



ZOU ZHONGPIN / CHINA DAILY

Police examine the bus on Tuesday evening in Guangzhou in which two people died and 25 were injured in an explosion and fire. The blast went off on the bus that was in service on Route 301 at about 7:40 pm.

2 dead, 25 injured in explosion and fire aboard Guangzhou bus

By ZHENG CAIXIONG and LI WENFANG in Guangzhou

At least two passengers were killed and 25 injured in a blast and fire on a public bus in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, on Tuesday night, according to sources with the Guangzhou bureau of public security.

The blast occurred at about 7:40 pm, and an ensuing fire destroyed bus No 301 near the Dunhe bus stop on Guangzhou Dadaonan Road in Haizhu district.

The busy road was at a standstill after two or three lanes were closed by police as they investigated.

Buses on the 301 route operate from Shiqiao in Panyu district to Liuhua Bus Terminal in Yuexiu district.

According to a female passenger who was slightly injured, many passengers rushed to escape the bus after the fire broke out. The female passenger walked by herself to a nearby hospital.

Other witnesses also described what they saw.

"I heard an explosion before the fire broke out in the bus," said a witness surnamed Qiu.

"Then I saw three passengers whose clothes were on fire jump off the bus, shouting for help," Qiu said.

Police cars and six firetrucks

arrived immediately, Qiu said.

Cai Weiwu, another witness, said he saw two dead passengers in the first row of the bus.

The bodies were later removed from the bus by police officers, said Cai, a street vendor.

The fire on the bus was brought under control at about 8:40 pm.

The injured reportedly were taken to three nearby hospitals.

Lian Xiaona, a publicity official from Guangzhou Xinhai Hospital, said most of the victims suffered severe burns. The hospital received nine injured passengers — eight

adults and a child — Lian said.

"Most of them arrived at the hospital by themselves," Lian said.

The other injured passengers were sent to Guangdong Provincial No 2 People's Hospital and No 421 Hospital, a military hospital.

According to a police source, the injured included a pregnant woman.

An initial investigation indicated that some passengers had taken contraband goods aboard, police sources said.

The investigation was still underway.

Xu Jingxi contributed to this story

Games' virtual torch relay heads to Nanjing

By LUO WANGSHU and CANG WEI in Nanjing
luowangshu@chinadaily.com.cn

The upcoming Summer Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing has adopted a new way to take the torch through symbolic places on its journey to the event from Athens, Greece.

The relay is taking place online through the Virtual Torch Relay app. Web users can download the app through Android or Apple systems and register to be a torch-bearer.

As of Tuesday, 42,599,068 people had registered to "carry" the flame.

The actual flame was lit on April 30 in Athens and will be lit in Nanjing at the Games' opening ceremony on Aug 16.

But before that, the virtual torch will travel through 204 countries and regions. The torch started its relay in the mainland on July 10.

"It is an innovative and fun way to relay the Olympic torch," said Xu Ning, director of the Nanjing municipal government publicity office, adding that this event marks the first time that an Olympic torch relay has taken place through the Internet.

Xu also said that the goal of the online torch relay is to inspire more people to learn about and enjoy the Games.

"It is also an economical way to hold the relay," she added.

Nanjing Mayor Miu Ruilin said the city's effort to spread the Olympics message in such a special way echoes the central government's "eight-point" frugality rules.

The virtual relay has allowed the torch to reach places that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

Xu Guanlan, a 14-year-old middle school student in Nanjing, and his schoolmates proposed sending an image of the torch to the Change-3 lunar probe — an idea that was adopted.

"We observed the whole process at the air station in Beijing, and we were excited to see the torch 'travel' into space," Xu said, adding that the torch finished its space relay on June 19.

The torch also traveled to the scientific investigation station in the South Pole and *Jiaolong*, China's first manned deep-sea submarine.

Wu Nan, manager of the Communication and Public Relations Department of the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee, said that about 30 percent of registered torch bearers come from overseas.

Helen Moonie, provost of South Ayrshire in Scotland, wrote to the Games in support of the event and the virtual

torch relay. "The Youth Olympic Games keep the legacy of all athletes who have gone before them alive and burning bright, like the Olympic flame itself... We might not all dream of being Olympians, but through the Games we can share the journey and the excitement," she said.

