

China issues orange alert for Typhoon Khanun

China's national weather observatory on Sunday continued an orange alert for Typhoon Khanun, which is approaching the country's southern coast bringing rough gales and heavy storms.

At 5 a.m. Sunday, the eye of Khanun, this year's 20th typhoon, was above the South China Sea, 570 km southeast of Xuwen County, south China's Guangdong Province, packing winds of up to 38 meters per second, according to the National Meteorological Center (NMC).

The NMC said the typhoon is likely to hit the coast between Zhanjiang, Guangdong and Wenchang, Hainan Province in the early hours of Monday with winds of up to 40 meters per second.

It is expected to later weaken and turn southwest toward central Vietnam, according to the NMC.

The observatory also issued a yellow alert for storms Sunday morning as Typhoon Khanun is bringing heavy rainfall and strong gales.

From Sunday to Monday morning, parts of Zhejiang, Shanghai, Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan will experience heavy rain, the NMC said. In some areas, precipitation is expected to be up to 200 millimeters.

China has a four-tier color-coded system for severe weather, with red being the most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

In face of the approaching typhoon, China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has activated a level III emergency response, urging local authorities to make thorough preparations for possible disasters.

The headquarters warned that Khanun will be at its peak when it makes landfall and will bring serious threats to activities in coastal areas and waters along its path.

To avoid casualties and property damage, local governments should take precautions and suspend work, classes and transportation if necessary, the headquarters said.

It has already sent eight work teams to Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian and Shanghai to help prepare aid and relief ahead of the typhoon's arrival.

In Hainan, high-speed train services were suspended from early Sunday, while ferries on the Qiongzhou Strait, which connects the island province with Guangdong on the mainland, were suspended from Saturday morning, according to local authorities.