



Back Page

NGO head puts poverty alleviation first

>> FROM PAGE 2

residents, a permanent residence permit for foreign "green card" holders, or a mainland residence permit or travel permit for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan residents — at the self-service counters.

Beijing sets 2020 date for social credit system

Beijing will accelerate the development of a social credit system by completing the legislative and regulatory work in the sector by 2020, a senior official said.

Tan Xuxiang, head of the Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission, said by that time Beijing will have established a public credit information service platform covering all the permanent residents of the city.

"It's also one of the measures to create a fair market for businesses," he said.

The platform will combine information from the governmental and social sectors and show a full picture of a person's credit status.

"We will also have a blacklist and make it available for public use for market access, public services, travel and employment," he said.

Taiwan polls reflect public will: Spokesman

A Chinese mainland spokesman on Nov 25 said the mainland will continue to enhance solidarity with Taiwan compatriots and follow a path of peaceful development of cross-Straits relations, after the Kuomintang Party won 15 seats out of a total of 22 being contested during local elections in Taiwan.

"We have noticed the results of the elections," said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, adding that the results reflected the strong will of the public in Taiwan to share the benefits of peaceful development across the Taiwan Straits.

Among the 22 county and city chief posts, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party landed six, with one going to an independent candidate.

Xinjiang builds houses to resist earthquakes

The newly built earthquake-resistant houses in rural areas of Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur



Children compete in a Robot PK event at the Nanjing Science and Technology Museum in East China's Jiangsu province on Nov 25. The event, in which nearly 500 children from China and South Korea participated, featured creative robots, including a bowling ball that knocked down pins and four-legged versions that competed in a race. CUI XIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

autonomous region have withstood more than 30 earthquakes of magnitude 5 or above in the past seven years, the region's housing authorities said.

As a quake-prone region, Xinjiang introduced a project to construct earthquake-resistant houses to replace people's adobe houses with sturdier ones made of bricks and steel.

From 2011 to 2015, the autonomous region subsidized the construction of 1.5 million single-family houses for about 6 million farmers and herdsmen with an investment of 121 billion yuan (\$17.5 billion), according to Xinjiang's Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department.

Xinjiang will subsidize another 1.37 million houses for impoverished families in the 2016-20 period. Currently, about 882,000 houses have been completed.

China, India agree to protect border peace

China and India, during a meeting on Nov 25, agreed to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas and to push forward bilateral relations, the Foreign Ministry said in a news release.

The 21st round of talks between

Chinese and Indian special representatives on boundary issues was co-chaired by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province.

The two sides agreed to continuously promote negotiations for resolving border issues to reach fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solutions at an early date, the news release said.

They agreed to apply the consensus of the two countries' leaders to every level of personnel, including frontline troops, and further improve measures to build trust in border areas.

Two more financial firms to gain access

China further opened its financial sector to foreign investors, with the banking and insurance regulator giving two more financial institutions the nod for market access.

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission announced on Nov 26 it had approved Munich-based Allianz's application to begin setting up Allianz (China) Insurance Holding Company, which will become the

first foreign-funded insurance holding company in China.

The regulator also allowed Chiyu Banking Corp, a licensed bank in Hong Kong, to make preparations to set up a branch in Shenzhen, in South China's Guangdong province.

Since the beginning of the year, the regulator has made a series of opening-up efforts, including allowing ICBC-AXA Life Assurance to establish an asset management company, and Korean Reinsurance to set up a branch in China.

1,000-year-old ink classic fetches \$59m

An 11th-century Chinese ink painting fetched HK\$463.6 million (\$59.2 million) at a Christie's sale in Hong Kong on Nov 26, making it one of the most expensive of all classic Chinese paintings and works of calligraphy sold at auction.

The monochromatic painting *Wood and Rock*, measuring only 26 by 50 centimeters, is attributed to Su Shi (1037-1101), a pre-eminent scholar, artist and statesman of the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Su's aesthetic views ushered Chinese art and culture into a new era.

Christie's confirmed that "a Chinese buyer" bought *Wood and Rock*. *Wood and Rock* depicts only

three subjects: a withered tree, a strange stone and a few stalks of bamboo. They were all done in quick, sketchy brush strokes conveying a touch of tranquility.

New facilities to aid S. China Sea studies

Construction of a new base to support China's archaeological studies in the South China Sea began in Qionghai, South China's Hainan province, on Nov 27.

Hu Bing, deputy director of the National Cultural Heritage Administration, said the base is planned as a complex of facilities for research, underwater excavation and conservation of historical heritage in the South China Sea. It will also be used to promote relevant international exchanges.

The facilities will include a scientific research institute for maritime cultural heritage, a conservation workshop for salvaged shipwrecks and a training center for archaeologists.

"Launching this project reflects the country's maritime strategy and determination to boost culture," Hu said. "The base will benefit Hainan's economy and help clarify the history of the South China Sea."

New player to join 5G battleground

China's multibillion-dollar 5G market is shifting into a four-player battleground, after the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology allowed China Broadcasting Network (CBN) to engage in the construction of a network for the fifth-generation mobile communication technology.

The ministry confirmed to *China Daily* on Nov 28 that it has green-lighted CBN to build 5G networks, which will allow it to compete in a market long dominated by the nation's big three mobile carriers — China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom.

Sources said CBN, the builder and operator of China's cable TV network, is now officially applying for a 5G license and the company has an inherent advantage in 5G, given its abundant spectrum resources.

CBN became China's fourth telecom operator in 2016 after the ministry issued a basic telecom business license to it.

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