
16 years old swimmer Ye Shiwen gave the Chinese team a surprise. In the women’s 400m individual medley, Ye Shiwen won the gold medal and broke the world record with a time of 4’28” 43.

At the 2012 London Olympics, Lei Sheng became the first Chinese man to win the Olympic men’s foil gold, overcoming a brave bid from Egypt’s Alaaeldin Abouelkassem in the first final of the event since 1900 not to feature a European.

In the Sailing Lei Dier-level Women’s Single Sculls competition held on August 5, the Chinese player Xu Lijia, won a heavy gold medal for the Chinese sailing team, and broke the monopoly by European and American players for long time.

During the 2012 London Olympic Games Chinese athletes Chen Ding won the gold medal of men’s 20 km race walking. His results was 1 hour 18 minutes and 46 seconds. This is the second gold medal by any Chinese man athletes in the track and field of Olympic Games after Liu Xiang.

Li Xiaoxia extended China’s domination in women’s table tennis, winning the singles final of the London Olympics. Afterwards, she won the gold medal with her teammates Ding Ning and Guo Yue in the competition of team event.
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I. CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS

Chinese Embassy in India Holds a Reception Celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the Founding of the PLA

On the evening of 27 July 2012, Major General Cai Ping of the Chinese Embassy in India held a reception at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Liberation Army. Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yan, Lieutenant General Langer, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defense Staff and Director General of Defense Intelligence Agency attended the reception, together with nearly 300 guests including friends from the Indian government and military circle, envoys and defense attachés from diplomatic missions in India, representatives from Chinese enterprises, students and media based in New Delhi and diplomats of the Chinese Embassy in India.

Major General Cai Ping said in the welcoming remarks that in the course of its 85-year development, the PLA resolutely safeguarded national sovereignty and territorial integrity, actively participated in national construction and economic development, continuously accelerated the transformation in military affairs and made remarkable achievements in all fields. China pursues a defensive national defense policy. China is vigorously developing military exchanges and establishing mutual trust through security cooperation with other countries in the world. He stressed that committed to peace, cooperation and development, the PLA has actively participated in UN peacekeeping operations, the escorting of the Gulf of Aden and other overseas humanitarian rescue operation. The PLA is willing to work with foreign armed forces to make greater contributions in building a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.

Lieutenant General Langer recalled the long history of civilization of two great nations, spoke highly of the PLA’s achievements in its modernization and regularization. He hoped to further develop the friendly military ties between the two countries.
Indian Students Participate in the Third International Children’s Art Festival of Xinjiang, China

From July 20 to 26, 2012, the Third International Children’s Art Festival of Xinjiang, China was held in Urumqi. With the assistance of the Chinese Embassy in India, an Indian delegation consisting 9 students and a dance teacher from Bal Bharti Public School (Dwarka Branch), New Delhi, participated in this event. The delegation was led by Mr. Dhirendra Bhatnagar, Secretary General of the Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India.

The Indian delegation presented traditional dances during the festival, which were greatly appreciated by the audience. Their participation also boosted friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and India. This annual festival started from the year of 2010.

For this newly organized round, there were art performances, exhibitions and visiting activities arranged for more than 360 participants, among which 9 groups are from India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia and South Korea, and 8 groups from domestic schools of China.

II. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Chinese President’s Speech at Opening Ceremony of Fifth Ministerial Conference of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

On July 19, 2012, Chinese President Hu Jintao delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) entitled as “Open Up New Prospects for A New Type of China-Africa Strategic Partnership.” The following is the full text of Hu’s speech:
Open Up New Prospects for A New Type of China-Africa Strategic Partnership

Speech by H.E. Hu Jintao
President of the People‘s Republic of China
At the Opening Ceremony of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of
The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
Beijing, 19 July 2012

Dear Colleagues,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

I am delighted to meet you at the opening of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, as we are gathered here both to renew the friendship between the Chinese and African peoples and discuss ways to boost China-Africa friendship and all-round cooperation. On behalf of the Chinese government and people and in my own name, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all the distinguished guests coming from afar. I also wish to take this opportunity to convey through you the cordial greetings and best wishes of the Chinese people to the brotherly African people!

