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Bayern Survives

Bayern Munich survives Aberdeen scare while Tottenham, Fiorentina and Hamburg take big steps towards the last 16 of the UEFA Cup.

SPORTS — A16

IMF Expectations

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund says despite the US subprime crisis, the IMF expects the Chinese economy to expand by 10 percent.

BUSINESS — B1

Cures For All

Eight doctors give up six months of comfortable living in Shanghai to serve the poor in Shangri-La in southwest Yunnan Province, knocking up operating tables and even performing brain surgery.

SCOPE — C8

2008 Beijing Olympic Games

174 days to go



The Drunken Beauty by Liu Linghua



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WEATHER DETAILS — A7

China's trade surplus beating expectations

Winnie Wang

CHINA'S trade surplus reached US\$19.49 billion last month, expanding at a faster-than-expected 22.6 percent from a year earlier as foreign demand for exports stayed strong despite worries about slowing global growth, the General Administration of Customs said yesterday.

Exports reached US\$109.7 billion, gaining 26.7 percent from a year earlier, the biggest increase in 31 months, while imports advanced 17.6 percent, the largest gain in almost two years, to US\$90.17 billion.

"The volume is higher than our estimation of US\$15 billion to US\$17 billion," said Li Huiyong, an analyst

with Shenyin & Wanguo Securities Co in Shanghai.

The European Union remained China's biggest trade partner in the period, with trade volume surging 30.1 percent to US\$34.38 billion, followed by the United States and Japan.

"The economy in Europe developed well in the period, so China's exports to this area maintained a high level as a major trading partner," Li said.

The trade gap was below US\$20 billion for the first time since last May, the customs administration said.

Last month's growth is faster than our expectation but the pace

may be slowed this month because of the snowstorms and the Spring Festival," said Xue Jun, an analyst with Changjiang Securities Co.

"A US tax rebate bill is expected to benefit Chinese exporters as more customers in the US may turn to lower-priced Chinese goods with rebates," Xue said.

US President George W. Bush has signed a bill to put US\$152 billion in taxpayers' hands to avoid a recession, which includes rebates of US\$600 to US\$1,200 to most taxpayers, and also cut business taxes.

Analysts predicted that China would see exports slow down due to weakening demand, fallout from the US subprime mortgage crisis and, in

some cases, China's decision to curb exports of certain items by cutting export rebates or imposing export taxes.

Customs officials said that imports had posted strong growth and the trade gap had begun to decline as the government's policy adjustments began to pay off.

Exports of products with high energy consumption and heavy pollution were checked by tougher tariffs as the government made adjusting the export structure a focus of its trade policies.

China has also sought to rein in its trade surplus by restricting processing trade, which reached US\$81.85 billion in January, up 15.8 percent.

Ex-student the killer in new school slaying

THE gunman who killed six people in a Northern Illinois University lecture hall before committing suicide was identified yesterday as a 27-year-old former student, according to Florida authorities.

The gunman was Steven Kazmierczak, a university official told The Associated Press.

Polk County, Florida, sheriff's officials said they were asked to speak with "the father of the shooting suspect," Robert Kazmierczak of Lakeland, Florida.

The motive of the killer, who graduated from Northern Illinois in 2006, was still not known as the investigation unfolded yesterday, officials said. The gunman also wounded 15 people in Thursday's attack, which sent panicked students fleeing for the exits.

"There is no note or threat that I know of," Northern Illinois President John Peters said yesterday on ABC's "Good Morning America." "By all accounts that we can tell right now, he was a very good student, and the professors thought highly of."

The shooting was the latest in a spate of attacks in US schools and universities and was reminiscent of the Virginia Tech massacre last April when a South Korean

student killed 32 people before fatally shooting himself in a rampage that became the worst mass shooting in modern US history.

More recently, on February 8, a woman shot two fellow students to death before committing suicide at Louisiana Technical College in Baton Rouge. In Memphis, Tennessee, a 17-year-old has been charged with shooting and critically wounding a fellow student on Monday during a high school gym class, and the 15-year-old victim of a shooting at an Oxnard, California, junior high school has been declared brain dead.

Witnesses said the gunman, dressed in black and wearing a stocking cap, emerged from behind a screen on the stage of 200-seat Cole Hall and opened fire just as the class was about to end around 3pm.

