

Vietnamese premier orders emergency evacuation

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung Sunday ordered preparations for a mass evacuation of at least 50,000 people in south-central coastal regions ahead of Typhoon Dorian, which had previously ravaged the Philippines.

He asked all provinces to call in fishing boats and prepare for mass evacuation.

The killer typhoon had weakened a bit from the 195-km-per-hour winds when it hit the Philippines Thursday, but Sunday still packed with winds of up to 150 km/hour, it was expected to hit south and central Vietnam Monday night, officials said.

'This is an extremely dangerous typhoon,' said Bui Minh Tang, director of Vietnam's National Hydrometeorology Forecast Centre. 'When it hits the shore, the wind speed may be around 118 km/hour.'

The military is on call in southern Khanh Hoa and Phu Yen provinces, roughly 1,200 km south of Hanoi, to aid in any evacuation, an official said.

The brunt of the killer storm was expected to pass south of the tourist centre of Danang, which saw at least 46 people killed in October in Typhoon Xangsane.

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