

Queen meets namesake

Elizabeth II visits a new elephant reserve and meets herd's youngest

WORLD, PAGE 12



Bike-sharing firms merge tech, grease

BUSINESS, PAGE 15

A class of their own

Disillusioned parents set up own schools using innovative techniques CHINA, PAGE 6



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Guidelines to help fix national healthcare

By ZHANG YUE and SHAN JUAN

China will press to strengthen medical partnerships and arrange closer ties between top-tier hospitals and grassroots medical services to provide better health management and care for urban and rural residents.

A set of measures was approved during the State Council's executive meeting on Wednesday, presided over by Premier Li Keqiang.

"The goal for the medical partnerships is to make quality medical care more accessible to the wider public, especially in less-developed areas," Li said. "We've managed to set up nationwide medical insurance coverage and increased medical competence in grassroots medical institutions. The coverage is among the highest in the world. What we mostly need now are medical professionals."

People are demanding more and better healthcare, and the allocation of medical resources is a tough balancing act.

The idea of building partnerships across medical institutions providing different levels of care would help bridge the gap of resources. According to the National Health and Family Planning Commission, by 2016, medical partnerships had been set up in 205 cities across China.

"Currently, high quality medical resources are mostly in big cities. These should further trickle down to lower tiers so that wider demand will be met," Li said. "We must encourage joint partnerships of city level hospitals and grassroots institutions, while imposing expense reimbursements."

Wednesday's meeting yielded new measures.

Administrative fragmentation between regions, fiscal expenses, insurance payouts and human resources will be resolved. More diversified forms of medical partnerships will be encouraged, with top-tier hospitals taking on leading roles. The guidelines

See Li, page 3



Key findings

A. Pieces (placed in white reconstruction) of pottery vase found among Niupodong cave relics, Gui'an New District, Guizhou province, 3,000 to 15,000 years old

B. Horse remains in a Xuechi sacrificial ritual site, Fengxiang county, Shaanxi province, Qin (221 to 206 BC) to Han (206



BC to 220 AD) dynasties

C. Porcelain cup and saucer set found in a Shanglin Lake porcelain kiln, Cixi, Zhejiang province, Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms (907-960)

D. Gold-coated small Asoka pagoda found among relics from Qinglong town, Qingpu district, Shanghai, Tang (618-907) to Song (960-1279) dynasties

E. Piece of jade jewelry among Shijiahe relics, Tianmen, Hubei

province, 4,000 years old

F. Porcelain bowl with floral painting from Guzhen porcelain kiln, Hejin, Shanxi province, with elements from Song and Jin dynasties (960-1279)

G. Thought to be part of a building foundation discovered in Gezishan, Qingtongxia, the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, 13,000 years old

H. Aerial view of the remnants of a Tongmuling mine that



mainly produced lead and copper, as well as metallurgy facilities, Guiyang county, Hunan province, Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

I. Pottery food holders found in the Luxian ancient city site, Tongzhou district, Beijing, Han Dynasty

J. Piece of Kuzhaikeng early-stage green porcelain, Yongchun county, Fujian province, 18th-14th century BC

Archaeologists find beauty in 10 top sites

By WANG KAIHAO wangkaihao@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese archaeologists worked at more than 2,000 sites in 2016, and experts have selected the 10 best ones.

Among the Top 10 Archaeological Discoveries of China in 2016, which were announced on Wednesday, are the remains of a 2,000-year-old city unearthed on the outskirts of Beijing and items uncovered in the cradle of Shanghai that point to the ancient Maritime Silk Road.

Remnants of the Han Dynasty (206 BC to 220 AD) city of Luxian, covering 350,000 square meters in the capital's Tongzhou district, are among the top finds. The site was discovered during urban construction work for Beijing's future administrative center.

"The basic layout of the ancient city has been figured out, and many important relics were found that show Beijing's early history, but a few more years will be needed to fully study the site with follow-up excavations," said Liu Qingzhu, one of the judges of the Top 10 finds and academic director of the Institute of Archaeology, affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The judging panel was composed of 21 experts from institutions, including the Palace Museum, the National Museum of China and Peking University. They took part in this year's annual poll, which has been called "the Academy Awards of Chinese archaeology".

Liu said that town ruins from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) found in Shanghai's Qingpu district indicate a less-

er-known direction of the ancient Maritime Silk Road trade route.

"Previous studies often focused on southern routes," Liu said. "Findings in the town not only unveiled an early stage city in Shanghai, but also a route leading to the Korean Peninsula and Japan."

Wang Wei, head of the Society of Chinese Archaeology, said preparation work for urban construction has been a main source of the discovery of archaeological sites, but Chinese archaeologists also have been trying to undertake projects away from cities.

That led to the discovery last year of some important prehistoric relics. At a 13,000-year-old site in the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, for instance, rare and exquisite ornaments made of ostrich eggs were excavated. This also

is an award winner.

"People used to have a stereotype that there can hardly be any top-tier findings later than the Song Dynasty (960-1279)," he said. "But the time distribution of the 10 findings is more balanced this year."

