



ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD

Kunming Customs accelerates clearance of packages

BY LI ZHINUO

According to statistics released by Kunming Customs, it handles over 1,000 incoming packages every day, which is an increase by 200% over last year. But how these incoming packages are handled? Recently, person in charge of an on-site service office set up in a China Post office by Kunming Customs (hereinafter referred to as "Post Agency") demonstrated the inspection process of incoming packages for receivers and answered their questions.

According to the Post Agency, packages arriving at ports (such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangdong) from overseas are transferred to China Post Kunming sorting center before they are sent to the Post Agency for inspection. All the packages are inspected on the same day as their arrival. They are image-identified through an X-ray machine and are sorted out as untaxable or taxable. Regarding

taxable packages, the inspection process of unpacking for tax evaluation are carried out with the cooperation of China Post.

According to the director of the Post Agency, untaxable packages can be cleared by customs the same day. Packages taxable as personal belongings and packages processed as cargo are stored in a warehouse supervised by the customs house. The Post Agency will call the following day and inform the receivers about any customs inspections. Then the receivers visit the Post Agency to go through mandated clearance procedures. As long as the price documents of a package provided by the receiver are complete and agree with the evaluation conducted by customs, the clearance procedures can be finished on the same day.

According to the *Decree of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China No.43*, there are three clearance models for entry pack-

ages. Any import tax totaling less than RMB 50 yuan (including 50 yuan) shall be exempted. Regarding packages sent from or to Hong Kong, Macao or Taiwan of China, and valued less than RMB 800 yuan, the import tax shall be evaluated and collected before the packages are cleared by customs as personal belongings. Packages valued over RMB 800yuan or 1,000 yuan are cleared as cargoes.

The director of the Post Agency explained, "The sender or receiver of a package can use a file number to track the status of the package. An entry package can be classified as "cleared" or "entered the customs". When a package is "cleared", it has arrived in Kunming and is ready to be transferred from the Post to customs. When a package has "entered the customs", it has been inspected by customs and put into a warehouse supervised by customs before the sender or receiver is informed of how to go through the clearance procedures.

CHINESE LANGUAGE COMPETITION



Winners from Thailand posed for photos during the closing ceremony.

Provided by Yunnan Normal University

Thai team wins championship of 8th Chinese Bridge competition

BY WANG SHIXUE

On Oct. 31, the 8th Chinese Bridge, a Chinese proficiency competition for foreign secondary school students, concluded in Kunming.

After intense competition, the Thai team won the championship

of this year's competition, while the top prize for individuals were claimed by three contestants from Serbia, Cambodia, and the United States. All prize winners were awarded scholarships provided by Hanban, the Confucius Institute Headquarters(Hanban).

During the competition, the contestants presented their skills through talent shows, including reciting, calligraphy, painting, paper-cutting, dances, martial arts, and traditional instruments. The show mixed foreign cultures with Yunnan styles.

IN THE NEWS

Chinese Food Festival opens in Bangladesh

BY CAO YANHUA

It is the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Bangladesh this year. In order to enhance the mutual understanding of people from both countries, and to show the Bangladeshi audience the variety of Chinese culture, the CRIFM102 Chinese Food Festival opened in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka recently. It was jointly organized by the Bangladeshi Department of CRI (China Radio International) and the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and co-organized by the Golden Village Hotel of Bangladesh and the Confucius Class of the National Radio of Bangladesh.

During the festival, five senior chefs from Love Chef Information Technology Co., Ltd. (Beijing) visited Bangladesh for the first time. During the 5-day food festival, with respective expertise in cooking, they presented the profound Chinese food culture to a local audience. While enjoying nice food, Bangladeshi people were able to appreciate great cooking skills and dishes, including food carving, noodle stretching, assorted cold dishes, Chinese pastries, and Chinese Muslim dishes. At the opening ceremony of the food festival, students and teachers from the Confucius Class of the National Radio of Bangladesh practiced Tai Chi, performed a show about learning Chinese and sang popular Chinese songs.

Yunnan student wins Bronze Prize at IAO

BY YANG ZHIGAO

Recently, at the 20th International Astronomy Olympiad (IAO) held in Kazan, Russia, Wang Weibang ---a grade-10 student from Pu'er City, Yunnan---won a bronze prize in the competition of junior grades. This was the first time a student from Yunnan has won a prize at the competition.

The International Astronomy Olympiad is an internationally acknowledged annual astronomy Olympiad for high school students age 14-18. It tests participants' knowledge of astronomy. In April this year, Wang Weibang won the championship at the finals of the 2015 National Astronomy Olympiad for Chinese High School Students. He then represented China in the 20th International Astronomy Olympiad. Accordingly, Wang Weibang started to compete in the Astronomy Olympiad beginning since 2013. Through persistent hard work in the following years, he made progress step by step; and finally won the prize.



FINANCE

BOC Releases CRI in Yunnan for the first time

BY YANG SHYUYAN

Recently, Bank of China (BOC) released its Cross-Border RMB Index(CRI) in August 2015 in Yunnan. It was the first time the Index was released in Yunnan.

The results showed that the CRI in August was 321 points, an increase of 42 points over the previous month and the highest since 2013. This indicates growth in the use of the ratio of RMB in cross-border or oversea payments, representing good momentum in the development and progress of RMB internalization.

The Bank of China's Cross-Border RMB Index was independently developed by itself to reflect the usage of RMB in cross-border and oversea transactions, and to indirectly reflect the indicative index for the development of RMB internationalization. By tracking the usage of RMB

in cross-border and overseas transactions, the index reflects the complete scale, structure and level of cross-border circulation of RMB. With this index, clients can be better guided to choose and use cross-border RMB products and services. Meanwhile, it can be used by government departments and research institutions as references in making decisions.

