

10 die, 1 missing in northwest China flood

Ten people died and another remained missing after a flood hit northwest China's Shaanxi Province, local authorities said Saturday.

Heavy rain hit Yulin City in northern Shaanxi from Tuesday night and caused floods in a number of areas.

More than 71,300 people were forced to evacuate, the provincial flood control headquarters said.

The disaster disrupted water and power supplies and telecommunications, destroyed infrastructure, and caused waterlogging in worst-hit Suide and Zizhou counties.

It has inflicted direct economic losses of nearly 1.7 billion yuan (\$250 million).

By Saturday, the provincial government has allocated 50 million yuan to fight the flood. Yulin flood control headquarters distributed 5,000 shovels, 30,000 plastic bags and 15 power generators. Bottled water, instant noodles, steamed buns and disinfectant were also distributed.

So far, water and power supplies have been resumed in most parts of the county seats of Suide and Zizhou.

In Suide, governmental workers and local residents have spent three days removing sludge as thick as one meter.

Sections of two railway lines that were damaged by the flood resumed traffic, after 190 trains services had been canceled.

On Thursday, China's second-longest river, the Yellow River, saw its first flood peak of the year.

The Yellow River Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters warned the provinces of Shanxi, Shaanxi, Henan and Shandong to be alert to the peak flow.

Shaolin Temple prepares 'Great Meeting'

The first "Great Meeting Open to All" will be held at the Shaolin Temple from

July 29 to Aug 4 in Dengfeng, Henan province.



A kung fu practitioner smashes bricks using one hand in Luoyang, Henan province, early this Month. XU JUNWEN/CHINA DAILY

The 1,500-year-old temple will welcome kung fu masters and enthusiasts from home and abroad to share their skills and views on kung fu.

Shi Yongxin, the abbot of Shaolin Temple, came up with the idea of holding the “Great Meeting Open to All” in August 2016, said Zou Xiang, website manager for Shaolin Temple.

The meeting welcomes people of any social status and identity who will be treated equally through diverse forms of cultural exchanges, including Chan (Zen Buddhism), martial arts and medicine, Zou said.

The events date back to the late 4th century, according to historical records.

“Besides the martial arts, Chan and medicinal culture are regarded as the essence of Shaolin culture, and the contests involving the traditional 72 Shaolin kung fu arts can also be seen during the seven-day event,” Zou said.

In addition, many foreign disciples are welcome to join in events such as the lamp transmission ceremony, and take part in the “Shaolin Temple and the Northern Buddhist” academic seminar.

[China holds grand gala for PLA 90th birthday celebration](#)

A grand gala was held in Beijing on Friday evening in celebration of the 90th birthday of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, state president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, and other senior leaders Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli joined about 3,000 people to watch the gala at the Great Hall of the People.

Aug. 1 this year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese armed forces.

Through singing, dancing and chorus, the gala depicted the history of the PLA, from a small and vulnerable army to a large and strong military force.

The performance showed solid achievements of the PLA on its path to a strong army under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core since the 18th CPC National Congress.

The gala also demonstrated the determination of the PLA to become a world-class army, for the realization of the country's "two centenary goals" and the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

Shortly before the show began, Xi and other senior leaders met with representatives of veterans, retired comrades and military officers honored with the Order of Bayi, the country's highest military award.

[Xi honors military officers, unit ahead of Army Day](#)

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), on Friday awarded the Order of Bayi to 10 military officers and conferred a flag to a military company ahead of the Army Day, which falls on Aug. 1.

Approved by the CMC, the Order of Bayi is awarded to those who have made outstanding contributions to safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, and advancing the modernization of national defense and the armed forces.

The officers receiving the honor included Chinese astronaut Jing Haipeng, commander of the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft. Jing was praised as a heroic astronaut dedicated to serving the country while taking to space to pursue his dreams.

Wang Gang, head of a detachment of the armed police in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, was also awarded the Order of Bayi. He was honored as a hero in anti-terrorist work, willing to endure “fire and water” and charge forward with great courage.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, helped the 10 military officers wear their medals, and presented them with certificates of honor.

The president decorated an armored infantry company of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), conferring a flag which reads: “Model company in learning and practicing the Party’s innovation theory.”

In another statement released Friday, Xi signed an order to give the company an honorary title.

It was the first time for the CMC to grant the Order of Bayi, the country’s highest military award, several days before the 90th founding anniversary of the Chinese armed forces.

It fully embodied the CMC’s respect and praise for the decorated officers, and will boost the morale of the military, and motivate soldiers to contribute to realizing the dreams of stronger country and stronger army, said a military statement released after the honoring ceremony.

Fan Changlong, CMC vice chairman, read an order signed by Xi to honor the officers and the unit. The awarding ceremony was presided over by Xu Qiliang, also vice chairman of the CMC.

In a separate statement, Xi signed orders to award merit citations to two military units and ten individuals for outstanding services.

[Chinese woman has plastic surgery to avoid debts](#)

A Chinese woman had plastic surgery in an attempt to disguise herself to avoid paying massive debts.

Zhu Najuan, 59, underwent plastic surgery and disappeared after a court in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, asked her to pay off huge debts of over 25 million yuan (3.71 million U.S. dollar) earlier this year.

In July, Zhu was reported to be in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where police officers from the Intermediate People's Court of Wuhan detained her and were astonished by her brand new face.

"We were very surprised at the scene," a policeman said. "She looked in her thirties and was different from the photos we had."

Zhu was detained and confessed that she had used people's ID cards to buy high-speed train tickets and borrowed bank cards to support her face-changing "career."

Recently, Wuhan judicial authorities launched a series of crackdowns on debt avoidance. The city's courts detained 186 people for debt avoidance in the first half of the year.

China is building a "credit society." On July 16, more than 300 Chinese cities jointly released a declaration about enhancing the credit system to improve people's credit rating.