

# Man 'confesses' to killing, freezing wife

A man has confessed to killing his wife and storing her body in a freezer at their home for three months, according to media reports in Shanghai.

The story was first published on Feb 3 on the WeChat feed of Xuan Kejiong, deputy head of the breaking news department at Shanghai Radio and TV Station News Center. However, a municipal police spokesperson was unable to confirm the details of the story.

According to Xuan's post, a woman called the police on Feb 1, saying that her son, surnamed Zhu, had killed someone, before turning him in. Zhu confessed to killing of his wife, surnamed Yang, on Oct 18 last year and storing her body in a freezer at their home ever since, Xuan's post said.

Police discovered the dead body of Yang in a freezer at a residential apartment on Guangzhong Road in Hongkou district, according to Shanghai-based news portal The Paper.

Zhu and Yang, both 29, were married on Dec 31, 2015, and moved into the Guangzhong Road apartment in May last year—Yang was a primary schoolteacher, while Zhu was a display designer at a department store, reports said.

Neighbors had seen Zhu walking his dog and acting in a normal manner over the past three months, according to reports.

Yang's parents are said to have last seen their daughter on Oct 1, when they dined with the young couple and Zhu's divorced parents, adding that they and other family members had kept in contact with Yang via text messages on various digital platforms, such as WeChat and QQ. Yang's parents reportedly requested to meet her on numerous occasions at a nearby relative's home, but their daughter never showed up.

According to text conversations on Xuan's WeChat post, Zhu made up various excuses to avoid Yang's parents, such as that they were sightseeing in Wuxi; in Hong Kong for Spring Festival; and that Zhu was suffering with an ailment.

On Nov 22, Zhu reportedly even faked his wife's birthday celebrations, posting a picture on her WeChat feed, inviting friends to send their blessings.

On Jan 26, Yang's mother is said to have received messages from her "daughter" on WeChat, saying she would spend the Spring Festival in Hong Kong with friends, and would not be back in Shanghai until Jan 29.

According to Xuan's post, Yang's mother didn't see her daughter that day, but she asked Yang to visit her on Feb 1, her father's 60th birthday, which is the day Zhu is reported to have confessed to the police.

It is said that Yang's family and friends described Zhu as unreliable, dishonest and irritable after drinking, while a note handwritten by Zhu was reportedly found among the remains of the victim, promising he would not contact other women.

It is reported that Yang quit her job because her husband had been promoted, and on Oct 14, the couple are said to have visited Yang's school to complete her resignation process, where students and colleagues described Yang as a "beautiful, gentle and kindhearted teacher".

An investigation into the case is said to be ongoing, with law enforcement authorities yet to confirm details of the case.

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## China sees faster trains ahead

China is expected to supply next-generation bullet trains capable of traveling at 400 km per hour for Russia's Moscow-Kazan line by 2020, which could enhance the country's position as the world's leader in high-speed rail products and services, said an expert working on the project.

The line is expected to be about 770 kilometers long and will run through seven Russian regions with a total population of more than 25 million. It will use regular high-speed trains rather than magnetic levitation trains.

"To ensure the operation, China will test the 400 km/h train in a selected part of the 709-kilometer Beijing-Shenyang high-speed railway line," said Yang Guowei, a researcher at the Institute of Mechanics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. The railroad is expected to be completed in 2019.

Yang's work unit is responsible for designing the shape of the high-speed trains.

Yang said China will be able to produce cargo trains for transporting regular goods, high-end products and industrial equipment at speeds ranging from 120 to 250 km/h between Asia and Europe by 2020.

Through innovation and development, China has the technology to make electric multiple-unit passenger trains with speeds between 200 and 250 km/h and has established a technology platform for producing trains with a speed of 350 km/h, according to data on the website of the National Railway Administration.

The country does not currently have trains with a speed of 400 km/h. However, Yang said that once they are developed, China can introduce them to the domestic market as well. However, the ticket price may increase because of higher operating costs.

Jia Limin, head of China's high-speed rail innovation program under the management of China Railway Rolling Stock Corp, said, "This could help China build cross-border high-speed train services with its neighboring countries that can alternate between different track gauges, ranging from 60 cm to 1.676 meters." The CRRC is China's rail vehicle manufacturer and exporter.

