

Plastic fades

Credit cards are being replaced by online finance > p 13

Defense exercise

PLA Air Force drill tests far-offshore combat capabilities

> CHINA, PAGE 3



Culture collision

Stage production combines Shakespeare, Tang Xianzu

> LIFE, PAGE 20



CHINADAILY

中國日報

chinadaily.com.cn RMB ¥2

MONDAY, September 26, 2016



Premier Li Keqiang and Cuban President Raul Castro wave during their meeting at Havana's Revolution Palace, in Cuba, on Saturday.

HUANG JINGWEN / XINHUA

DIPLOMACY

Premier vows to help Cuba industrialize

By ZHAO HUANXIN in Havana and HU YONGQI in Beijing

On the same day that Premier Li Keqiang made history in Havana, China and Cuba agreed to work together to boost the island nation's economic development. Li, who on Saturday became the first Chinese premier to visit Cuba in more than 50 years, vowed to help industrialize Cuba.

The consensus was reached in talks between Li and Cuban President Raul Castro in Cuba's capital.

The agreement could have a large impact on Cuba, where the economy last year grew at 4 percent year-on-

year, according to China's Commerce Ministry.

The premier, who heads home on Monday, also oversaw the signing of more than 20 agreements in Havana to ramp up cooperation in wide-ranging areas including finance and infrastructure.

Li arrived in Havana Saturday afternoon after attending the 71st session of the UN General Assembly in New York and making an official visit to Canada. The premier is scheduled to visit former Cuban top leader Fidel Castro — who celebrated his 90th birthday in August — on Monday. Fidel Castro is Raul Cas-

\$2.2 billion

bilateral trade between China and Cuba, an increase of 58.7 percent from 2014.

tro's older brother.

Both China and Cuba are engaged in the pressing tasks of developing their economies and improving the livelihood of their people, Li said. The Chinese side is ready to support Cuba's industrialization, he said.

The two countries will work together on the planning of infrastructure construction projects, and launch cooperation in industrial

equipment manufacturing.

Trade, financing and investment activities will be intensified between the two countries, the leaders agreed.

China is Cuba's second-largest trade partner. Bilateral trade was valued at \$2.2 billion last year, a surge of 58.7 percent from the 2014 level, according to Chinese customs officials.

Raul Castro said Cuba would borrow from China's experience and expertise in development, and enhance pragmatic cooperation with China, said a statement which

SEE "CUBA" PAGE 3

CONSERVATION

Pangolins need world spotlight to survive

By SUSAN NJANJI in Johannesburg Agence France-Presse

Reclusive, gentle and quick to roll up into a ball, pangolins keep a low profile.

But they are also the world's most heavily trafficked mammal, and experts at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference this week are ringing alarm bells over their survival.

Demand for pangolin meat and body parts has fueled a bloodbath, and driven the scale-covered, ant-eating mammal toward extinction.

More than a million pangolins are thought to have been poached from the wild in the past decade.

At the CITES meeting in Johannesburg, conservationists will discuss moving pangolins into the highest protection category, which bans all international trade.

"There has been a massive surge in the illegal take of the pangolin for its meat and for its scales," CITES chief John Scanlon said.

Currently, CITES allows trade in pangolins but under strict conditions.

"Existing laws are clearly failing to protect pangolins from the poachers. A complete international trade ban is needed now," said Heather Sohl, WWF-UK's wildlife adviser.

There are four species of pangolin in Africa and four in Asia.

Watchdogs say those in Asia are being eaten to extinction, while populations in Africa are declining fast. Research published in the early 2000s estimated populations in China to have declined by up to 94 percent, said Dan Challender, pangolin expert at the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Pangolins are covered in overlapping scales. When threatened, they curl into ball, making it easy for them to be captured.

About the size of a small dog, they are solitary, mostly nocturnal and cannot be farmed.

"Pangolins are notoriously difficult to keep in captivity — they only feed on wild ants and termites, and they are extremely prone to stress and dehydration, so they die," said Ray Jansen of the African Pangolin Working Group.

SCIENCE

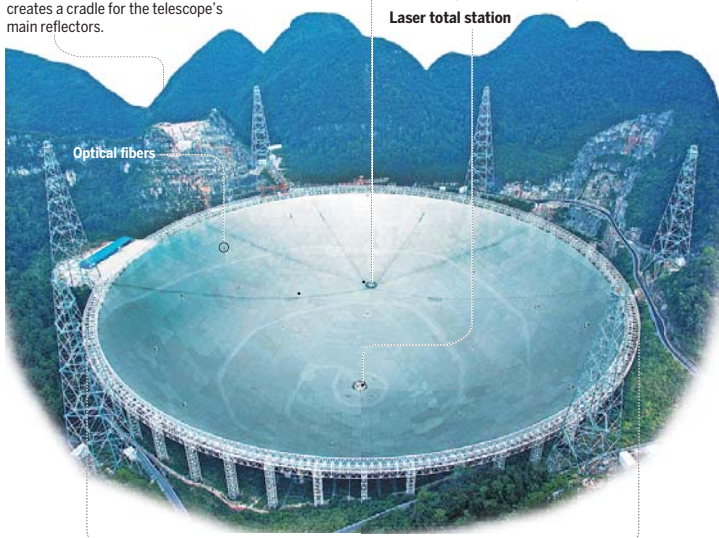
Biggest eye on the sky begins its watch

The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) in Guizhou province began operation Sunday. It is the largest in the world.

What it does: FAST surveys neutral hydrogen in the Milky Way and other galaxies; detects new galactic and extragalactic pulsars; finds and researches the first shining stars; finds out where extraterrestrial life might exist; and detects dark energy and helps us understand the evolution of galaxies.