In October 2000, FOCAC was set up in response to the call of the times. This initiative demonstrates the shared desire of the Chinese and African people to seek peace, cooperation and development in a changing world. In the past 12 years since its founding, the FOCAC member states, maintaining unity and working together, have made important progress in strengthening this mechanism of cooperation. The theme of the current Ministerial Conference is “build on past achievements and open up new prospects for the new type of China-Africa strategic partnership.” China and Africa should, with both current and
long-term needs in mind, redouble efforts to draw up a blueprint for promoting our cooperation in the next stage and lay a solid foundation for making new and greater progress in growing China-Africa relations in the years ahead.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When we met here six years ago at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, China and Africa decided to establish a new type of strategic partnership. Since then, important progress has been made in realizing this vision thanks to the joint efforts of both sides. China and Africa have enhanced all-round friendly political relations featuring mutual respect and mutual trust. We have conducted more frequent high-level exchange of visits and more in-depth dialogue and exchanges, and provided stronger support to each other. China’s relations with all African countries, the African Union (AU) and other regional organizations have grown in strength. China has formed strategic partnerships and launched strategic dialogue mechanisms with many African countries. And China has supported African countries in independently resolving hotspot issues in the region and advancing the process of African integration. China and Africa have deepened practical economic cooperation featuring mutual benefit. We have joined hands to fight the international financial crisis, effectively implemented the eight measures for practical cooperation announced at the Beijing Summit and eight additional measures announced at the Fourth Ministerial Conference, and made steady progress in building a framework of all-round cooperation. China’s trade with and investment in Africa have been expanding. In 2011, our two-way trade reached 166.3 billion U.S. dollars, three times the figure in 2006. Cumulative Chinese direct investment in Africa has exceeded 15 billion U.S. dollars, with investment projects covering 50 countries. The AU Conference Center and Office Complex built by China was handed over to the African side. China’s assistance to Africa has been growing steadily. China has built over 100 schools, 30 hospitals, 30 anti-malaria centers and 20 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa. It has met the pledge of providing 15 billion U.S. dollars of lending of a preferential nature to Africa. China and Africa have conducted increasing people-to-people and cultural exchanges featuring mutual learning. A number of activities have been carried out, including the Chinese/African Cultures in Focus, Joint Research and Exchange Plan, Think Tanks Forum, People’s Forum and Young Leaders Forum. China has trained close to 40,000 African personnel in various sectors and provided over 20,000 government scholarships to African countries. China and Africa have set up 29 Confucius Institutes or Classrooms in 22 African countries. Twenty pairs of leading Chinese and African universities have entered into cooperation under the 20+20 Cooperation Plan for Chinese and African Institutions of Higher Education. China and African have enjoyed closer ties of solidarity and coordination featuring mutual help and mutual support in international affairs. Our two sides have worked closely on UN reform, countering climate change, sustainable development, WTO Doha Round negotiations and other major issues. In so doing, we have upheld the common interests of developing countries, promoted democracy in international relations, and we are working to make the international order more just and equitable.

Facts have shown that the new type of China-Africa strategic partnership is the result of continuous growth of the traditional friendship between the two sides. It meets the fundamental interests of China and Africa and conforms to the global trend of peace, development and cooperation. The forging of this partnership has inaugurated a new historical process in growing China-Africa relations and added new momentum to China-Africa exchanges and cooperation. I am confident that, with our joint
efforts, the new type of China-Africa strategic partnership will embrace an even brighter future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tremendous changes have taken place in the world since we met here six years ago. Peace, development and cooperation remain the trend of our times. On the other hand, uncertainties and destabilizing factors in international developments have notably increased. The impact of the international financial crisis is still with us. Regional and international hotspot issues keep emerging. Developing countries have maintained strong momentum of growth, but they are also confronted with many difficulties and challenges.

In recent years, the African countries and people, working with perseverance and vision, have made remarkable achievements in promoting Africa’s peace and development. But Africa still faces major challenges in its development endeavor. The international community should continue to give high priority to enhancing peace and development in Africa and increase input in this area. It should respect Africa’s wish, listen to its views, address its concerns and help it meet the Millennium Development Goals at an early date.