The Games will take place from Aug 16 to 28.

A total of 3,808 athletes from 15 to 18 years old will compete in the Games, which will feature 28 sports.

The Youth Olympic Games is an international multisport event organized by the International Olympic Committee. It is held every four years with staggered summer and winter events.

The first summer Youth Olympic Games were held in Singapore in 2010, while the first winter event took place in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2012.



LIN SHANCHUAN / XINHUA

A volunteer for the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games shows how to relay the torch online through the Virtual Torch Relay app over the weekend, when the relay was launched in Fuzhou, Fujian province. As of Tuesday, 42,599,068 people had registered to "carry" the flame.

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Public opinion drives change in city's changing landscape

By LI FUSHENG
lifusheng@chinadaily.com.cn

Local authorities in Chengdu, the capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, have changed their governance style to give citizens more of a say.

The move has proven especially successful in several of the city's large-scale infrastructure projects, with the Caojiayang demolition and relocation program being the most remarkable example, said local officials.

The Caojiayang community, in Jinniu district, was a rundown neighborhood that stood in stark contrast to neighboring skyscrapers and green belts.

A 2012 government plan to relocate the 3,364 households and demolish the dilapidated houses met with strong resistance and some residents came up with a huge list of demands.

The Jinniu government decided to offer the initiative to the residents: the program would go ahead if 100 percent of them agreed to move out; otherwise it would be put off.

In March 2013 a large majority of residents, who had long wished to move into new homes, set up a committee of 13 voted representatives to negotiate with the reluctant residents and the government.

"All the 13 representatives have lived here for decades so we know the residents very well," said 74-year-old representative He Ximo.

"As we have been long-time neighbors, it will be easier for us to stop those who ask too much," he said.

In less than four months all but 10 households agreed to move out. The committee applied to the government to help the majority relocate and



Yingmenkou flyover, a landmark on the second ring road in Chengdu.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Residents in Fujin neighborhood in Chengdu's Jinniu district, are excited about the start of their demolition and relocation program in January 2013.

leave the 10 households as they were.

"I spend most of my daily time waiting. Waiting for new plans, waiting for my new house," said Wang Wenlan.

The 57-year-old said her

dream of moving out of the old, dirty neighborhood was finally coming true.

Wang and her neighbors started moving into new houses in July and a month later the Caojiayang demolition pro-

gram started. The 40-month program is expected to turn the 13.2-hectare neighborhood into a modern complex, said local officials.

The self-governance mode has since been adopted in simi-

lar projects across Jinniu district as the government plans to renovate or demolish 100 old neighborhoods each year in the district.

Most of the neighborhoods, built in the 1980s, have back-

ward facilities and house a population of different backgrounds.

"What neighborhoods are to be renovated and how to renovate? We must respect the residents' opinions when we

are making decisions," said a local official.

Solicit public wisdom

Public opinion is sought even more when it comes to infrastructure projects that involve greater numbers of people.

Before the city government started construction on Chengdu's 2nd ring road in April 2012, it released the plan and schedule for public feedback.

When the project was under way, constructors and the government released information about the developments so that residents could adjust their travel routes accordingly. The government also answered questions from netizens on its weibo account.

"I would like to give the city's transport authority a 'like,'" said Hu Xiao in an interview with China Newsweek.

The 37-year-old said he was among many residents who were dubious about the effect of the 2nd ring road before it was opened to traffic in May 2013.

However, Hu said he has fallen in love with the road as it halves his journey time from his home to work.

The transport authority was not the first to interact with residents online and tapping into public opinion is gaining popularity of the government.

By late May there were 3,364 active government-related weibo accounts, which make it easier for residents to complain to almost any departments at any level.

In April, the account Chengdu Service received about 200 complaints on a daily basis and relevant departments solved more than 3,000 problems in the month.

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WANG WENLAN
A RESIDENT IN CAOJIANG COMMUNITY

I would like to give the city's transport authority a 'like!'"

HU XIAO
A NETIZEN