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Fintech entrepreneur's inclusive dream

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trial run.

Results of the trial run show that the satellite's devices work well and its capabilities are good. During the period, it played an important role in global efforts to learn more about gravitational waves, according to a statement by the China National Space Administration.

The telescope's operation will enable scientists around the globe to better study the activities of black holes and neutron stars as well as X-ray radiation. The satellite's devices will also allow engineers to explore ways of using pulsars as benchmarks for a new generation of space navigation technology to possibly be used on future spacecraft, the statement said.

Xuelong scientists help obtain Antarctic data

Scientists on the icebreaker *Xuelong* have obtained, for the first time, seabed topographic data of Antarctic waters after a full exploration, the Polar Research Institute of China said on Jan 30.

They have also acquired important data on oceanic gravity and magnetic forces during an ongoing expedition, China's 34th national scientific expedition to the Antarctic, which started on Nov 8 and is scheduled to be back in Shanghai in mid-April.

The data was obtained from recent geophysical surveys spanning nearly 3,000 square kilometers carried out in the Ross Sea's Terra Nova Bay near a planned research base, where construction will begin soon and may be finished in 2022.

"Such data made us clear about the terrain features of the sea area where we will build the new station," Yang Huigen, chief scientist of the expedition, told Xinhua News Agency.

Joint action against relic-trafficking rings

China will strengthen intelligence-sharing and joint-investigation cooperation with other countries to fight rampant cross-border trafficking of cultural relics, a senior official from the Ministry of Public Security said.

Law enforcement agencies from China and other nations, includ-



Primary school students practice winter sports like curling at the National Stadium — Bird's Nest — in Beijing on Jan 30, as part of China's efforts to raise interest ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

ing European and some Southeast Asian countries and the United States, will work together to smash major transnational cultural heritage trafficking rings, said Chen Shiqu, deputy director of the ministry's Criminal Investigation Bureau.

Crimes involving grave robbing and smuggling of cultural relics are on the rise due to strong market demand and temptation driven by huge economic interests.

"China has a large number of cultural treasures, of high cultural, artistic and research value, that are sought after by collectors from home and abroad, and such relics always fetch a high price, all of which contributes to the high incidence of such crimes," Chen said.

Athletes put to test with 2022 in mind

China is determined to expand its winter sports prowess by sending its largest-ever delegation to compete with the world's best at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

In preparation for the Winter Games in China in 2022, the nation will dispatch a 186-member delegation, including 82 athletes, to participate in 55 events in five sports

at the Pyeongchang Olympics in South Korea from Feb 9 to 25.

This comes as the country is seeing breakthroughs in new events, and with its delegation being the largest since China's Winter Olympics debut in 1980.

In Pyeongchang, Chinese athletes will make their debuts in 10 events — including freestyle skiing half-pipe, bobsled and parallel giant slalom in snowboarding — in an effort to diversify the country's winter sports strength.

Smog fight in Beijing gets \$95 million boost

Beijing has boosted funding for the war on smog by almost 600 million yuan (\$95.3 million) this year. One of its main targets is the growing threat from vehicle exhausts, especially diesel trucks.

The city government has allocated 19 billion yuan to support comprehensive measures against air pollution, up by 590 million yuan year-on-year, according to information released recently.

The extra resources will go toward controls on coal consumption, dust and industrial production, as well as technological

improvements. Vehicle emissions will be a major focus, said a Jan 31 report by acting Mayor Chen Jining to the first session of the 15th Beijing People's Congress.

The capital recorded 226 "blue sky" days in 2017, an increase of 28 days from the previous year, data from the Environmental Protection Bureau showed.

Sina Weibo suspends 'hot' lists after rebuke

Sina Weibo, one of China's most popular social media, has been ordered by Beijing's Internet watchdog to suspend its "hot" rankings after failing to stop the spread of illegal content.

The Beijing office of the Cyberspace Administration of China issued the weeklong ban on Jan 27 after accusing the technology company of promoting improper materials uploaded by users, including pornography and ethnic discrimination.

The website, which had more than 360 million monthly active users in 2017, was told to suspend several lists including its "hottest topics".

Many netizens use such rankings daily to keep track of what is trend-

ing. But the potential exposure has led some companies and celebrity users to pay agencies to artificially drive up the popularity of their posts.

Global confidence in yuan use rising: Survey

Expectations of China further opening up its financial sector this year have boosted bankers' and experts' confidence in the broader use of the yuan in global trade, investment and foreign reserves.

A survey done by the Bank of China published on Jan 31 indicated that in 2017, 76 percent of respondents from 3,134 overseas enterprises and 118 financial institutions in 25 countries and regions believed that the yuan will play a role as important as other major international currencies, including the US dollar, British pound, euro and Japanese yen.

This compared with 72 percent in the 2016 annual survey, reflecting strengthened confidence in the yuan's global usage, said the bank.

More than 60 percent of respondents indicated they will increase their use of yuan in global trade, investment and foreign reserves.

Beijing responds to US cybersecurity jitters

Beijing called on Jan 29 for the international community to enhance dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual trust to jointly cope with cybersecurity threats.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, in a daily news conference, sought cooperation after a senior US official said on Jan 28 the United States government is considering a superfast 5G wireless network to counter the threat of spying by China on US phone calls.

The official, confirming the gist of a report from the news site Axios.com, said the option was being debated at a low level in the administration and was six to eight months away from being considered by the president himself.

The 5G network concept is aimed at addressing what officials see as China's threat to US cybersecurity and economic security.

China holds a consistent stance on the issue and the government firmly forbids and cracks down on all forms of cyberattacks, Hua said.

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