China is the world’s largest developing country, and Africa is home to the largest number of developing countries in the world. China and Africa, together with over one third of the world’s population, are an important force for advancing world peace and development. China and Africa share a common destiny, and China-Africa friendship is cherished by the Chinese and African peoples. The Chinese and African peoples have always treated each other as equals and with sincerity and friendship, extended mutual support and pursued common development. No matter how the international landscape may change, China will remain unchanged in its commitment to supporting Africa’s peace, stability, development and unity. We will give genuine support to African countries’ independent choice of development paths and genuinely help African countries strengthen capacity for self development. We will continue to stand firm with the African people and forever be a good friend, good partner and good brother of the African people.

In a world of profound changes, the Chinese and African peoples have high hopes for the growth of China-Africa relations. This means that we should, with a keen sense of responsibility and mission, adapt to new developments, set new goals, take new measures, and solve new problems so as to open up new prospects in building a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership.

— To open up new prospects for a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership, China and Africa should strengthen political mutual trust. We should carry forward our traditional friendship, maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, enhance strategic dialogue, increase experience sharing on governance, do away with external interference, and deepen mutual understanding and trust. China will, together with the international community, staunchly support African countries in upholding peace and stability and seeking strength through unity. China will play a positive and constructive role in African affairs.

— To open up new prospects for a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership, China and Africa should expand practical cooperation. We should expand areas and explore new ways of cooperation. We should do more to conduct cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure and other priority development areas in Africa. We should work harder to carry out advanced cooperation in investment, finance, services and technology transfer and improve trade mix and upgrade trade. And we should redouble efforts to help African countries enhance capacity for self development. Our goal is for China-Africa cooperation to benefit more of our peoples.
— To open up new prospects for a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership, China and Africa should increase cultural and people-to-people exchanges. We should encourage exchanges and interactions between our two great civilizations at various levels and in various ways, strengthen exchanges in education, culture, science and technology, health, sports and tourism, and increase contacts between youth, women, people’s organizations, media and academic institutions of the two sides. In this way, we will provide intellectual inspiration and cultural support for China-Africa cooperation and win even greater popular support for China-Africa friendship.

— To open up new prospects for a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership, China and Africa should increase coordination and cooperation in international affairs. We should jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and promote democracy in international relations and harmonious and balanced global development. We should oppose the practices of the big bullying the small, the strong domineering over the weak, and the rich oppressing the poor. We should step up consultation and coordination, accommodate each other’s concerns, and work together to meet global challenges on climate change, food security and sustainable development.

— To open up new prospects for a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership, China and Africa should make FOCAC stronger. We should, in light of the latest international developments and new progress in the growth of China-Africa relations, develop new thinking and new forms of cooperation to enhance FOCAC. We should motivate FOCAC members and fully tap their enthusiasm and creativity so as to enhance the cohesion and influence of FOCAC, and make it a more effective platform for cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the past six decades and more since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, and particularly since the reform and opening-up program was launched over 30 years ago, China has made remarkable achievements in its economic and social development. We will always remember and we are grateful from the bottom of our heart for the vigorous support and help the African countries and people have given to our development effort. While the way ahead will not be a smooth one for us, we have full confidence in China’s future development. China will stay committed to peaceful development. At the same time, we will endeavor to uphold world peace and promote common development.

In the next three years, the Chinese government will take measures in the following five priority areas to support the cause of peace and development in Africa and boost a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership.

First, we will expand cooperation in investment and financing to support sustainable development in Africa. China will provide 20 billion dollars of credit line to African countries to assist them in developing infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Second, we will continue to increase assistance to Africa to bring the benefits of development to the African people. China will build more agricultural technology demonstration centers as necessary to help African countries increase production capacity. China will implement the “African Talents Program” to train 30,000 personnel in various sectors for Africa, offer 18,000 government scholarships, and build cultural and vocational skills training facilities in African countries. China will deepen medical and health cooperation with Africa, send 1,500 medical personnel to Africa, and continue to carry out the “Brightness Action” activities in Africa to provide free treatment for cataract patients. China will help African countries enhance capacity building in meteorological infrastructure and forest protection.
and management. China will continue to carry out well-drilling and water supply projects in Africa to provide safe drinking water for the African people.

