

Spring Festival enchants foreigners

Since arriving in Beijing to study in 2014, every Chinese New Year Sabaa Ali El-Tayeb has bought a stuffed toy animal.

This year, the Year of the Rooster, she bought a rooster on Wangfujing, a busy commercial street in downtown Beijing. Last year, the year of the Monkey, she bought a lovely monkey toy.

"I will take these toys back home, and when I finish my degree they will remind me of my time in China," said the Sudanese woman, who is studying literature at Beijing Language and Culture University.

The Chinese zodiac assigns one of 12 animals, either real or mythological, to each year. This lunar year began on Saturday.

"Celebrating Spring Festival in China makes me love China even more," said Tayeb.

On Thursday, Tayeb's university organized an event where foreign students could try their hands at making dumplings, a traditional food eaten during the festival.

Tayeb said she liked this aspect of the festival the most. "Back home we have similar important meals where we eat specific food and extend our best wishes to each other."

Besides dumplings, Chinese New Year is a time for temple fairs, red lanterns, paper-cuts, blessings of good fortune and ancestor worship.

Basma Bayomy, an Egyptian student at the same university, said she planned to visit a temple fair in Chaoyang Park on Sunday.

The girl, who has been in Beijing since 2012, spent one Spring Festival at her Chinese classmate's home in Shijiazhuang, a city 300 km south of Beijing.

Bayomy was deeply impressed with the Spring Festival in 2014. She remembers how her classmate's father left out plates of food for their families' ancestors.

Similarly, Egyptians leave offerings of fruit and bread on the graves of their ancestors. Both traditions, Bayomy said, are rooted in respect for the family.

Like Chinese, many foreigners put couplets, Chinese characters wishing for good fortune, on their front doors.

Marie, a British translator in Beijing, was sent a couplet by her Chinese friend on Thursday. She stuck them on the door of her apartment, took a photo of herself standing in front of it, and shared it with her parents in Britain.

“These couplets are an expression of hope for the future and contain the Chinese spirit of ‘harmony’,” she said.

China to recycle 350 mln tonnes of waste resources by 2020

China is expected to recycle 350 million tonnes of waste resources including steel, nonferrous metals, plastic and paper annually by 2020, according to an official guideline.

The guideline was jointly released by ministries of industry and information technology, commerce, and science and technology.

China will develop a sophisticated system for renewable resources, said the guideline.

By 2020, China will use 150 million tonnes of waste steel, and 18 million tonnes of waste nonferrous metals annually, according to a plan included in the guideline.

The country also aims to recycle 23 million tonnes of waste plastic and half of all its waste paper by 2020 annually said the guideline.

178,000 policemen on duty to ensure smooth traffic on Spring Festival



Police officers Gao Yang (C-L) and Nie Yingjie (C-R) patrol at the Changchun Railway Station during Spring Festival travel rush in northeast China's Jilin Province, Jan. 26, 2017. (Xinhua/Zhang Nan)

About 178,000 policemen were on duty nationwide Saturday, the lunar New Year's day, to ensure smooth traffic, according to the Ministry of Public Security (MPS).

No major traffic accidents or jams had been reported as of 5:00 p.m. Saturday, said the MPS's traffic management bureau, adding that efforts have been made to alleviate traffic pressure on the roads to temples and scenic spots.

The traffic flow is expected to rise on Sunday, the second day of the Spring Festival holiday, as people usually go out to visit relatives on the day.

The traffic management bureau warns drivers against drunk driving and speeding.

Theresa May should have stood up for Britain and our values and condemned President Trump

Jeremy

Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party , responding to Theresa May's press conference in Turkey, said:

"President Trump's executive order against refugees and Muslims should shock and appal us all.

"Theresa May should have stood up for Britain and our values by condemning his actions. It should sadden our country that she chose not to.

"After Trump's hideous actions and May's weak failure to condemn them, it's more important than ever for us to say to refugees seeking a place of safety, that they will always be welcome in Britain."

Progress for the campaign for free public wi-fi



As reported in the press earlier this week, I have welcomed progress towards the provision of free public wi-fi for the Waterfront and City Centre, something that has been a long time coming.

The City Council's Head of Customer Services & IT has now confirmed to me that a working group involving the council's IT and City Development Departments along with representation from the Scottish Futures Trust has now been established to drive the initiative forward. The Head of Customer Services & IT advised :

"A Public Wireless project is still being investigated by Dundee city council for the waterfront development and city centre and we are actively working with the Scottish Futures Trusts Public Wireless program to get best value for the city given the financial implications. The discussions are on-going and I attended a meeting with them ... and have established a short working group to take this forward."

Going back as far as 2014, I highlighted the need for Dundee to progress free public wifi for the City Centre. Many cities are discovering free wi-fi is

a good way to attract more visitors. Already local businesses from coffee shops, hotels and restaurants, churches and bars are among the locations discovering the value of offering free wireless but a city centre wide wi-fi facility would be a boon for our city.

Other cities in Scotland are already providing free public wifi such as [Edinburgh](#), [Glasgow](#) and [Inverness](#) and I am anxious that Dundee does not fall behind.

I am pleased that the council now has a working group with the Scottish Futures Trust whose remit is to deliver a free-wifi offering for Dundee City Centre and the Waterfront area. I wanted to see momentum behind this and delivery of free public wi-fi for Dundee.