

# Police put up reward in deadly robbery

By XU WEI in Chongqing  
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Police have offered a reward of 500,000 yuan (\$78,600) to anyone who can offer information that will lead to the arrest of a suspect in a deadly shooting in Chongqing on Friday.

The police have identified the suspect as Zhou Kehua, a 42-year-old from Ertang village, Shapingba district of Chongqing municipality.

The shooting occurred at about 9:34 am on Friday outside a Bank of China outlet in Shapingba district. Zhou is alleged to have killed a woman and wounded two men in a robbery attempt, Chongqing police said in a statement.

Zhou took a shoulder bag from the dead woman, fled the scene and then took a motorcycle taxi, police said.

In a notice issued to the public, police described Zhou as being 167 centimeters tall and having a junior middle school education.

He has a strong Chongqing accent, relatively dark skin, and a scar on his right eyebrow.

Zhou has committed robbery several times in Jiangsu and Hunan provinces, as well as Chongqing since 2004, killing several people

and taking a large sum of cash, police said.

By Friday afternoon, the bank outlet had been closed and police had cordoned off the crime scene. Blood stains could still be seen on the ground, and the dead woman's car was still parked outside the bank.

Zhu Xiaoying, who runs a milk shop opposite the outlet, said she thought the sound of the gunfire came from a tire popping.

"I did not realize it was a robbery until I heard someone shout 'Robbery!'" Zhu said.

Zhu went out of her shop and saw two people, a man and a woman, lying in blood. Zhu said she saw the gunman walking away from the scene of the shooting and then shoot a security guard from the bank who came out to chase him.

"The security guard was shot in the right arm. It scared everyone, and no one else dared to stand in his way," Zhu said.

Zhu said she tried to call the police but couldn't reach them. Police did not arrive until 10 am, when they sent the victims to a hospital, Zhu said.

He Lei contributed to this story.



Rescuers search for trapped residents amid collapsed houses at Shenjiakeng village, Zhoushan city, Zhejiang province, on Friday.

## Reservoir collapse leaves 10 dead

By XU JUNQIAN in Shanghai  
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An 180,000-cubic-meter reservoir in rural Zhoushan, Zhejiang province, collapsed at dawn on Friday, killing at least 10 people and injuring 27 others.

The 10 victims killed included six females and four males. Seven of them are older than 74, and one is a 12-year-old child, according to an official statement from the local government. The oldest victim is 87. It also said that at least 80 local families have suffered as a result of the disaster.

The collapse — believed by some to be a result of Typhoon Haikui, which brought torrential rain to the area — flooded coastal Shenjiakeng village with water and silt, submerging a large area and damaging at least a third of the homes there.

"Most of the houses are made from stones and clay, which was very easily washed away by floods," said Chen Fu, chief of the Zhoushan firefighting branch, speaking at the site

during a phone interview with the local radio station, about six hours after the collapse.

Chen said most rescues of the took place within an hour of the collapse.

The local government has provided no information about the number of missing people, or the population of the village, or the definite cause of the collapse.

"To find the missing is our first priority, and we will spare no efforts to save the injured," said Zhu Jun, spokesman of Daishan county, which administers the village.

Sitting on the north of Zhoushan, the fishing and shipping hub of the highly industrialized Yangtze River Delta, Shenjiakeng village is largely populated by migrant workers from other cities who work at ship-manufacturing companies.

Officials said the fact that many migrant workers lived in the village has "added to the difficulties of locating and identifying the missing".

As Typhoon Haikui lashed Zhejiang province on Tuesday

and Wednesday, the village was one of the most heavily hit places, receiving 270 mm of rainfall.

But Zhu, the spokesman, said it is too early to make a connection between the typhoon and the collapse.

Some netizens who claimed to be residents of the village wrote on Sina Weibo, one of the most popular micro-blogging websites in China, that the reservoir has been in disrepair for years.

They said no people or organizations have claimed the reservoir, a 28.5-meter-high rainwater-collecting clay structure, as their property.

As the reservoir has leaked several times, local residents have reported the situation to government departments, but got no response.

In another development, Typhoon Haikui has left six people dead and forced more than 2.17 million people to be moved in four provincial-level regions in East China, Xinhua News Agency cited the Ministry of Civil Affairs as saying on Friday.

In Anhui province, Haikui killed three people and affected nearly 2.17 million residents, as well as destroyed more than 2,400 houses, the ministry said in a report.

In Shanghai, the typhoon killed two people and affected 361,000 others, the ministry said, adding that more than 50 houses were destroyed.

The typhoon also killed one person and forced 126,000 others to be evacuated in Jiangsu province, as well as forced nearly 1.55 million people in Zhejiang to move, according to the ministry.

Haikui, the 11th typhoon of the year, is the third typhoon to hit China's eastern coast in a week after the storms Saola and Damrey hit the region over the weekend.

Though no casualties have been reported in Jiangxi province so far, the Nanchang Railway Bureau said that as the typhoon moved westward, 12 trains running on the Anhui-Jiangxi Railway have been stranded by floods. Work to repair the damage is under way.



