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Culture

In Bloom

The 26th National Lotus Exhibition at Guyi Garden, Shanghai's biggest classical garden, features 500 varieties and 10,000 plants.



Cool Brews

A cooling cup of tea offers respite from the summer heat. Jiading has many tea houses where you can relax and quench your thirst.



Having A Ball

Zhang Zhuping, a retired basketball coach with 30 years' experience, says training young players helps keep her teeling young



Researchers joyful over the moon with space success

Shen Qing and Fei Lai

¬ taff with a Jiading District-based company are proud for their contribution to China's space industry after hearing the success of the country's manned space docking mission between Shenzhou-9 spacecraft and Tiangong-1 lab module a month ago, for both they have undertaken their part in research and development.

Shanghai Aerospace Electronics Co. Ltd was responsible for new research tasks related to Shenzhou-9's frequency synthesizers and health monitoring equipment (including portable sports spirometers, microbiological monitoring components and blood pressure measuring instruments), in addition to other research tasks.

As the heart of Shenzhou-9 and

Tiangong-1, the frequency synthesizers, in each of them, provide high stability time and frequency reference signals of multiple frequencies and multiple wave forms for the spacecraft's electronic equipment. If failed, they would affect the normal working order of crucial spacecraft equipment.

The Jiading company has managed to develop two different sets of frequency synthesizers for the two aircraft, both of superb quality.

Quality is particularly significant for this manned space mission and the most important thing is to ensure the safety and health of astronauts.

The designers of the health monitoring instruments are Su Boshi, Wang Defa and Pan Huafeng.

The blood pressure measuring instrument developed by Wang is a small wrist blood pressure meter,

used for blood pressure measurement of the astronauts during the in-orbit operation. It automatically transfers the code and blood pressure data of the astronauts to the host machine in the cabin.

The microbiological monitoring component developed by Su includes a gas particle detection device and a surface microbial detection device. The first device monitors the cleanliness of the cabin air while the latter monitors the cleanliness of the table where food and appliances are placed.

The portable spirometer developed by Pan is used for the periodic evaluation of the astronauts' cardiovascular fitness and physical condition. Composed of the host machine, turbine flow transducer and other 12 components, it is the most complex among the three health monitoring products.

Malu grapes ripen as annual festival kicks off

Pan Qingyun and Fei Lai

THE annual Malu Grape Festival has started in Jiading District as the nationally known grapes are ripening.

This year's festival started on July 8 and will last for three months through September.

During the ripening season, visitors can walk, ride or self-drive through Malu Grape Art Village and experience the pastoral beauty of lush greeneries and winding rivers.

People can go to the fruitful grape theme park to have the fun of picking fruit by themselves. Every weekend in August, Malu Grape Theme Park will be open at night.

Meanwhile, the organizers will carry out three series of activities including the "Grape Farm Experience Tour." "Self-driving Tour to Lotus New Town," "Culture and Leisure Tour in the Morning."

The activities aim to showcase the lively ecology of Jiading New Town through combining grape culture with talent shows, microblog talent competitions, Chinese Valentine's Day dates, self-driving tours around the new town, limousines appreciation and even snooker matches.

As in previous years, Malu grapes that sell for 80 yuan (US\$12.5) per kilogram are only sold at the Grape Research Institute and Malu Grape Park during the grape festival.

The daily sales average 2,000kg and 5,000kg during the peak days.

"The price is truly not low, but they are worth it," said Shan Chuanlun, director of the Grape Research Institute.

In fact, "the higher the price, the



A tourist picks grapes at a vineyard in Jiading District's Malu Town. The annual Malu Grape Festival is under way and will continue through September. — Zhe Fu

better the quality of the merchandise, Shan added.

High cost, limited production and great market demand leads to high prices, according to Shan.

Shan said plantation cost of each acre reaches about 132,000 yuan, since they use only organic fertilizer instead of chemical one and do the weeding with manual power rather than herbicides.

They also implement "birth control" for Malu grapes to ensure the quality of the fruits.

The average acre yield is strictly

controlled at 3,000kg, only a quarter of the average acre yield of ordinary

Malu Grape Park boasts more than 70 grape varieties in different size, sweetness and hardness.

In early July, the latest variety "selenium-rich grape" went on sale. They are sweeter than the ordinary grapes, and are believed to contain trace element selenium benefitting for health.

Currently the Malu Grape Research Institute is optimizing more than 20 grape varieties into "selenium-rich grapes," according to director Shan.