported any damages. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. (AP Photo/KCNA via KNS)
A woman holds an umbrella against the strong wind and rain caused by Typhoon Bavi in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020. Typhoon Bavi that grazed South Korea and caused some damage has made landfall in North Korea early Thursday. South Korean authorities said there were no immediate reports of casualties, and North Korea has not reported any damages. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

More than 470 domestic flights in and out of Jeju and the southern mainland city of Busan were canceled. South Korean authorities also halted some railroad services, shut down public parks and sea bridges and moved hundreds of fishing boats and passenger vessels to safety.

Workers in Seoul and other major cities were restoring makeshift coronavirus testing stations that had been dismantled out of concerns that the tents and booths wouldn't have withstood the strong winds.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said earlier this week that leader Kim Jong Un had called for thorough preparations to minimize casualties and damage from the typhoon. Fishing boats were moved and buildings, farms and

Windows of a store are taped up in preparation for Typhoon Bavi in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020. Typhoon Bavi that grazed South Korea and caused some damage has made landfall in North Korea early Thursday. South Korean authorities said there were no immediate reports of casualties, and North Korea has not reported any damages. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

This Aug. 25, 2020, satellite image released by NASA shows Typhoon Bavi near South Korean island of Jeju. Typhoon Bavi as of Wednesday morning was near the South Korean island of Jeju and was on course to hit the northwest coast of the Korean Peninsula around daybreak Thursday morning. South Korea's weather agency said it had a maximum wind speed of 155 kilometers per hour (96 mph) and was forecast as one of the strongest to hit the peninsula this year. (NASA Worldview, Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) via AP)
railroads reinforced, according to state media.

The storm comes weeks after torrential rains caused flooding and massive damage to homes and crops in North Korea, inflicting further pain to an economy ravaged by border closures over the pandemic and U.S.-led sanctions over Kim's nuclear program.

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