

# Metro glitch causes chaos during rush hour

**Zhang Ningning**

IT was a chaotic start to the week for many commuters as Metro services were disrupted due to malfunctions during the morning rush hour yesterday.

A Metro Line 2 train suffered a brake problem and was stuck at Weining Road Station at about 8:20am. Authorities were forced to limit the speed of other trains between Songhong Road Station and People's Square Station. Normal service only resumed after an hour at about 9:30am.

But it led to chaos as commuters were stranded on platforms on Line 2, prompting the Metro operators to think up of alternate plans.

Emergency plans to tackle the large passenger volume was put in place at major spots, especially at People's Square and Century Avenue stations.

"I was pushed onto the train and pushed back on the platform by the crowd," a local resident named Wang Qi told Shanghai Daily after being stuck at the busy People's Square Station.

"The air was also very bad as a lot of people were in the carriage."

Another commuter, surnamed

Han, said those stuck inside the crowded carriage were becoming impatient.

"I saw two arguments. Both started as they blamed the other for pushing. I could only hear people say 'there's no space' and 'stop pushing me.'"

Both Wang and Han were late for work by about 20 minutes.

As more commuters crowded on to stations, the Metro operator, with the help of subway police, launched crowd control measures at People's Square, Jiangsu Road, Century Avenue and Jing'an Temple stations.

The stations took crowd preventive measures like making it one-way passage, closing some transfers and turnstiles to avoid clashing and stampede between incoming and commuters going in the opposite direction.

Local police were also roped in to support station staff and evacuate commuters.

Some trains on Line 8 and Line 7 did not halt at People's Square and Jing'an Temple stations to reduce the pressure on commuters on Line 2, the metro operator said on its Weibo account at 9:10am.

Passengers were forced to get



Crowds move slowly at the passageway between Metro Line 1, Line 8 and Line 2. — Yan Junmin

down at the next station and haul themselves back in the opposite direction.

"The two stations are very busy every morning. As the commuters could not be transported by Line 2 from the stations in time, we had to take measures," a Metro spokesperson, surnamed Xu, told Shanghai Daily.

"Otherwise the flow from the other two lines would result in more passengers getting stranded at the stations. That would have been dangerous."

But shortly after Line 2 resumed operation, a carriage door problem affected Line 1 service on Huangpi Road S. Station, affecting operations

from Huangpi Road S. to Xujiahui. Passengers on the malfunctioning train were evacuated and the service resumed in about 10 minutes. As it was almost at the end of morning rush hours, fewer commuters were affected. Later, the Metro operator apologized for the inconvenience.

## Unruly passenger offloaded

**Chen Huizhi**

A CHINESE passenger was offloaded from a United Airlines flight after creating a scene at Shanghai Pudong International Airport on Sunday.

Police said the passenger, who is not from Shanghai, has been detained and faces charges for assaulting three police officers and deliberately obstructing public activity.

After boarding Flight UA087 for New York, the passenger, surnamed Lu, insisted on a seat upgrade, and then went and occupied a seat assigned to another passenger.

The captain of the flight asked Lu to leave the aircraft after he refused to go back to his seat and notified the airport police.

After Lu refused to budge, the

captain allowed three police officers to enter the aircraft. They initially tried to persuade him to leave the aircraft, and then forcibly removed him.

A scuffle ensued in which the officers were hurt.

Two of the police officers were back on duty while the third one was taking a day off, police told Shanghai Daily yesterday.

There have been similar incidents like this before.

In 2013, a female passenger on Shanghai Airlines flight from Harbin from Pudong was detained for five days for slapping an air hostess after being told that the already delayed flight was waiting for the clearance to take-off.

In this case, Lu possibly faces a fine of 200 yuan (US\$31) and a maximum 37 days in detention.

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### Line 18 extension

METRO Line 18 will link Changjiang Road S. to Changbei Road in Baoshan District, the city government announced yesterday. Construction work on the first phase of the line, that will run from Hangtuo Station to Changjiang Road S. Station, will begin at the end of this month. On completion, the Line 18 will run through Baoshan, Yangpu and the Pudong New Area districts.

The western extension, stretching 7 kilometers, will add five new underground stations. The route will run along Changjiang Road S. to Yujiangxiang Road, Changjiang Road W. and Kangning Road. Commuters will be able to transfer to Line 1 at Tonghe Xincun Station.

### Fans punished

TEN Chinese fans of a South Korean pop star were penalized after they bought flight tickets to enter the restricted area at the Pudong International Airport. The immigration authorities said the fans had valid flight tickets but did not board the flight. One of them stayed up for seven hours to catch a glimpse of the stars.

### Lindquist joins CAS

ANDERS Lindquist, Swedish applied mathematician and control theorist, has been elected as the new foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is among the 12 foreign scientists to be elected to the country's top academic institution.



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