

TOP NEWS



Rescuers evacuate stranded residents on Saturday in the flood-hit city of Shaoguan, Guangdong province. XINHUA

Flooded Guangdong acts swiftly

Timely distribution of relief funds and daily necessities to affected locals urged

By ZHENG CAIXIONG in Guangzhou
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Relevant departments in Guangdong province are making all-out efforts to combat severe flooding, with their top priority being safeguarding people's lives and property, as torrential rainfall over the past few days left several areas inundated and meteorologists warned of further devastation due to rising water levels in arterial rivers.

Calling the situation "grim", local weather officials said that sections of the Beijiang and Xijiang rivers are hitting water levels in a rare spike that has just a one-in-50 chance of happening in any given year, state broadcaster China Central Television reported on Sunday.

The southern province started a Level II emergency response for flood control on Saturday night, when

water in the Pearl River tributaries including the Beijiang reportedly rose up to 5.58 meters above their warning levels due to continuous downpours, according to a statement on Sunday by the Guangdong Department of Water Resources.

China has a four-tier flood-control emergency response system, with Level I being the most severe.

Wu Xiaolong, director of the Pearl River Water Resources Commission, said this round of heavy downpours is characterized by high intensity, a wide impact area, concentrated rainstorm areas and the rapid rise of water levels in the Beijiang and other rivers, resulting in a situation that demands measures for severe flood control.

With heavy downpours forecast in the central and eastern parts of the Pearl River basin, the Beijiang River water level is expected to rise further, so the Pearl River commission will

continue to guide local authorities to prepare for floodwater storage and discharge on Monday and Tuesday.

A 12-hour stretch of heavy rain, starting from 8 pm on Saturday, battered the central and northern parts of the province, including the cities of Zhaoqing, Shaoguan, Qingyuan and Jiangmen, according to Xinhua News Agency.

The Guangdong Department of Emergency Management has urged relevant departments to launch special emergency response measures for timely distribution of disaster relief funds and daily necessities to people affected by the flooding.

Located in northern Guangdong, Shaoguan and Qingyuan have been the hardest hit, with many highways, streets, houses and farmland flooded or damaged over the weekend. In Shaoguan's Jiangwan township, landslides reportedly buried some houses.

A total of 14,779 residents from 4,502 households in Yangshan county and another 19,349 people in Yingde were evacuated to safety on

Saturday and Sunday. Both areas are administered by Qingyuan.

All kindergartens, primary schools and middle schools in Qingyuan's Qingcheng district, the city of Yingde and Fogang county have been advised to suspend classes on Monday.

In Zhaoqing, the organizing committee had to terminate an ongoing cross-country race on Saturday. The event, which began at 7 am, was called off at noon following heavy downpours and a flooding alert. All 1,250 participants were evacuated to safety by 5 pm, according to the organizing committee.

Affected by heavy rainfall, Zhongshan in Guangdong also terminated an ongoing marathon on Sunday, while Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, called off a half marathon for women.

In the provincial capital Guangzhou and the industrial hub Shenzhen, downpours led to large-scale flight cancellations and delays over the weekend, stranding many passengers at airports.

San Francisco, Shanghai look to deepen economic ties

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai
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San Francisco and Shanghai — leaders in technology, finance and culture in their respective hemispheres — have unique opportunities to further deepen economic collaboration and mutual development, mayor of the Californian city said at an event in Shanghai during the weekend.

San Francisco looks forward to learning mutually with Shanghai in the fields of electric vehicles, artificial intelligence and medical technology, and strengthening exchanges about smart cities as well as green and low-carbon development, said London Breed, mayor of San Francisco, while leading a United States delegation to meet with 80 domestic business leaders.

As one of the first pairs of sister cities in China and the US, which began diplomatic relations 45 years ago, San Francisco and Shanghai are known for their vibrant economies and innovative spirit, and are a testament to the transformative power of openness and diversity, she said.

President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden laid out a future-

oriented vision during their historic meeting in San Francisco in November.

"Shanghai, with its remarkable economic growth, thriving manufacturing sector and status as a global financial center, mirrors many of the attributes that make San Francisco a fruitful place for investment," Breed said at the Saturday event, which was organized by the Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce and the San Francisco Bay Area Council.

"By working together, we can unlock new avenues for economic development, innovation and cultural exchanges that will benefit not just our cities, but also continue to help the global process," she added.

