

# China enters power-saving mode, rings drought bells

But heavy rainfall in Liaoning province has damaged crop output

REUTERS  
19 August

China has issued its first national drought alert of the year as authorities battle forest fires and mobilise specialist teams to protect crops from scorching temperatures across the Yangtze river basin.

The national 'yellow alert', issued late on Thursday, comes after regions from Sichuan in the southwest to Shanghai in the Yangtze delta have experienced weeks of extreme heat, with government officials repeatedly citing global climate change as the cause. The alert is two notches short of the most serious warning on Beijing's scale.

In one of the Yangtze's important flood basins in central China's Jiangxi province, the Poyang Lake has now shrunk to a quarter of its normal size for this time of year, state news agency Xinhua said.

The situation is straining electricity generators that have been racing to add fuel stockpiles to avoid a repeat of catastrophic supply curbs last year.

As many as 66 rivers across 34 counties in the southwestern region of Chongqing have dried up, state broadcaster CCTV said on Friday.

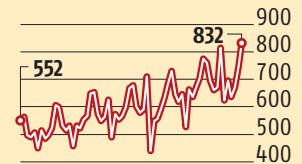
Rainfall in Chongqing this year is down 60 per cent compared to the seasonal norm, and the soil in several districts is severely short of moisture, CCTV said, citing local govern-



A helicopter works to put out wildfire in a forest in Chongqing

## POWERING DOWN

China electricity – total energy consumption (in bn kWh)



Note: Consumption of electricity across the economy (including businesses and/or households) Source: Bloomberg

## Xi, Putin to attend G-20 summit in Indonesia

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin are both planning to attend a Group of 20 summit in the resort island of Bali later this year, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said.

"Xi Jinping will come. President Putin has also told me he will come," Jokowi, as the president is known, said in an interview with Bloomberg News Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait on Thursday. It was the first time the leader of the world's fourth-most populous nation confirmed both of them were planning to show up at the November summit.

The presence of Xi and Putin would set up a showdown with US President Joe Biden and other democratic leaders.

BLOOMBERG

## China sentences tycoon to 13 yrs, fines firm \$8.1 bn

A Shanghai court on Friday sentenced Chinese-Canadian billionaire Xiao Jianhua, not seen in public since 2017, to 13 years in jail and fined his Tomorrow Holdings conglomerate 55.03 billion yuan (\$8.1 billion), a record in China.

Xiao and Tomorrow Holdings were charged with illegally siphoning away public deposits, betraying the use of entrusted property, and the illegal use of funds and bribery, the Shanghai First Intermediate Court said.

It added the punishment was mitigated because both had admitted their crimes and cooperated in recovering illegal gains and in restoring losses. Xiao and Tomorrow have 'severely violated a financial management order', the court said.

REUTERS

ment data.

The district of Beibei, north of Chongqing's urban centre, saw temperatures hit 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) on Thursday,

according to China's weather bureau.

Chongqing accounted for six of the 10 hottest locations in the country on Friday.

China's currency slumped

to the weakest level against the dollar in nearly two years as the nation's widening monetary-policy gap with the US drove outflows from the world's second-largest economy.