Nevertheless, Wang said physical beauty is not a prerequisite to be among the Top 10.

"We place more emphasis on whether the findings are relevant in academic research, even if some objects are not that good looking from the public's points of view," he said.

Employing more study methods from the natural sciences has become a new trend in Chinese archaeology. For example, plant seeds were found among some sites and had to be identified and the chemical analysis of materials found at an ancient mining site was needed.

Xi: Dialogue needed to calm region

President urges US leader to assist in defusing Korean Peninsula situation

By LI XIAOKUN lixiaokun@chinadaily.com.cn

Inside

Editorial > p8

The Korean Peninsula issue should be settled through peaceful means, President Xi Jinping told US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, adding that Beijing is willing to continue a dialogue with Washington on the issue.

Xi spoke by telephone with Trump on the issue just days after his meeting with the US president on April 6 and 7 in Florida.

Xi "stressed that China sticks to the target of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that China is committed to peace and stability of the peninsula," according to a news release issued by the Foreign Ministry.

"China holds that the issue should be solved through peaceful means and is ready to maintain communication and coordination with the

United States on the issue," the statement said.

The two presidents also talked about the situation in Syria. Xi said any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and that the path of political settlement should be followed.

He expressed the hope that the UN Security Council would speak in one voice, as it is important for the council's members to remain united over the issue.

Xi said his recent tete-a-tete with Trump at the Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida has produced important results, which have won a positive response from among the Chinese people and the international community.

He and Trump have

See Xi, page 4

3 metro areas fail in pollution controls

By ZHENG JINRAN zhengjinran@chinadaily.com.cn

The governments of three of China's most populous cities have been told they provided inadequate pollution controls and failed to meet some "green" targets, according to the results of top-level inspections.

Teams under the guidance of the State Council examined Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing as part of the nation's second round of provincial inspections started in late November. The Ministry of Environmental Protection published the findings on Wednesday.

Although the problems exposed in each city varied, a common point in each report was that the municipal governments had not properly implemented some meas-

ures aimed at pollution control.

Among the severest violations was in Shanghai, where inspectors discovered local authorities had failed to meet a target to halt all illegal construction and close illegal factories by the end of last year.

In Fengcheng township alone, 976 unlicensed wood processing plants were still in production, as were 31 of the 46 illegal construction sites targeted at the start of 2016, according to the inspection report.

"Shanghai has seen some environment work growing slack and some standards have fallen," the ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The city, an important business hub, has a popula-

See Smog, page 3

United in protest



Demonstrators protest outside the United Airlines terminal at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago on Tuesday after videos posted on social media show a passenger being dragged from his seat after he refused to leave a flight. SCOTT OLSON/ AFP

See story on page 12; editorial on page 8

Spring attracts hundreds of climbers to Tibet's peaks

By PALDEN NYIMA and DAQIONG in Lhasa

More than 300 mountaineers from around the world will try to conquer some of the planet's highest peaks during this year's spring climbing season in the Tibet autonomous region.

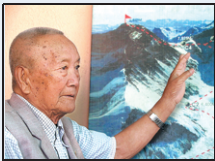
Adventurers from 30 countries filed climb plans with the Tibet Mountaineering Association ahead of the season, which began Monday and runs for 60 days.

"The best time to climb is the last week of May, because conducive weather factors are forecast during this period," said Sonam, the association's secretary, who predicted that 100 people would reach summits this season.

Tibet is home to the world's highest mountain, Qomolangma — known as Mount Everest in the West — which stands at 8,848 meters. The surrounding range also includes Cho Oyu (8,201 meters) and Shishapangma (8,012 meters).

In addition to the mountaineers, the seasonal climbing activities will involve more than 100 guides, translators and trainers, according to the association. Of those filing plans to climb, more than one-third, 135, were from Nepal.

"So far, 22 climbers from various parts of China have registered to take part in climbs assisted by about 100 coaches, guides and support crews from domestic mountaineering associations and



Nepali mountaineer Min Bahadur Sherchan wants to regain his title as the oldest to scale Qomolangma.

Inside

Related story> p11

companies," Sonam said.

He said conditions at Qomolangma Base Camp have improved since it was connected to the regional power

grid in 2014.

Previously, the camp was powered by generators, "but the supply was not stable," he said. "The climbers couldn't rest well with the big noise from the generators, and the diesel of the generators brought hidden dangers for the environment."

The spring season is also good news for Tibetan herders, Sonam added, as their incomes will be boosted by working as porters or by renting out yaks to carry supplies up mountain passes.

The Nepali participants all entered from Tibet's Gyirong Port, and the climbers of other countries made their entry from Lhasa, the regional capital.

The climbers will set up tents at base camps and then will receive adaptive training before relocating to higher sites assisted by guides.

Last year, 696 climbers from 34 countries and regions, including 424 in the spring, visited Tibet to climb, according to Tibet Commercial News.

Surrounded by snow-capped mountains and glaciers, Tibet has many natural advantages for its mountaineering industry. It has five mountains higher than 8,000 meters, more than 70 mountains higher than 7,000 meters and at least 1,000 mountains higher than 6,000 meters.

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