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Looking ahead

What our reporters and editors will be following today. See breaking news on chinadaily.com.cn

Russia-Ukraine gas deal set to end

According to agreements between Russia and Ukraine, deliveries of discounted Russian gas to Ukraine will end today amid the warming weather. The European Commission has estimated that Ukraine will need 4-6 billion cubic meters of gas from Russia.

Logging ban in northeast

Commercial logging in the Daxinganling mountain range in Northeast China will be banned from today, as part of measures by the authorities to protect the country's shrinking forests



EU to remove milk quota

The European Union's milk production quota, introduced in 1984 to help deal with overproduction, is set to be removed today. The move is expected to lead to increases in production, with

China standing to gain from more milk import options, industry analysts said.

Xiamen rolls out visa exemption Authorities in Xiamen, Fujian province, will allow 72-hour transit visa exemptions for foreigners starting today. The exemptions are expected to help ramp up the city's international access and promote tourism.

Free museum entry for volunteers

The Palace Museum in Beijing will offer free admission to volunteers today. Those registered for volunteer work can reserve their tickets online. They should present their identification at the west gate of the museum. The museum has been offering free admission to various groups, including college students and police officers, on the first Wednesday of every month.

Trending on the web

Highlights from chinadaily.com.cn



His Bookworm story

Peter Golf, co-owner of Beijing's Bookworm bookstore and restaurant, believes the world "would be a better place if people read more". He has been in China for 12 years, having first visited as a correspondent for a newspaper. He became involved with the Bookworm several vears ago and now runs its three branches. Read more about his story on our website.

China-US cultural differences

Living in a culture that is different from your own can be both an exciting and challenging experience. You have to learn different cultural practices and try to adapt to them. Our readers share the top six cultural differences between China and the US to help promote mutual understanding. Share your views with us.



Hot words: Unregistered employment

Without contracts, graduates who are not registered at government labor offices are said to be in "unregistered employment". The practice can be an "effective way" to alleviate the tough job situation for college graduates, ana lysts said



Best employers for 2015

A 2015 list of the best employers in China was co-announced by human resources firm Aon Hewitt and work networking site LinkedIn. Aon Hewitt's Best Employers study was first conduct ed in Asia in 2001. For the first time in the Chinese market, internal and external data were taken into consideration in the independent judging process to improve methodology

Scan it!

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com.cn

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Read

Easy Talk: Time to lure more foreign tourists

Last year, the number of Chinese tourists traveling abroad increased by almost 20 percent year-on-year to 109 million, but the number of inbound travelers fell by 0.45 percent, indus-

try figures showed. What are some of the possible reasons behind the stagnant inbound tourism market? What can we do to better promote China to the outside world?

Blog for us and win prizes



China Daily provides a platform for expats worldwide to share their experiences and thoughts about the country. Join the conversation and stand a chance of becoming our top blogger

Hot topic

The government's latest moves to ease housing credit and boost the real estate sector have fueled expectations of an increase in property prices.



Many people won't find it

impossible to buy homes this year. It all depends on economic growth

and credit policy."



Wu Xiaobo, leading business

writer in Beijing "I've been saving for the down payment of my first home in Beijing. **Renting means** frequently moving from place to place. I really hate that."

Ding Suyun, website em-ployee in Beijing

"It takes more time to regain capital and profit from the housing market. But the current stock market is a good investment option with its quick and safer

earnings." Liu Ming, businessman in Hefei, Anhui province

"Housing prices fell sharply last year and many consider it a good time to buy apartments. You should trust that

the government won't tolerate too much decline in the market."



Li Chu, saleswoman in Kunming, Yunnan province



Candid camera: Tunnel vision

A man stands inside Chinese artist Zhu Jinshi's Boat art installation at The Rotunda in Hong Kong's Exchange Square on March 14. Zhu made the installation with bamboo, cotton and more than 12,000 sheets of xuan rice paper. ANTHONY WALLACE/ AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Looking out for those odd local customs



I'm sitting in an ethnic minority restaurant in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, chatting with colleagues over dinner, when a procession of small men and women in traditional garb enters the room.

"A cultural show, I love cultural shows," I whisper to the local guv on my right. He shakes his head, eyes wide with something approaching fear.

And just like that, I'm suddenly surrounded. Diminutive women with steely fingers grab my chin and my ears and pull my head back and my mouth

sweet rice wine down my throat. Another lady picks up some food with my chop-

and again. I'm up to my seventh horn, and starting to panic a bit, when suddenly I'm pulled to my feet and pushed into some sort of conga line dance around the room. I realize it's a trap as the dancers encircle me and, without warning, lift me off the ground and throw me up into the air three times.

As I sit back down, more than a little drunk and dazed, a rope necklace is placed over my head. On the end of this

intriguing accessory dangles a boiled egg in a net. A relieved smile is knocked off my face as one of

the women rather forcefully cracks the egg on my forehead Maybe it's the rice wine,

maybe it is egg-induced concussion, but suddenly I have a revelation.

The details of this tradition seem bizarre to an Australian like me, but the mischievous spirit of the thing is very familiar.

our Chinese and international readers the fighting chance I never had, here are a few odd traditions to look out for in my country.

Hills Hoist clothesline chanting the words "Wheel of Goon", they don't want your help hanging out their washing. An old drinking game, participants ring the perimeter of the revolving clothesline, upon which a sack (known as a silver prin cess) of cheap cask wine (known as goon) is pegged.

If an Aussie asks you if you like meat pies and beer,

In the interests of giving If a bunch of Australians

start ushering you toward a The line is spun like a wheel. Whoever is closest to the bag

answer with caution. The chunder mile is a traditional game that sees participants scull (gan bei) a pint of beer, and then race each other. The process is repeated every time a lap of the foot race is completed. One variation of the tradition sees participants eat a meat pie and drink a warm beer with each

when it stops must drink.

lap. If you haven't guessed already, chunder is Aussie slang for vomiting. There's plenty more to be wary of, but I'm not going to list them here. If seven horns of rice wine taught me anvthing, it's that being smacked in the head with an egg feels weird, and the surprise is half the fun.

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This Day, That Year

Item from April 1, 1982, in China Daily: The handicraft shop at Shanghai's Chenghu angmiao (Town God Temple) has many offerings, including beautifully designed silk quilt covers.

Shanghai is building another highway tunnel under the Huangpu River, a railway station, large gas plant, waterworks and other projects, its mayor Wang Daohan said. Wang outlined these improvements in his work report at the the fourth ession of the Seventh Municipal People's Congress.



become a global center for technological innovation, according to the municipality's government work report in January.

Spending on research and

development will account for more than 3.6 percent of the city's GDP this year, with such interest in technology illustrated by the above pho-

to of visitors at the Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facil ity in 2009 Municipal authorities will

also focus on improving infrastructure this year, such

km-long subwav line. Shanghai topped a list of the 10 most attractive Chinese cities for expats, according to a recent survey by the International Talent magazine and China Society for Research on International Professional Personnel Exchange and Development.



ZHAO YUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

as the addition of a 128

open, thrusting a horn (that's right, an actual horn) full of

sticks and slaps it in my face. They come for me again

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