Karst valley depression
A natural limestone depression in southern Guizhou province creates a cradle for the telescope's main reflectors.

Receiver Cabin
A suspended, moveable focus cabin is powered by cables and operated by a robot. The cabin contains multiple-beam and multiple-band receivers.



Supporting structure
Main cable net

Main reflector
The 500-meter-wide active main reflector directly corrects for spherical aberration.

1,000

number of light years into space that FAST will enable scientists to detect signal

4,450

Triangular aluminum panels

Sources: Skyandtelescope.com, universetoday.com, URSI

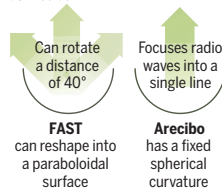
The previous record holder

Arecibo Observatory
Constructed in 1963 in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, this telescope held the record as the world's largest telescope until FAST

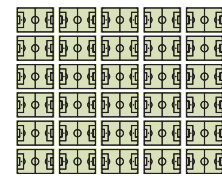
Size



Function
FAST is 10 times as sensitive as Arecibo



On a gigantic scale



FAST's 500-meter-diameter dish equals to 30 football fields.

CHINA DAILY

World's largest telescope begins peering into space

Dish as big as 30 soccer fields, in Guizhou, to push Chinese science to forefront

By HOU LIQIANG and YANG JUN in Pingtang, Guizhou

Scientists of the world, attention please: You are invited by China to listen for alien life from the world's largest telescope it built.

With the massive facility officially beginning to operate on Sunday, leading scientists told China Daily that foreign scientists will be welcome to use China's gigantic Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope, known as FAST.

It is a single-aperture telescope the

size of 30 soccer fields, located in Guizhou province in southwestern China.

The facility, surpassing the second-largest by 200 meters in diameter, is being called a game-changer in space research.

President Xi Jinping on Sunday sent a congratulatory letter to the scientists and engineers who contributed to its creation.

"The launch of FAST symbolizes a major breakthrough in China's science research and has great significance for the country's strategy to push forward innovation," Xi said in the letter.

FAST will search for gravitational waves, detect radio emissions from stars and galaxies, and listen for signs of intelligent extraterrestrial life, scientists said.

"The ultimate goal of FAST is to discover the laws of the development of the universe," said Qian Lei, an associate researcher with the National Astronomical Observation, part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which built the telescope.

"In theory, if there is civilization in

SEE "FAST" PAGE 5

CURRENCY

Renminbi use surges in London in spite of Brexit

By CECILY LIU in London cecily.liu@mail.chinadailyuk.com

London's offshore yuan activities continue to surge despite Brexit uncertainties, according to the latest figures from China's central bank.

The new figures, reflecting bilateral business confidence and the renminbi's growing international use, showed London's renminbi-denominated business transactions in August were 60 percent higher than July's.

The new figures were announced on Friday by Jin Mei, the People's Bank of China's chief representative in Europe, at a celebration hosted by London's renminbi clearing bank, China Construction Bank.

CCB London celebrated the significant milestone of clearing 10 trillion yuan (\$1.5 trillion) of transactions between June 2014, when it was appointed by PBOC to be London's official renminbi clearing bank, and August 2016.

An official clearing bank facilitates efficient clearing of offshore renminbi transactions by working with the central bank.

Brexit refers to the June 23 referendum in which British citizens voted to leave the European Union.

In April, London overtook Singapore to become the world's second-largest offshore renminbi center behind Hong Kong.

Wang Zujin, president of CCB Corp, said CCB London fulfilled its promise of two years ago to provide "fair, efficient, accurate and professional clearing services", and contribute to Sino-British economic development and London's position as an important offshore renminbi center.

CCB London provides yuan clearing services from 1 am to 9 pm London time to cover the trading hours difference between Asian and North American markets.

Its yuan clearing enquiry service runs 24 hours. Ninety-five percent of CCB London's

60 percent

increase in renminbi-denominated business transactions in August over July, reflecting bilateral business confidence and the renminbi's growing international use

10 trillion yuan

in transactions cleared by CCB London between June 2014, when it was appointed by PBOC to be London's official renminbi clearing bank, and August 2016

yuan clearing services are completed through its clearing systems automatically.

CCB London provides yuan clearing services for 67 financial institutions, of which only 24 are Chinese organizations, which demonstrates its international client base.

Key clients include international banks such as HSBC, Standard Chartered, Citibank and Bank of America, and other financial institutions including the London Stock Exchange, London Metals Exchange and Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

The fast growth of London's offshore yuan activities is taking place as the renminbi is increasingly used internationally as a trading and investment currency, and its growth as a global reserve currency will be marked by its inclusion in the International Monetary Fund's basket of special drawing rights currencies in October.

Jin said the SDR inclusion will create new opportunities for the development of the London offshore RMB market and also RMB internationalization.

The PBOC also will use policy initiatives to support RMB internationalization, Jin said. It will further deepen financial reforms, promote interest rate and exchange rate liberalization, widen the opening of the financial market, and realize orderly RMB convertibility under the capital account.

In the news

CHINA

Seed of hope

Government-sponsored facility provides psychiatric patients with opportunities to reintegrate into society. >p6

BUSINESS

Cuba's commuters

Yutong's 5,890 buses have helped transform the Caribbean country's public transportation. >p14

SPORTS

Ronaldo subbed

Portuguese star endures a poor night, and sulks off field, as Real Madrid held to a 2-2 draw at Las Palmas. >p24



ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK A member of the Asia News Network

© 2016 ChinaDaily, All Rights Reserved Vol.36 - No. 11355 国内统一编号:CN11-0091 国际标准编号:ISSN0253-9543 邮发代号:1-3 6 940844 00150 >