Since the pilot project of cross-border RMB settlement in Yunnan Province was launched in July 2010, RMB has become a new choice for global trade and investment. In the past 5 years, the Yunnan Branch of the Bank of China has improved RMB internalization. By the end of September, the amount of cross-border RMB payments made through the Yunnan Branch totaled more than RMB 90 billion, maintaining the largest market share in Yunnan Province for 5 years in a row.

DEPICTING KUNMING-BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY

Three Visits to Vientiane



Nowadays, there are buses running regularly from Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province to Vientiane, Laos on the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway.

Photo by Yang Zheng

BY ZHONGZHONG

My grandma's brother-in-law, who lives in Vientiane, is over 80 years old this year. While he has lived there, I have visited him only three times. Moreover, I stayed for less than one week during the first two visits.

My first visit to Vientiane was in the mid-1970s, the year when I was about to start school. I can still remember that it was raining heavily when my family arrived in Vientiane. If my mom hadn't fallen badly on the muddy country road because of the fatigue, I would have sound-

ly slept in her arms. My parents thought I would cry and make noises. But when I saw the embarrassing situation my mom was in when my dad helped her up, I laughed. My mom got somewhat angry and protested by not carrying me anymore. So my dad had to carry the luggage on his back and hold mom and me with each hand. Just like this, we stumbled into my grandma's brother-in-law's house.

My second visit to Vientiane was 15 years ago. With all exit formalities ready, I set out from Yunnan. It was burning hot. After travelling for a few hours, I arrived at the final

stop. I rushed into the chartered car with my grandma's brother-in-law. What was more painful than the humid hot weather were the narrow roads crowded with cars and people. The car moved even slower than walking. Several times, I tried to get out of the car and walk. But the luggage was too heavy, and I had to give up and suffered for three hours.

In the evening, I didn't want to eat and I even didn't have the mood to appreciate the night view of Vientiane. After supper, I simply told my grandma's brother-in-law, "I'm going back to China now!" Thus, my plan of staying in Vientiane for one month shrank into less than one day.

However, things change as time goes by. Last year when I was in Kunming on a business trip, I borrowed a car to travel around. It was fast to drive on the wide flat Kunming-Bangkok Expressway. Some kind of feeling came to me and I made a random decision to visit Vientiane.

For a traveler like me, the picturesque scenery on both sides of the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway activated a sense of being enlightened. Particularly, with the Kunming-Bangkok Expressway passing my grandma's brother-in-law's house, I forgot completely the terrible driving conditions over 15 years ago. The country road I remem-

bered had also vanished without a trace. I called my uncle, saying, "I'm visiting you in Vientiane!" He asked, "Are we having a fairy from the heaven? You should have let me know in advance that you were coming..."

My uncle also said, "This time, are you going to stay for more than a few days?"

"Sure," I answered affirmatively. Then, full of delight, I added, "I promise to visit you every year in the future. I want to experience the new scenery and new changes along the highway from Kunming to Vientiane!"

The other day, Yunnan Daily Press Group launched the "Depicting Kunming-Bangkok Expressway" Photography & Writing Contest. This story is for the Contest. If you have any experiences with the Expressway and are interested in the contest, please share your stories and photos with us at Kunmingbangkok@163.com. Winners will be granted bonuses of which the highest is RMB 5,000.

YUNNAN MEMORY

Remains of 347 Expeditionary Force Soldiers return home

BY TAN JIANGHUA

On October 29th, You Guangcai, a 96-year-old veteran of the Chinese Expeditionary Force, wept at the Memorial Museum of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. More than 70 years ago, many of his comrades died in Myitkyina, Myanmar. It is a comfort that, 70 years later, the

remains of 347 out of over 60,000 soldiers who died in Myanmar returned to China through the Houqiao Crossing in Tengchong County of Yunnan Province recently. They will be buried on Haipo Mountain in Shidian County, Yunnan.

Returning the remains of the Chinese expeditionary force soldiers who died in Myanmar is jointly organized by several institutions. They

include the Shenzhen Longyue Philanthropic Foundation and the Chinese Martyrs Glorification Promotion Association. Launched on April 10th, 2015, the activity aims to find and collect the remains of dead soldiers of the Chinese Expeditionary Force and to send the remains back and bury them in China. A DNA test will be performed on the remains of each body found, while a database

will be set up for further searching for their families. Earlier on, some caring people and institutions visited Myanmar on two occasions, once in 2011 and again in 2014. They brought back the remains of hundreds of dead Expeditionary Force soldiers.

During the Second World War, the Chinese Expeditionary Force fought in Myanmar and contributed

remarkably to the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. This time, the remains were being excavated from a cemetery that buried soldiers from the First New Army of the Chinese Expeditionary Force who died during the Myitkyina Battle. The Myitkyina Battle took place from May 17th to August 3rd in 1944.

It was the biggest battle the Chinese army fought overseas during the Second World War, and also the biggest victory. At that time, the Chinese army in India sent 3 divisions to fight against the Japanese army. In the battle, 1,044 soldiers from the 30th Division (under the First New Army) of the Chinese Army died, 2,256 were injured and 51 went missing.

When the battle was over, the three divisions that fought in Myitkyina built 3 cemeteries. It was explained by the participating experts of the evacuation that, because several bodies were buried in a same pit, the number 347 was given by skeleton identification experts based on a preliminary evaluation on the minimum bodies that could be held in one tomb.