



ONE BELT AND ONE ROAD

## China · Yunnan news page launched in Thailand

BY LI HONGFENG

On December 15, the *China-Yunnan* English-language news page jointly published by Yunnan Daily Press Group (YDPG) and Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper was launched in Bangkok, Thailand. It marks a new step in the cooperative effort between YDPG and Thai mainstream media.

According to a cooperation agreement signed between YDPG and *The Nation* of Thailand, *China-Yunnan* will be published twice every month (in the first and third weeks) as an English-language news page in the Thai newspaper.

The news page aims to help Thai people of all circles better under-

stand Yunnan. It will provide them with information on investment and business opportunities and tourism in Yunnan, thus promoting economic and social development in both Thailand and Yunnan.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Tian Jing, deputy editor-in-chief of YDPG, said an estimated 500,000 Thais visit Yunnan each year, while 900,000 Yunnanese travel to Thailand. Building on the print agreement, the two media outlets plan to establish a cooperative "New Media Alliance"—focusing on digital content—while also opening offices in Bangkok and Kunming.

The New Media Alliance will assemble influential new media and new media groups from both China

(Yunnan) and Thailand. Built on the principles of "equality, friendliness, mutual benefit and win-win," its member press entities will take the lead in sharing news and information within the Alliance, provide links to each other's websites and spread each other's important information and commercial advertisements.

For YDPG, the collaboration is also an opportunity to promote Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative. Southeast Asia is an important cog in the Initiative to increase China's cooperation with other countries across Asia, while also more closely linking the country to Europe and Africa. One goal of the initiative specifically related to

Thailand is the long-planned Kunming-Thailand Railway.

YDPG was originally founded in 2001. It has established partnerships in the US, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Cambodia since 1995 and now owns 10 overseas news pages. As a subsidiary of Thailand's Nation Multimedia Group, Nation News Network Company is the publisher of the English-language daily newspaper *The Nation* in Thailand. Nation Multimedia Group is the largest integrated media group in Thailand. And *The Nation* has been acting as an independent press operator for 46 years and represents the benchmark of Thai and regional journalism.



From left to right, Tianjing, deputy editor-in-chief of YDPG, Wu Zhiwu, Minister Counsellor of Chinese Embassy in Thailand, Veera Rojpojanarat, Cultural Minister of Thailand and Pana Janvirroj, president of Nation News Network jointly powered up the crystal ball to launch the *China-Yunnan* news page. Photo by Liu Yanqin

COOPERATION

### Yunnan and Tsinghua seek win-win development

BY CHEN XIAOBO

On December 17, Yunnan Province signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Through this agreement, Yunnan hopes Tsinghua will provide strong support for the province's scientific and technological innovation, disaster prevention, poverty alleviation and border development, facilitating upgrades in Yunnan's industrial, economic and social development.

In the past years, according to Qiu Yong, president of Tsinghua University, Yunnan and Tsinghua have carried out fruitful cooperation in personnel training, targeted aid, poverty alleviation through education and health care and many other fields. Tsinghua will combine its advantages with Yunnan's actual situation. It will strengthen pragmatic cooperation with Yunnan in education, health care, poverty alleviation and technologic innovation to boost Yunnan's leap-frog development.

Based on the Agreement, the two parties will establish a stronger cooperation mechanism. They will exploit their respective advantages and deepen cooperation in personnel training, discipline construction, scientific research, cultural heritage, poverty alleviation and other areas, jointly building Yunnan into a demonstration zone of ethnic unity and progress, a vanguard in ecological civilization construction and a pivot of China's opening up to South Asia and Southeast Asia.

NGO



Dwight Yorke, former player of Manchester United Football Club visited Yunnan's western Dali City on December 10. There he played football with pupils from local Changyu Elementary School. The visit is one of the activities of "Red Chalk Program" and Dwight Yorke is one of its volunteers. Photo by Chen Haining (Xinhua News Agency)

DISCOVERY

### Research shows: China's evolution centre of tapirs is in Yunnan

BY YANG ZHIGAO

Experts from China and foreign countries have recently suggested: During the period of Middle-late Miocene, Yunnan was China's tapirs' evolution centre, as remains of tapirs has been found in such places as Zhaotong, Kaiyuan, and Lufeng in Yunnan Province.

In 1978, Mo Zhuang and other people from the Beijing Nature Museum, with the help of a Yunnan coal geology team, dug up some mammal fossils in Yongle Lignite Mine of Zhaotong. According to the stubs

of inferior maxilla of some tapir fossils, they established a new species, Yunnan tapir, and they thought its geological age was Post-Pliocene about 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 years ago.

Since 2007, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania University of US, Yunnan Province' Cultural Relic Archaeological Exploitation Institute discovered the inferior maxilla fossil of tapirs while surveying the Shuitangba lignite pit in Zhaotong City. For the first time, they confirmed the stratigraphic position of the colony; thus, it triggered a series of large-scaled excavations and important discoveries, including the ancient el-

ephant's skeleton, the ancient ape's skull and many well-protected specimens of Yunnan tapirs, making the ancient ape fossil site of Zhaotong become the place with the richest tapir fossils in Yunnan.

The discovered specimens are very rare stuff for studying the evolution of tapirs in the end period of Miocene. According to the preliminary study, Yunnan tapirs and their close relatives might have been the direct ancestors of the tapirs in the late Cenozoic period, and the distribution times of Yunnan tapirs continued for about 5,000,000 years altogether.

