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Myanmar businessman enjoys helping the people

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British military officer, as shown by a letter he wrote.

In April, the vessel was sold at an auction for 410,000 pounds (\$517,500) in southern England.

The unknown buyer, however, indicated a desire to return it to China in communication with the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Chinese embassy in London, officials said.

China, Japan, ROK need to reinforce ties

A lack of familiarity between the people of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) led a majority of those polled in the three nations to agree on the need to reinforce trilateral collaboration, according to results of an opinion poll released on Dec 11.

The 2018 China-Japan-ROK Trilateral Statistics on Public Opinion was released in Seoul by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, jointly run by the three governments.

The three countries should diversify their cooperation, and in addition to the economy, they should work more on areas such as the environment, green energy development, healthcare and disaster response, the survey indicated.

As the first of its kind, the poll surveyed 1,000 people in China, 1,007 in Japan and 1,004 in the ROK in July.

White paper notes human rights progress

A white paper released on Dec 12 by the State Council Information Office noted progress made by China in the legal protection of human rights since reform and opening-up began in 1978.

China has been striving to build a socialist country under the rule of law, said the white paper, titled "Progress in Human Rights over the 40 Years of Reform and Opening Up in China".

It said the country endeavored to ensure "that a well-conceived approach is taken to legislation, that law is strictly enforced, that justice is impartially administered and that the law is observed by everyone".

"China has established a legal framework to protect human rights," the white paper said, adding that the legal norms guaranteeing



Chinese and Indian military personnel engage in a firearms dismantling drill during an anti-terror exercise in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan province, on Dec 11. AN YUAN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

civil and political rights — as well as economic, social and cultural rights — have been improved.

Fuzhou court sides with Qualcomm over Apple

The legal patent battle between Qualcomm and Apple led to a Chinese court issuing a preliminary ban on sales of some iPhone models in the country.

Analysts said the law rules that the preliminary injunction must be immediately executed, but views differ as to how big an impact it will make on Apple's sales.

Qualcomm said the ban would affect the iPhone 6S through the iPhone X models, and was issued by the Fuzhou Intermediate People's Court in East China's Fujian province, which found that Apple violated two of Qualcomm's patents.

In response to the ban, Apple said on Dec 11 it has filed a request for reconsideration with the court, the first step in appealing the preliminary injunction.

Lack of evidence to bar Huawei, ZTE: Ministry

Japan decided to exclude Huawei and ZTE from official contracts citing "security issues," but China

insists there is no convincing evidence of such issues.

The Japanese government and its Self-Defense Forces received procurement guidelines on Dec 10 that effectively ban them from buying telecommunication equipment, servers and personal computers from the Chinese telecom giants as of April 2019.

"In order to uphold cybersecurity, we are aware that it is extremely important to make sure we do not procure equipment with functions of malicious intent," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at a news conference, without naming companies.

The move came amid controversy over the arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer in Canada at the request of the United States over alleged violations of US sanctions on Iran.

Ontario commemorates the Nanjing Massacre

After a long campaign debated in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the Nanjing Massacre Victims Monument was finally unveiled on Dec 10 in Richmond Hill, Toronto, Canada.

The monument follows the legislature's decision last year to observe Dec 13 as Nanjing Massacre Com-

memorative Day at the provincial level.

The Nanjing Massacre unfolded when Japanese troops captured the city in East China's Jiangsu province on Dec 13, 1937. In six weeks, they killed some 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers.

The legislature of Ontario, home to Canada's largest Asian community, with more than 3 million people of Asian descent, was the first regional legislative body in a Western country to adopt the motion.

The black granite monument at the Elgin Mills Cemetery is engraved with the words, "Remember History, Pray for Peace".

More airports badly needed, authorities say

China aims to build 216 new airports by 2035 and develop regional transport hubs, civil aviation authorities said on Dec 10.

As of the end of October, China had 234 civil airports and is expected to have around 450 by 2035, according to a civil aviation development guideline from the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

The demand for passenger transport in China will account for one-fourth of the world's total and exceed that of the United States by 2035, making China the largest air

passenger market in the world, the guideline said.

It also said world-class airports will be built in the Yangtze River Delta region, in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and in the Chongqing and Chengdu city cluster.

Study gives snapshot of Beijing's growth

Beijing's population dropped slightly and is getting older, but residents are now more educated, according to a study released on Dec 9.

The capital's registered resident population in 2017, including registered migrants, was 21.7 million, 22,000 fewer than the previous year, according to a blue book released by the Beijing Population and Development Research Center and the Social Sciences Academic Press.

Experts say the decline is the result of some labor-intensive industries being moved out of the city, so those workers are no longer counted as residents.

Meanwhile, the capital is relocating administrative departments to the Tongzhou district, in an attempt to ease traffic problems and thin the population density in the city center.

High-tech mother ship to begin sea trials soon

Chinese engineers say the world's most advanced mother ship for manned submersibles will go into operation soon, marking the latest step in the country's efforts to become a major power in deep-sea exploration.

The *Deep Sea 1* will enter service in the first half of 2019 and along with China's manned submersible *Jiaolong* will make a global deep-sea scientific voyage, the first of its kind by China, starting in 2020, according to the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association, operator of the ship.

The new vessel will become the country's first dedicated mother ship for submersibles.

It was moved into water on Dec 8 at Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, which means construction will end soon and sea trials will begin.

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