Allyse Jerome, 19, a second-year student, said the gunman burst through a stage door and pulled out a gun.

"Honestly, at first everyone thought it was a joke," Jerome said. Everyone hit the floor, she said. Then she got up and ran. She said she felt like "an open target."

"He could've decided to get me," Jerome said. "I thought for sure he was gonna get me."

(Agencies)



Students help a victim after carrying him from the bloody scene at Cole Hall to nearby DuSable Hall at the Northern Illinois University in DeKalb after a man dressed in black opened fire with a shotgun before killing himself. The victim suffered a gunshot wound to the leg. — Stacey Huffstutler

C4 FEATURE

▶ www.shanghaidaily.com/feature

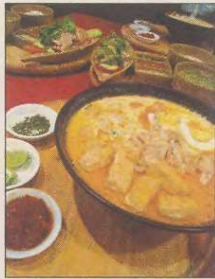
Chili and spice make chicken rice nice

Aubrey Buckingham

Southeast Asian residents who refused to bite the bullet and pay the exorbitant Lunar New Year airfares sorely missed out on the tropical flavors of that region's cuisine. While nothing short of a trip back home can completely satisfy the taste buds, the JC Mandarin has a pair of Singaporean treats to placate the cravings until that next trip to the equator.

Laksa is among the region's top offerings and anyone with even a passing interest in international food will have sampled the rice noodles in rich, coconut gravy at some time or another. The dish is possibly named after the Sanskrit word for a 100,000 — a hyperbole for the numerous condiments combined to produce the complex, intricate flavors of the broth.

The Nanjing Road property's Tatlers all-day dining offers laksa (88 yuan/US\$12.26) done intelligently — proper broth brewed from



Singaporean favorite Laksa

scratch, chunks of boiled egg, chicken, shrimp, fish cake and bean curd, and a slight departure from the norm, thin rice noodles. The proper version usually uses a thicker pasta, but as most restaurants here have discovered, the local option is way too starchy to be enjoyable. While the soup is mild enough for local patrons and spice novices, the dish comes saddled with a generous helping of sambal belacan (shrimp paste chili).

Singapore is also widely-known for its Hainanese Chicken Rice, which has its

roots on the Southern coast of China but was fleshed out among the overseas Chinese communities of Malaysia and Singapore.

The most famous iteration of the dish is found in the Meritus Mandarin in Singapore, for the princely sum of S\$21 (US\$15). While simpletons cannot justify the cost when a typical hawkker sells the same dish for S\$3, the chicken rice here pulls out all the stops and hits the right notes to deliver pure chicken rice delight unmatched by any other.

The local Mandarin's version (78 yuan) may not scale quite the same heights, but it's certainly on the right track. Properly chopped chicken, oil and fragrant rice and most importantly, spicy and suitably piquant chili sauce and salty dark soya sauce come together in delicious harmony.

All prices are subject to 15 percent tax.

Address: 1F, 1225 Nanjing Road W.
Tel: 6279-1888

Spanish artist's dragons given Chinese twist



Ancient techniques are used to good effect.

The famous painter/sculptor Andres Alcantara is bringing a brilliant exhibition "Eight Bridges" to Shanghai now. The exhibition is a bridge between Chinese and Spanish culture.

The dragons created by Alcantara display all the wisdom and vision of ancient Chinese dragons, but they are also imbued with the whole Western tradition too. In the ancient Greek, Nordic and Asian legends, they are represented with wings and sometimes with several heads. They always appear as guardians of healing or divinatory springs; or of virgins or treasure. Dragons pulled the chariot of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture.

"I think the craftwork employed to create the pieces attract the most attention, many of the techniques are hardly used at all nowadays, especially on this scale," says the artist, who used actual masonry tools such as engraver's chisels and hammers to sculpt with delicate energy a base-relief on zinc sheets. The results, once the plate was stained with ink, were spectacular: each engraved dragon is unique and a copy will cost at least 21,400 yuan (US\$2,981).

He has been developing his engraving work sporadically throughout his career as a highly prestigious sculptor and painter and has had works exhibited in public and private collections in the best art galleries in Europe.

A Spanish company with investment in China commissioned him to create a special

collection to exhibit and sell in the main cities in China. "It is an ambitious project and one of the most difficult of my career, but I couldn't say no to this offer, could I?" Alcantara says.