Wang Mengshu, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said it will take time to test safety and control if the speed is increased to 400 km/h.

He said there is a big difference between Chinese engineers getting a high-speed rail system up and running at home and doing something similar in foreign markets. The differences in standards and regulations remain the challenges for China's rail vehicle exporters and infrastructure suppliers hoping to set up overseas. In addition, building costs are fairly expensive.

"Rather than investing in high-speed railway networks overseas, China should focus on expanding domestic lines with faster train speeds," said Wang.

The CRRC is trying to overcome technical barriers in its push to develop maglev trains with speeds of 600 km/h in its Qingdao research center in Shandong province.

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## Candid photos record phone being stolen

A young woman in Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan Province had her cellphone stolen on Feb. 3 while shopping with her friend, whose candid photos happened to record the theft taking place.



[Photo: zznew.gov.cn]

Victim Xiaojia said she and her friend Yueyue loved taking candid photos of each other during funny occasions. While they were shopping that day, Xiaojia chucked her iPhone 6s into her coat pocket in order to eat grilled chicken wings. Yueyue then started to photograph her secretly.

Yueyue did not review the photos for fear of being caught, nor did Xiaojia realize that her phone was gone until two minutes later.

They hurriedly examined the candid photos. In the first photo, a middle-aged man was lurking behind Xiaojia, ready to stretch his hand into her pocket;

and in the second photo, the iPhone was already in his hand.

They reported the crime to police and the candid images were treated as critical evidence in catching the suspect.

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## More homes

The government's White Paper today needs to look at ways to provide more homes, all the time we remain in the EU and have to accept more than 300,000 additional people each year coming to stay in the UK. Even after we are out it is likely we still want to invite in a large number of people. Ministers have made clear we will still welcome talent from around the world, whilst controlling the numbers seeking low paid employment. It's no good inviting people here if we do not provide homes for them to buy or rent, and if we fail to provide all the other public services people expect in a rich country.

Much has been made of the need for more homes to rent. We should not forget that there are many more people wanting to buy who currently rent, than there are people who currently own who want to become tenants. Many of the people who now settle for the rented option do so because they cannot afford the deposit or think they will have problems getting the mortgage to buy.

Nor should we forget that it is much dearer over a lifetime to rent than to buy. If someone needs a home for 60 years as an adult, it will be much cheaper to take on a 25 year mortgage and pay it off over the 25 years, leaving you free of any rent or mortgage costs for more than half your life, than to have to pay rent for all 60 years. The joy of owning comes in retirement when you have no rent or mortgage payments to make, and when you also have a capital asset which you can sell to pay the nursing home fees in a home of your choice if need arises. In rented accommodation you will be paying the highest rent of your life as a pensioner, because rents always seem to rise. You have no asset to fall back on if you need to move to a care home.

The good news today is more mortgages are available and mortgage rates of still very low by historical standards. The bad news is house prices are high, and saving for the deposit even with the help of government schemes can be difficult.

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# Top attractions to install unisex toilets



Pedestrians use unisex toilets in Chongqing City on April 24, 2015. [Photo:gmw.cn]

China's top-ranking tourist attractions should be equipped with unisex toilets to meet higher standards, said a top tourism official on Feb. 4.

As part of a "toilet revolution" scheme that aims to boost tourism through cleaner and better-managed public conveniences, China will build 271 unisex toilets and renovate 333 at the country's 5A scenic spots, according to Li Jinzao, head of the China National Tourism Administration.

As an alternative to gender segregated restrooms, unisex toilets are installed for people with disabilities, the elderly, the young and anyone who may require the assistance of someone of another gender.

A typical unisex restroom is equipped with a 45-centimeter toilet, a 70-centimeter safety pole, a clothes hook and an emergency call button to meet the needs of different people.

China is making steady progress to improve toilet sanitation nationwide since the "revo-loo-tion" began in 2015.

A total of 50,916 toilets have been installed or upgraded so far, 89.33 percent of the official target the government announced for the three years through to 2017, said Li.