COOPERATION

### BCIM strengthen disease control cooperation

BY PENG XI

During the first BCIM Health and Disease Control Cooperation Forum held recently in Yunnan, experts from Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar reached a consensus to strengthen cooperation in health and disease control to cope with cross-border transmission of diseases.

After extensive discussions, experts and scholars from the four countries reached a consensus that health and disease control are related to not only people's livelihood and well-being but also all countries' sustainable development and security.

They agreed that the four governments should attach great importance to this issue and increase human, material and financial inputs. In addition, the four countries need to enhance interaction and coordination between governmental and non-governmental efforts and bring their respective advantages into full play.

Cross-border transmission of diseases

has become a common challenge faced by BCIM countries. With increasing economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges among the four countries, the cross-border transmission of diseases has become a prominent issue that can not be addressed with the strength of any individual country. This requires the four countries to strengthen regional cooperation and make joint efforts.

Experts and scholars believe the four countries should take practical measures to encourage and support exchanges and cooperation between government agencies, research institutes, experts, scholars and grassroots medical workers.

In addition, Yunnan plans to build a BCIM health and disease control information exchange network at Dehong Vocational College. With Internet technology, the network will provide an efficient communication platform so that the four countries can exchange experience and share resources and information from all sides.

### Thailand and China launch railway project

BY ZHANG CHUNXIAO

Thailand and China launched a railway project in Ayutthaya, Thailand on 19, marking the beginning of bilateral cooperation to develop Thailand's first standard-gauge double-track railway line.

The launching ceremony was held at Chiang Rak Noi Station in central Thailand's Ayutthaya province, where the future Operations Control Center

of the railway project will be located. The two sides are collaborating in building a medium-speed railway line, which uses 1.435-meter standard gauge with trains operating at top speeds of 160-180 kph.

The 845-kilometer line is divided into four sections, namely, Bangkok-Kaeng Khoi, Kaeng Khoi-Map Ta Phut, Kaeng Khoi-Nakhon Ratchasima and Nakhon Ratchasima-Nong Khai. It will pass through a total of 10 Thai provinces.

Thailand-China cooperation in railway development will help Thailand make better use of its geographic advantages as a land transportation hub, and boost its economic growth, Governor of State Railways of Thailand Wutthichart Kalayanamit said at the launching ceremony.

Thai Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith termed the ceremony an important step in Sino-Thai cooperation and an important event to celebrate the

“Thailand-China cooperation in railway development will help Thailand make better use of its geographic advantages as a land transportation hub, and boost its economic growth.”

Wutthichart Kalayanamit  
Governor of State Railways of Thailand

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

The Thai government has always been supporting and promoting the Thailand-China railway project, and wishes it to be quickly implemented and railway lines inside Thailand to be connected with those in the southern part of China as soon as possible, Arkhom said.

On Dec. 19, 2014,

Thailand and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on railway cooperation under the Strategic Framework for Development of Thailand's Transportation Infrastructure 2015-2022.

The Joint Committee on Railway Cooperation between the Thailand and China has so far held nine rounds of talks. Both sides are speeding up efforts with the goal of starting construction in May 2016.

Over the past year, the two sides have seen quick progress in railway cooperation, with a lot of preliminary work done, said Wang Xiaotao, deputy head of China's National Development and Reform Commission.

Relying on its own experience in railway construction and advanced technologies, the Chinese side will help Thailand train technical and management personnel, and enhance its capabilities for pursuing further railway development, he added. (Xinhua News Agency)

YUNNAN IN THE EYES OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

### Ruili Port, a place where Chinese and Myanmar peoples are so close

BY ZHANG ZHAO

In Ruili Port, Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan, there are a lot of people wearing golden blushers. They are actually a Myanmar sun cream that cools the face like peppermint. Over time, both people on Myanmar and Chinese border wear such blushers so that you cannot tell whether they are from China or Myanmar.

Here, Chinese vehicles and

Myanmar vehicles run side by side on the road. Newspapers, billboards and leaflets are in both Chinese and Myanmar language. In addition to trade exchanges, people living on the Chinese and Myanmar border can inter-marry, bringing the two peoples so close that you can use "blood is thicker than water" to describe their relations.

In order to regulate currency exchanges between the two peoples and deepen China-Myanmar

economic and trade relations, the first Chinese-Myanmar currency exchange centre was set up at Ruili Jiegao Border Trade Zone on March 31, 2015. When we came to the currency exchange centre, Zaw Win Khaing, executive director of Yangon Media Group, specially changed some Myanmar kyat into Chinese yuan for an experience.

Given frequent contacts between the two peoples, the Government of Ruili City set up

an expatriate service and management centre in May 2013. Through public security, health, labour and other sectors, the centre provides Myanmar people in Ruili with one-stop services, issuing their residence and employment certificates and protecting their legitimate rights and interests. To date, the centre has issued certificates to more than 40,000 Myanmar people.

The exchanges between people living on the Chinese and

Myanmar border are not limited to these aspects. At the expatriate service and management centre, we read a news story entitled "Ruili Delegation Participates in Songkran in Muse of Myanmar" in an issue of the *Ruili Border Special Zone Weekly*, which reported how people living on the Chinese and Myanmar border celebrated Songkran together.

(Note: This is an excerpt for a news story published in "Khmer Daily" in Cambodia on June 6.)