CHEN CHAO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Police on Friday investigate the site of a robbery in which a woman was killed and two men were injured by gunfire in front of a bank in Shapingba district, Chongqing.

## Food packaging fails safety tests

By JIN ZHU  
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An industry study showed that some well-known food products in China fail to meet

national safety standards for external packaging.

Insiders predict that such scandals are unlikely to be avoided in the short term because of lax enforcement.

Dong Jinshi, executive vice-president of the International Food Packaging Association, said its tests found many paper cups for instant noodles and milk tea have excessive fluorescent whitening agent on their outside packaging.

His conclusion was based on the association's three-month study, which ended this month.

The study looked at 84 well-known food products purchased from local supermarkets and convenience stores in Beijing and Shanghai, as well as Guangdong, Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces.

For instance, 24 food products, or 80 percent of the total samples taken in Beijing, were found to have excessive fluorescent whitening agent, according to the study.

Many popular products that have been on supermarket shelves for many years were listed as being substandard, it said.

Fluorescent whitening agent is a type of organic compound used to make paper white, but it may cause cancer after people ingest it over time.

"Although the inner packages of the samples were all right, consumers still are at risk of absorbing the chemical, when they touch the packages outside," he said.

By Friday afternoon, no food enterprises involved in the study said they plan to pull their products off store shelves.

Uni-President Enterprises (China) Investment, a major producer of instant noodles, disputed the study's results on Friday, saying "all paper cups for its instant noodles met the national standards on packaging", according to an announcement on its website.

Hou Xingfu, an official from Jinmailang Food Product, another company listed in the report, also defended the safety of the packaging.

"The paper cups for our products are made by professional packaging companies. We will conduct an investigation as soon as possible," Hou was quoted as saying by the website china.com.cn on Thursday.

Duan Yujing, a staff member in charge of quality supervision from the International Food Packaging Association, offered her own thoughts about why the packaging was unsafe.

"It is very likely that the substandard packages were made from recycled paper or even wastepaper that is not suitable for packaging food and drinks, because of their lower costs," Duan said.

The price of raw paper, which is suitable for packaging food after processing, is about 10,000 yuan (\$1,570) a ton, almost twice as much as that of recycled paper, she said.

Since the country's current regulations have not clarified that outside packaging should also meet the same standards as inside packaging, many enterprises exploited the loophole, she said.

Zhang Jun, a 35-year-old resident of Beijing, is taking a stand after seeing the report.

"I believed both inside and outside packages for food and drink must be made from qualified paper for public health. I will try to avoid buying those products from now on because of the scandal," Zhang said.

Meanwhile, only one of the 25 tested samples of paper cups in the provinces and municipalities met the country's new standards for printed patterns, the study showed.

The new rule, which came into effect in June, required that colored patterns on paper cups cannot be within 15 mm from a cup's lip or 10 mm from its bottom for health concerns.

The rule, which does not include details on penalties for offenders, cannot have a big effect in the near future, said a manager from a local paper cup company in Beijing, who only provided his surname Li.

"But my company has already followed the new regulation for business concerns, since many of our products are sold to those high-end consumers, such as in restaurants and coffee stores, who are concerned about health issues," he said.

## Tibetan tourism village earning more

By LI YAO  
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Villagers in the Tibet autonomous region are earning more income as they increase their capacity to accommodate and cater for tourists.

In Tashigang village, a scenic spot in southeast Tibet's Nyingchi prefecture, tourism income increased to 1.5 million yuan (\$235,800) in 2011, or 61 percent of the entire year's revenues.

All 303 villagers are grateful to the team from the prefecture tourism bureau, who helped them build up tourism capacity.

Villagers now enjoy rising living standards and increasing revenues, thanks to the support of the team, said a villager named Pema.

Pema, from a five-member household, runs a rural home inn and has earned 68,000 yuan so far this year.

Most of that income comes from tourists' purchases, mainly of rare herbal medicines, such as caterpillar fungus, and local food specialties.

Nyima Tsering, the leader of the team, said that from early on, villagers had seen tourism as an engine for economic prosperity, but they could not expand the market because of scarce resources, poor infrastructure and uncoordinated operations.

After Nyima Tsering's team arrived, the village began to run rural-home inns as cooperative businesses, the first such business model in Nyingchi.

The team also introduced uniform operational practices, governing how to keep accounts and maintain required sanitary standards.

Five chief projects have been identified to strengthen the village's capacity to accommodate tourists. With total investment estimated at 4.95 million yuan, they will install a waste disposal system, as well as build a new community recreation center and four model home inns, Nyima Tsering said.

The village is going through a transformation, as some projects have already been completed, and others are in preparation.

The team has secured most of the needed grants from prefecture and higher-ranking authorities, Nyima Tsering said.

The team has invited tourism educators, police officers, firefighters and hotel chefs in Nyingchi to train Tashigang villagers in first aid, emergency response and related skills.

Tibet has sent similar teams to help lift rural villages out of poverty.

The regional government believed that the team members, including officials and technocrats, through their stay in the villages, can get close to villagers' hearts and discover their needs.

In accordance, they tried to find solutions and provide grants and training to help villagers have more income-generating knowledge.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

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