

Food, drinks to be banned on city's subway

Yang Jian

SHANGHAI lawmakers are pushing for a plan that bans eating and drinking, among others, on the city's Metro network.

Smoking, urinating and begging are also to be banned with violators facing a maximum of 500 yuan (US\$81.67) fine, according to a new Metro management regulation that is being drafted.

Of the above, eating and drinking bans are likely to be controversial. The draft plan also includes fines for stopping trains, jumping onto the tracks and getting on or off the trains by force.

The Metro operators will first warn and then fine violators between 50 yuan to 500 yuan.

"It is necessary to ban eating and drinking on trains to ensure the smooth operation, though some lawmakers and citizens think it should not be included in the law," said Ding Wei, deputy director with the legislative affairs committee with the city's legislative body. But Ding said 80 percent of the locals surveyed by the legislative body had given their support in favor of the ban.

The body will review the draft and

solicit public opinions before deciding on the final outcome by the end of the year.

The city's Metro operator, Shanghai Shentong Metro Group, has long been asking subway riders to refrain from eating and drinking on the trains, but they have had very little success.

Proposal prompts discussion

The proposal generated a lot of discussion online yesterday, with netizens asking if bottled water would also be banned under the new law. Others said the current plan offers little in terms of penalties and fines for violators.

"I think it's funny, and even contradictory," said Jim Wang, a regular on the city's Metro. "If the operator wants to ban food and drink on the trains, why do they have vending machines on the platforms?"

Zhou Beihua, a member of the city's top political advisory body, had said earlier that other big cities around the world like New York and Singapore, do not allow eating on the transit systems.

In a poll on the popular online forum, club.Metrofans.sh.cn, Metro commuters

indicated they would mostly prefer changes to be made on the way security checks are carried out at the stations, followed by stiffer punishment for fare evaders, and then restrictions on food.

Security checks at the 200-plus Metro station are not popular with commuters complaining it only leads to delays.

But the operator and police say the checks are the only way to ensure safety of passengers and avoid dangerous goods from getting into the stations and trains.

"The Metro operator has the power to carry out security checks on passengers who should cooperate with them," the new draft says.

The operator can forbid those carrying dangerous materials like oil paint and other inflammable materials into the stations, while the police can detain those who enter the stations by force, according to the draft.

"The legislative body regards the security check as an important measure to ensure the operational safety of the subway system," Ding said.

Urinating and defecating on trains and platforms will mean a fine of 500 yuan as per the new draft law.

Suggested bans on Metro

- Intercepting a train
- Getting on to the tracks, tunnels or other restricted areas
- Jumping over barriers, handrails and turnstile
- Getting on or off the trains by force
- Smoking, spitting, urinating and defecating, spitting chewing gum, littering and eating or drinking in the trains
- Scribbling, painting or pasting posters
- Setting up stalls, entertaining people for money, distributing brochures/fliers or other sales activities
- Begging, lying down or collecting rubbish
- Live poultry, cats, dogs (except guide dog) or other pets
- Portable bicycles (including folded bicycles)
- Skateboards and skates
- Other banned items or activities

City honors 53 foreigners with award

Zhao Wen

FIFTY-THREE foreigners were honored with the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award for their outstanding contributions to the city at Xijiao State Guest Hotel yesterday.

The award, named after Shanghai's city flower, is given to foreigners who have made significant contributions to the economy, business environment, international relations, community development and management standards.

Among the recipients were Pierre Bertholat, former vice president of Carrefour (China) Management & Consulting Service Co Ltd, Robert Earl Socia, president of General Motors (China) Investment Co Ltd, and Jeffrey Sean Lehman, vice chancellor of New York University Shanghai.

"I feel much honored. I think it's an important prize. It's a recognition for people running business in China, recognition for me and recognition for all the work done by my team," said Bertholat, who is now with Carrefour France and flew in all the way from France to receive the award yesterday.

During his tenure in Shanghai, Bertholat focused on buying directly from farmers. About 50 percent of vegetables and fruits in Carrefour Shanghai stores are bought directly from farmers.

"China has more than 1 million farmers and many of them have difficulty in selling products. By working directly with them, we can help them deal with the issue and stabilize the price of food," Bertholat said. He said among the most memorable moments in China was helping more than 100 disabled people to realize their dream of visiting the Shanghai World Expo in 2010 and arranging a trip to the FINA World Championships for 40 children with hearing impairment.

"The award is also a recognition for social responsibility. A company cannot only focus on business. It has a social responsibility as well, said Bertholat, who spent 20 years in China.



Two foreigners who were honored with the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Awards look at the medals at Xijiao State Guest Hotel yesterday. — Dong Jun

Among the winners are seven people who are involved in education.

Lehman, vice chancellor of NYU Shanghai, the first Sino-US joint venture university which started just two weeks ago, said he was deeply moved to receive the award. He said he will work to make sure the university becomes a symbol of pride of the city.

Li Mingjun, director of the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office, presented citations and medals to the winners at a ceremony yesterday afternoon.

Li thanked them for their contribution and efforts to the development of the city and hoped they would continue to support the city's social and economic development, in particular, the construction of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone.

The Shanghai Magnolia Award was established in 1989.



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Pierre Bertholat

Former vice president of Carrefour (China) Management & Consulting Service Co Ltd

Local student wins praise for his daring act in Osaka

Ke Jiayun

A SHANGHAI student who saved a nine-year-old boy from a typhoon-swollen river in Japan on Monday has been praised for his heroic actions.

Police in Osaka said the boy was taking pictures with two other students on the banks of the Yodo River when he fell in as he tried to grab a memory card which had fallen out of his camera.

The raging torrent carried the boy more than 350 meters from where he fell before he was spotted by Yan Jun, a 26-year-old student who was visiting an Osaka university in preparation for his plan to study for a doctoral degree there next year.

With no thought for his own safety, Yan leapt into the river to try to grab the boy as the strong currents carried him past. He managed to get hold of the boy and help him out after swimming about 15 meters.

The boy had been in danger of drowning before Yan sprang into action, the China News Service said, citing Japanese police.

Both Yan and the boy were taken to hospital for checks but neither suffered serious injuries. Yan just had some abrasions to his skin.

Police said the boy had wanted to take photos of the flooded river which had become heavily swollen because of Typhoon Man-yi, China News Service reported.

Yan wrote on Weibo: "I never imagined the flood could be so torrential before I jumped into the river. I almost died in the water even though I always exercise as part of my daily routine."



Yan Jun