

# China landslide: 6 dead, over 100 missing



Rescuers workers carrying out search operations after a landslide Xinmo Village (Xinhua)

## Beijing

**A**t least six people were found dead and over 100 remained missing hours after a massive landslide buried a mountain village in southwest China yesterday as rescuers frantically scoured through rocks for survivors.

A couple and a baby were rescued and taken to hospital after 62 homes in Xinmo village were swallowed by boulders when the side of a mountain collapsed, according to the Maoxian, or Mao county, government.

The Maoxian government said on its Weibo social media account that six bodies were recovered while 112 people remained missing. State media had earlier revised the number of missing people down from 141 to over 120.

The early morning landslide, which officials believe was triggered by heavy rains, blocked a two-kilometre (one-mile) stretch of river and 1.6 kilometre of road, according to state media.

Rescuers and local residents

used ropes to move a boulder while dozens of others, aided by sniffer dogs, searched the rubble for survivors, according to videos posted online by the Maoxian government and state broadcaster CCTV.

Bulldozers and heavy diggers were also deployed to remove boulders, while villagers and soldiers lifted rocks with their bare hands.

Rescuers brought spotlights to continue the search after sunset. Nearly 2,000 police, soldiers and civilians were taking part in the rescue.

Medics were seen treating a woman on a road.

No sign of the village could be seen in aerial footage, which showed a grim and grey rock-strewn landscape covering the area where it once existed by a river.

A fourth survivor had been spotted earlier in the day but officials did not say whether he was finally pulled out of the rubble hours later.

"It's the biggest landslide in this area since the Wenchuan earthquake," said Wang

Yongbo, one of the officials in charge of rescue efforts, referring to the disaster that killed 87,000 people in 2008 in a town in Sichuan.

## More rain forecast

Local police captain Chen Tiebo said the heavy rains that hit the region in recent days had triggered the landslide.

"There are several tonnes of rock" over the village, he told CCTV.

"It's a seismic area here. There's not a lot of vegetation," Chen said.

Trees can help absorb excess rain and prevent landslides.

Tao Jian, director of the local weather service, told CCTV that the 2008 earthquake had "weakened the mountain" and that "a weak rain can provoke a geological catastrophe".

President Xi Jinping called for rescuers to "spare no effort" in their search for survivors and prevent more disasters, state media said. (AFP)

## #PollToday



SpaceX launched its second reused rocket on Friday. Do you think the reusable rocket is a major breakthrough in space technology?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Cant Say



Sudan has made positive steps towards meeting Washington's conditions for permanently lifting 20-year-old sanctions on the African country."

- Steven Koutsis,  
US charge d'affaires in  
Khartoum,

## Rest in sight

Death toll from Pakistan attacks rises to 57



The death toll from multiple attacks in Pakistan rose to 57, officials said yesterday.

## Ex-min to run France's ruling party in parliament

A former minister in French President Emmanuel Macron's government was elected head of the ruling party's parliamentary group yesterday.

## French TV journo dies of wounds from Mosul blast

Journalist Veronique Robert, wounded in the same landmine blast that killed two colleagues in the Iraqi city of Mosul earlier this week, has died.

## Sri Lanka doctors end strike

Sri Lankan doctors ended a three-day strike following talks with the government, their professional association said yesterday.

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## Second N. Korean soldier defects to South in a month

Seoul

**A** North Korean soldier defected to the South after crossing the heavily fortified border, a defence ministry spokesman said yesterday, the second soldier to defect this month.

"A North Korean soldier defected to one of our Guard Posts at around 9:30 pm on Friday at the middle section of the border," the spokesman said, according to a report by the Yonhap news

agency.

"He has been taken into custody for questioning," he added.

There was no exchange of fire between the two sides when the North Korean soldier, a private, smuggled himself across the border to the south, the Yonhap report said.

His defection came after another North Korean soldier walked across the tense border on June 13.

## Panda mania hits Germany



A panda is seen in a transport box after landing at Schoenefeld airport near Berlin

Berlin

**G**ermany was bracing for panda mania as furry ambassadors arrive from China yesterday, destined for a new life as stars of Berlin's premier zoo.

The pair, named Meng Meng and Jiao Qing, will be jetting in on a special Lufthansa cargo plane, accompanied by two Chinese panda specialists, the Berlin Zoo's chief vet and a tonne of bamboo.

Berlin's mayor, China's ambassador to Germany and a gaggle of journalists will greet the VIPs as LH8415 pulls to a stop on the tarmac of Schoenefeld airport.

After just over a week's acclimatisation, they will be unveiled to the public by no less than Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese President Xi Jinping, most likely two days before the G20 summit of world leaders hosted by Germany.

## CIA knew in August that Putin sought to boost Trump

Washington

**T**he CIA had top-level intelligence last August that Russian President Vladimir Putin personally ordered an operation to help Donald Trump win the US presidential race, the Washington Post reported Friday.

The intelligence shocked the White House and put US security chiefs on a top-secret crisis footing to figure out how to react.

But amid confidence that Democrat Hillary Clinton still had the election in the bag and worries over president Barack Obama himself being seen as manipulating the election, the administration delivered warnings to Moscow but left

countermeasures until after the vote, the Post reported.

After Trump's shock victory, there were strong regrets among administration officials that they had shied from tough action.

"From national security people there was a sense of immediate introspection, of, 'Wow, did we mishandle this,'" a former administration official told the newspaper.

The Post said that as soon as the intelligence on Putin came in, the White House viewed it as a deep national security threat. A secret intelligence task force was created to firm up the information and come up with possible responses.



Rescuers work at the accident site