John Grubb, chief operating officer of the San Francisco Bay Area Council, said the western US is a frontier — a place to try out new ideas and find a new life. "Today, we see such similarities in Shanghai, the world's newest frontier, especially for business development," he said.

Gong Zheng, mayor of Shanghai, who met with Breed the same day, said the city looks forward to further strengthening its collaboration with San Francisco, to achieve a higher level of mutual benefit.

"San Francisco is home to well-known universities, scientific research institutions and technology enterprises, and is at the forefront of artificial intelligence and life sciences, among other fields. We hope to promote cooperation and exchanges between universities and scientific research institutions of the two places," he said.

Shanghai welcomes enterprises from San Francisco to invest and thrive in the city, and encourages outstanding local enterprises to go to San Francisco and make investments, Gong added.

At the event attended by business leaders from the technology, finance, culture and tourism sectors, among others, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce signed a memorandum of cooperation that focuses on resource matching and integrated development of the industrial and commercial sectors of the two cities.

Xu Yuanyuan, general manager of Weiheng Intelligent, a domestic provider of battery energy storage solutions with an international network of research and development, manufacturing and sales, said the

enterprise plans to set up a regional headquarters in the San Francisco Bay Area soon.

"California, the beachhead for energy policy for the North American market, is experiencing unprecedented growth in energy storage. It plays an important role in balancing supply and demand, and contributes to environmental sustainability, in which both the US and China have strong belief," he said.

Zou Qingling, CEO of Joyu, a Shanghai-based smart tourism service provider, said that more tourism products will be developed for residents of Shanghai and San Francisco as they show more interest in learning about each other's culture, history and lifestyle.

"Tourists from Shanghai to San Francisco are getting younger. Also, we're receiving a rising number of orders for business delegations and conference groups from financial and technological innovation backgrounds. Such new situations reflect not only visitors' desire for in-depth cultural exchanges, but also highlight the unique charm of San Francisco's atmosphere in scientific and technological innovation," she added.

Political Lens

Book on Xi's talent work discourses published

A compilation of excerpts from discourses by Xi Jinping on China's talent work has been published by the Central Party Literature Press.

The discourses answer major theoretical and practical questions such as why China needs to build itself into a strong country in talent, what that goal means, and how it can be achieved.

The discourses are significant to providing support and laying a solid foundation for building China into a strong country, and realizing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization.

The excerpts were selected from over 110 reports, speeches, instructions or letters by Xi from December 2012 to March 2024. Some of them were published for the first time.

XINHUA

Trade: Western concerns not supported by evidence

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From a market perspective, the amount of production capacity is determined by the relationship between supply and demand, and having production moderately greater than demand is conducive to full market competition and promoting the survival of the fittest, Li said.

Taking a global view, each nation focuses on developing industries where it holds a comparative advantage, while relying on other countries for sectors where it lacks capacity. By recognizing and leveraging their respective strengths, countries can collaborate for shared development, Li added.

Jan Fo'an, minister of finance, said at a meeting held by the Development Committee of the World Bank Group in Washington on Friday that, going forward, China will accelerate the development of new quality productive forces and promote a sustainable green transformation. The country aims to share its development opportunities and dividends with the world, he added.

Albert Park, chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, said concerns about Chinese exports in terms of overcapacity are not supported well by evidence, noting that the World Trade Organization addresses noncompetitive practices with anti-dumping and countervailing duties, and there is no strong evidence that either applies to China.

Robin Xing, chief China economist at Morgan Stanley, said, "It is unfair to specifically mention China's industrial policies and imply that China's competitive advantage is subsidized by the government", as many countries are allocating government subsidies and introducing industrial policies to boost strategic industries and productivity.

For instance, the US Inflation Reduction Act — the largest US investment ever in clean energy and climate action — was signed into law by US President Joe Biden, and the White House has awarded billions of dollars in subsidies for advanced semiconductor manufacturing.

In the lead-up to the US presidential election in November, politicians are increasingly using issues of overcapacity and the trade imbalance with other countries for political leverage, with political considerations taking precedence over genuine economic concerns, observers said.