To concentrate on the Chinese project, first of all Alcantara had to move on from Quixote. The Capilla de Oidor gallery held the exhibition of his Quixote works in the winter of 2005 to celebrate the fourth centenary of the novel. At that time the artist exhibited 57 paintings in bright colors and five stone sculptures.

For this project he was asked to create works about mythical dragons, an important influence on Oriental customs and art.

Using the documentation that the Chinese clients provided him with and through his own research he has symbolically and morphologically recreated the myth about this imaginary animal in various media — firstly with oils and then, once the painting is complete, he begins his sculptural work, which is much more complex. He would like to finish the collection by spring, which will consist of 100 pieces.

Date: February 19-29, 10am-5pm (except Monday)
Venue: Shanghai Sculpture Space, Building A, 570 Huaihai Road W.
Tel: 6280-7103

Sponsored Feature

ART
in shanghai

by Deke Ehr

All the hottest in Shanghai's vibrant art scene list with Shanghai Daily. Interested in seeing your venue here?

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• Eastlink Gallery

Founded in 1999, Eastlink is one of the first independent galleries established in Shanghai and has earned a reputation as one of the most critically acclaimed galleries in China. The gallery continues to champion the work of China's most innovative and challenging artists.

• m97

The m97, an art gallery on Moganshan Road, Shanghai's art district, is one of Shanghai's first galleries dedicated to international contemporary photography, and aims to enrich the already active Shanghai art community by exhibiting both international and Chinese artists working with photography. The m97 Gallery provides a platform for photographers that are working in China or addressing China-related issues in their work.

• Huangjie Gallery

The manager's dominant ideology of this gallery is also the soul of this venue. His vision is to push art towards society and to improve the quality of spiritual life of visitors.

• Maison Gallery

After exhibiting art in central Shanghai for four years, Maison Gallery has become a virtual gallery in May of last year. Visitors to their Website will be able to enjoy their wonderful artwork anytime and anywhere.

• Creek Art

The philosophy of Creek Art is embodied in its convergence of multiculturalism. Creek Art organizes exhibitions and projects that underline the importance of artistic expression and intercultural exchange.

• SHINE Art Space

Since its conception in 2005, SHINE Art Space has provided a platform for avant-garde Chinese contemporary art, endeavoring to introduce the talent and potential of Chinese artists to a wider public.

• Yuandian Gallery

Yuandian's 300-square-meter space has several mobile boards, which allows the gallery to modify the space for exhibitions of different sizes. It predominantly showcases contemporary art creations from China and the rest of Asia.

• Stir Art Gallery

This 60-square-meter gallery looks more like an unassuming boutique, rather than a gallery. Fong Jianwei opened Stir Art Gallery in late 2006 and the gallery has since hosted numerous exhibitions from international artists.

• ShanghART Gallery

Over the course of the past decade, the Shanghai-based ShanghART Gallery has acquired a substantial reputation for artistic innovation, integrity and professionalism in dealing with contemporary Chinese art.

• 1918 Art Space

Tucked away at the end of Changping Road, a small road connected to Jiangning Road and Suzhou Road in Jing'an District, 1918 Art Space is a young gallery which shows different artworks from young Chinese artists.

• MoCA Shanghai

The Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai is the first non-profit, independently-operated contemporary art institution in Shanghai. MOCA Shanghai is devoted to the promotion of Chinese and international contemporary art.

• 1918 ArtSPACE

1918 ArtSPACE's goal is to provide a fresh and exciting venue for experimental art forms and exhibitions by mixing various mediums and concepts in new ways, such as blending ideas from different cultures with art, photography and design in relevant commercial concepts.

• Fire Dragon Gallery

Fire Dragon undertakes all kinds of art exhibitions, and invites artists to show their abilities and talent.

• Andrew James Art

This independent gallery provides art consultation that offers quality art by leading Chinese contemporary artists and aims to promote the next generation of graduate artists.

• Vanguard Gallery

Vanguard focuses on contemporary art and young artists, by introducing new artists of various styles and providing the public with high quality art.

Art appreciation

Work name: 100 Centenary Tribute to Roses
Original Painting Creator: Liu Linghua
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Address: Apt 4, 56 Yongjia Rd, Shanghai
Tel: 86-21 64158497 64735523
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