

CHINA

CHINA DIGEST

CHONGQING

Take note, all you thieves

After several homes were burgled over five days earlier this month, one homeowner wrote a note to the thieves, telling them not to waste their time because all the valuables in the house had been moved, the *Chongqing Morning Post* reports. But the owner left the criminals 200 yuan (HK\$244) with the note as consolation. Police arrested a suspect as he was planning to strike again.

Municipality woos graduates

The municipal government has advertised job openings for students at leading universities around the country in a bid to recruit 200 graduates to work in grass-roots government bodies, the *Chongqing Business Daily* reports. If they pass their probation, PhD holders could become deputy town mayors, while a master's degree could earn a graduate a spot as an assistant to a town mayor.

GUANGDONG

Freak bus accident

A passenger suffered major brain damage when the clutch of the bus she was in broke loose and its parts bounced through the chassis, hitting her and three other passengers, the *Southern Metropolis News* reports. The other three suffered bruises and head wounds. Doctors said that the injured woman was unlikely to survive.

Migrants embraced

Migrant workers will soon be referred to in government documents as "industrial workers of the new generation" instead of the commonly used "farm workers", the *Nanfang Daily* reports. At a ceremony on Monday celebrating the admission of about 10,000 of the province's migrant workers to universities, the deputy provincial party secretary said the government was changing the phrase to show more sensitivity and caring for migrants.

HEILONGJIANG

Serial killer suspects held

Police in Harbin (哈尔滨) say that they have arrested four suspects in connection with the murder of 10 people, most of them prostitutes, *Dbw.cn* reports. The three men and a woman have been accused of robbing and murdering eight prostitutes and two other people across the country from 1998 to 2004. Police started pursuing the suspects in 2002.

Bumper harvest

Heilongjiang (黑龙江) has overtaken Henan (河南) to become the nation's biggest grain producer for the first time, with an unprecedented bumper harvest this year, *Xinhua* reports. The northern province harvested 55.7 million tonnes of grain this year, up 11 per cent from last year.

HENAN

Son's fiery revenge

Police in Nanyang (南阳) have detained a 19-year-old man for setting fire to his family's home to get back at his parents. The son was kicked out on Saturday and told to stay away until the next day because he was always causing trouble, *Dabe.cn* reports. The disgruntled son then went and bought a bottle of petrol and set fire to the home that night. His father and sister suffered burns, and his mother was injured when she jumped to escape the flames.

End of the road for joyriders

About 650 people have been punished so far this year in a provincial campaign to crack down on the private use of government vehicles, *Xinhua* reports. The government task force that handled the crackdown said that more than 800 government vehicles had been used for private purposes, costing the province an estimated 900,000 yuan. The report did not say if all the people punished were government officials.

Eyes heavenward



A fly-past by pigeons distracts an officer during a memorial ceremony in Nanjing (南京), Jiangsu (江苏), yesterday for the

estimated 200,000 men, women and children murdered by Japanese forces during the six-week Nanking massacre in 1937. Photo: AP

HUNAN

Quilt habit pays off

A man in Changsha (长沙) died in his sleep on Monday from a gas leak but his wife, sleeping beside him, survived as she always slept with her head under the quilt, the *Xinhua Morning Herald* reports. The woman awoke to find her husband's body was cold.

Viral infection spreads

Provincial health officials have warned about a sharp increase in hand, foot and mouth disease, a viral infection that normally afflicts children, *China News Service* reports. More than 13,000 cases were

reported last month, a 60 per cent increase from October, as the peak season for the disease has arrived.

SHANGHAI

Foxconn worker dies

A factory worker for Foxconn, the Taiwanese electronics giant that has had several staff members commit suicide, died when he fell off thereof of a dormitory in Yantai (烟台) on Saturday as he inspected installations. The *Qilu Evening News* said a layer of snow made him slip.

Cabbage blues

Some cabbage growers in Taian (泰安) have opted to let them pile up

in fields rather than take them to the market as prices have dipped amid an oversupply, the *Qilu Evening News* reports. One farmer said she grew four hectares of Chinese cabbage this year, but she had been able to sell less than one-sixth. Farmers are hoping prices rise by Lunar New Year.

Museums face extinction

Half of the city's family-run museums have gone out of business since 2000 because of financial problems, the *Shanghai Daily* reports. Private museums thrived in Shanghai in the 1990s, and at one stage it had more than 200. But the soaring costs of rent and labour in

recent years have seen them go the way of many of their exhibits.

Glass falls from 21st floor

A two-square-metre piece of glass fell from a commercial high-rise on Monday and damaged five parked cars in Huangpu district, *Xinhua* reports. The glass fell from the 21st floor as workers were checking the building exterior and testing the glass. A witness said someone was hurt, but the property management company denied that.