Yao Yang, director of the China Center for Economic Research at Peking University, said: "The Biden administration claims to uphold a worker-centered trade policy, and its recent moves, from raising the

capacity issue to launching a trade probe against China, are more like gestures to please and curry favor with certain groups of voters, rather than pursuing any economic considerations.

"The US government is likely to adopt an even tougher stance on China as the 2024 presidential election approaches," Yao added. "However, China exports few electric vehicles or steel and aluminum products directly or indirectly to the US, and if the US increases tariffs on those products, it will not bring any economic benefits to itself, while disrupting the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains."

Furthermore, Yao said that "if the US is really concerned about the issue it is hyping, it should open its door wider for Chinese investors, instead of imposing various restrictions on them. That way, Chinese enterprises with advanced EV and green technologies can invest in the country and set up factories to contribute to local employment and tax revenue."

On the contrary, a critical issue facing the world today is not an oversupply of green energy capacity, but rather a severe shortage.

According to the International Energy Agency, annual sales of electric vehicles is projected to reach 45 million units by 2030, more than four times the demand in 2022.

Wang Jun, president of Chang'an Auto, said that China, with cutting-edge technologies and sophisticated, comprehensive industrial chains, has explored a successful path for the global new energy vehicle industry.

"China has cultivated numerous high-quality component enterprises, including over 1,000 battery companies," Wang said.

In 2023, China became the world's No 1 car exporter. This achievement was driven by a surge in the shipments of NEVs, which totaled 1.203 million units, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Huo Jianguo, vice-chairman of the China Society for World Trade Organization Studies, said, "As long as Chinese enterprises act in line with international rules and maintain competitiveness with high quality and low cost of products and improvement in customer service, those restrictive measures will only create difficulties and obstacles temporarily, but will not stop us from forming new competitive advantage in emerging areas."

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Ties: Culture, nature and friendship highlight trip

From page 1

The six girls got along well during their trip in recent days, so they all signed their names on the same red ribbon and used their phones to take some photos, and then Yuan tied the ribbon to one of the large trees in the temple's courtyard.

"I just made a wish for health and good luck and to be happy in future college years for every one of us," said Yuan.

The three girls from the US knew one another before the visit, as did their three Chinese peers.

"The six of us got acquainted with and knew one another better in a natural process," Yuan said.

Leiah Marie Lobdell, one of the girls from Muscatine, said, "We have

grown close in little time. They are all amazing people."

Lin Yihang, another Chinese girl in the group of six friends, noted that she had visited the temple when she was younger.

"We have gained a brand-new understanding of this place by traveling alongside our American friends and being their tour guides. We want to bring them closer to our culture, including the religious culture," Lin said.

"We had not anticipated that we could be such great friends as facilitated by this tour," she added.

Caydn Alexys Caliger, another girl from Muscatine High School, said the Buddhist statues and frescoes in the temple were a little strange to her.

"It (the temple) was very beautiful.

I saw a lot of interesting things and I wanted to learn more about the culture here," Caliger added.

The US student delegation is the second one sent by Muscatine High School this year. The first delegation visited in January.

The visits are part of a program announced by President Xi in November in San Francisco to invite 50,000 young people from the US to China over the following five years for exchange and study.

Xi wrote a reply letter to the first Muscatine High School delegation in February and sent them a Chinese New Year greeting card.

The second delegation arrived in Beijing on Wednesday before going to Hebei, and the trip will also take them to Shanghai on Monday, the last leg of their China tour.

Culture, nature and friendship were among the highlights of their visit to Hebei from Friday to Monday.

They went to the Shijiazhuang Zoo to see the giant pandas, toured the Hebei Museum to experience ancient Chinese culture and watched the *China Impression* multimedia musical performance presented by teachers and students from Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School.

Students from both nations witnessed the inauguration of the China-US Friendship Youth Woods on Saturday at a park in Zhengding and planted trees, including American red maples.

"I was greatly amazed by the creative idea of planting the woods. The trees will grow, and so will the kids," said William Zhang, a professor of English language studies at Des



Students from Muscatine High School and Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School pose on Saturday under a tree with red ribbons bearing auspicious phrases at Longxing Temple in Zhengding county, Hebei province. ZHANG YUNBI / CHINA DAILY

Moines Area Community College in Iowa and chair of the Iowa Sister States Hebei Committee.

"I told the American students, 'Don't forget to travel back here after

you grow up and have another look at the trees you planted," he added.

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