YUNNAN

Mafia trio executed

Three core members of a mafia-style gang that had set up take businesses

were executed in Kunming (昆明) yesterday, *www.legaldaily.com.cn* has reported. The Kunming Intermediate People's Court announced the execution of the leader and two of his officers who were found to have organised a gang of at least 40 members and used their businesses, including tea-houses and hotels, as dens for prostitution, extortion, racketeering and the sale of illegal drugs and counterfeit banknotes.

Golden opportunity

The province is expected to produce 10 billion yuan (HK\$12.2 billion) worth of gold this year, making it China's third-biggest gold-producing region for the fourth straight year, *Yunnan* reports. The provincial administrative bureau for gold said production would reach 25 tonnes for the year, spurred by a global demand surge.

ZHEJIANG

Sweet sounds

A 75-year-old man has come up with a unique way to speak, after the vocal cords in his throat had to be removed 27 years ago due to cancer, the *Qianjiang Evening News* reports. The man speaks using rock candy, which he swallows together with air and saliva, producing gas in his stomach which he uses to make sound through his mouth. A senior doctor at the Hangzhou Cancer Hospital said it was the first case that he knew of where a cancer patient had lost the ability to speak but was subsequently able to regain the power of speech without a man-made speech box.

Families know their business

Most private companies in the province are family-owned, the *Today Morning Express* reports. The first report on the development of China's family businesses, issued by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, showed that more than 85 per cent of private companies were family businesses, while the percentage in Zhejiang (浙江) is 5 per cent higher.

Sponsored Feature

'Tis the Season for Giving A Timely Gift from Bertolucci

Nothing would please your beloved more this festive season than a timepiece from Bertolucci that encapsulates Italian inspiration and Swiss craftsmanship.



STRIA II epitomises the convergence of elegance and innovation

Fashion meets form and function in the STRIA II, a dynamic watch with whimsical details from the Bertolucci's Distinction collection. An oversized 42mm steel case features a partial curvaceous opening on the bezel accentuated with 1.72 carats of diamonds and arranged in a radiating sunburst pattern, while the innovative 360° rotating movement of the bezel allows the wearer to decide how she would like to see the passing of the time. The dial is further enhanced with curvaceous Arabic numerals and two indexes set with 12 diamonds. A matching shiny alligator strap comes with an integrated sliding mechanism to facilitate the easy changing of the strap to suit the wearer's mood and wardrobe. For less razzle-dazzle, STRIA II also comes with non-diamond bezel versions featuring an intricate guilloché patterned case, a shell patterned dial with italic Arabic numerals and a supple calf leather strap.

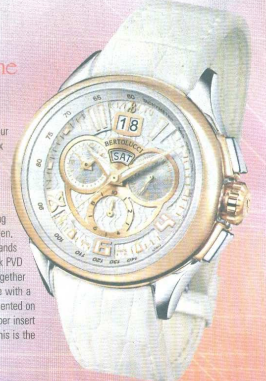
Retail price: \$12,000 - \$61,500



FORZA II combines the masculine spirit with a feminine touch

A watch that would appeal to both the gentleman watch connoisseur and the contemporary woman is the FORZA II, Bertolucci's new unisex watch. Featuring Swiss quartz chronograph movements housed in an oval 45mm stainless steel case, available in either black PVD or with a solid 18kt rose gold bezel and gold plated crown, the watch is water resistant to 5 ATM. In addition, it features a curved sapphire crystal, pebble pushers, alternating brushed and polished surfaces and a striking three-dimensional dial. Incorporating different colours such as green, orange, purple, yellow, red or blue coated in superluminova in the hands and index design, it creates a strong contrast against the sleek black PVD case. Each dial displays the chronograph's big day-date features together with three sub-dials, all of which are set against an opaline dial base with a subtle wave pattern. The accents of colour on the dials are complemented on the straps made from black calf leather with a matching coloured rubber insert adorned with a subtle wave pattern. Strong, stylish and functional, this is the watch for lovers of beautiful mechanics and charismatic design.

Retail price: \$20,000 - \$59,000



STRIA III embodies feminine charm

For a more intricate and organic looking watch, look no further than the STRIA III featuring two distinctive sterling silver bezel designs. One ornate design comes with all diamonds on the bezel or diamonds mingled with blue or pink sapphires or black diamonds, while the other features an even more free-flowing wave bezel design adorned with a similar assortment of diamonds and precious stones. Designed off-centred, the elegant white mother-of-pearl dial matches perfectly with the overall free-flowing feeling of the intricately cut bezel and case. Shiny alligator straps in black, white, blue and pink are both functional and interchangeable. Like the STRIA II, there is also a non-diamond version complete with a matching calf leather strap for everyday wear.

Retail price: \$11,000 - \$74,500



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