Third, we will support the African integration process and help Africa enhance capacity for overall development. China will establish a partnership with Africa on transnational and trans-regional infrastructural development, support related project planning and feasibility studies and encourage established Chinese companies and financial institutions to take part in transnational and trans-regional infrastructural development in Africa. China will help African countries upgrade customs and commodity inspection facilities to promote intra-regional trade facilitation.

Fourth, we will enhance people-to-people friendship to lay a solid foundation of public support for enhancing China-Africa common development. China proposes to carry out “China-Africa people-to-people friendship action” to support and promote exchanges and cooperation between people’s organizations, women and youth of the two sides. China proposes to set up a “China-Africa Press Exchange Center” in China to encourage exchanges and visits between Chinese and African media, and China supports exchange of correspondents by media organizations of the two sides. China will continue to implement the China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Plan to sponsor 100 programs for research, exchange and cooperation by academic institutions and scholars of the two sides.

Fifth, we should promote peace and stability in Africa and create a secure environment for Africa’s development. China will launch the “Initiative on China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security,” deepen cooperation with the AU and African countries in peace and security in Africa, provide financial support for the AU peace-keeping missions in Africa and the development of the African Standby Force, and train more officials in peace and security affairs and peace-keepers for the AU.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To open up new prospects for a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership and jointly build a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity is our shared goal and responsibility. Let us join hands and work for a bright future for us all.

In conclusion, I wish the Fifth FOCAC Ministerial Conference every success!

Thank you.

Six-point Proposal Offered in FOCAC Beijing Declaration to Boost New Strategic Partnership

A six-point proposal to deepen the new type of strategic partnership was offered by China and the involved African countries in the Beijing Declaration of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) issued in Beijing on July 20, 2012.

With the aim of promoting the development of the new type of China-Africa strategic partnership featuring political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchange, the declaration suggested the two sides further strengthen political consultation and strategic dialogue, increase high-level visits, enhance the sharing of experience in governance, and respect and support each other’s core interests regarding various issues including sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The document called on the sides to increase
their exchanges and cooperation in operationalizing Africa’s Peace and Security Architecture, continuing to support and assist African countries in increasing their capabilities for maintaining peace and security, and enhance coordination and other multilateral institution.

“We call on the international community to support the efforts of African countries and regional organizations in independently resolving African issues,” read the declaration.

The declaration suggested strengthening China’s cooperation with the African Union (AU), take joint measures to promote Africa’s solidarity, harmony and strength through unity, and support measures for African regional integration and sustainable development efforts through the AU and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

According to the declaration, China and the involved African countries pledged to fully explore and utilize each other’s comparative advantages, expand mutually beneficial economic cooperation and balanced trade, adopt innovative ways to boost cooperation, improve cooperation environment and properly handle problems and difficulties arising in cooperation.

The two sides should continue to strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation in a bid to vigorously carry out the dialogue between China and Africa, said the declaration.

Finally, China and involved African countries suggested further strengthening cooperation between the two sides in international affairs, taking into full account each other’s legitimate concerns and aspirations, strengthening coordination and mutual support, and working together to promote democracy in international relations and build a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity.

The FOCAC is a collective consultation and dialogue mechanism between China and African countries launched in 2000. This year’s forum runs from July 19 to 20.

Chinese FM Stresses Joint Efforts with ASEAN to Maintain Peace in South China Sea

Jakarta, Aug. 10 (Xinhua) — China called on ASEAN countries to make joint efforts to maintain peace in the South China Sea.

“To maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea is the shared responsibility of all countries in the region,” Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told a joint press conference with his Indonesian counterpart Marty Natalegawa.

“China is willing to work with Indonesia and other ASEAN countries to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the
Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, build mutual trust, promote cooperation, maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea and work, in accordance with the principles and spirit of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and on the basis of consensus, toward the eventual adoption of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea,” he added.

Earlier Friday, Yang held talks with Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to discuss deepening the all-round strategic cooperation between the two countries. Yang also co-chaired with Marty Natalegawa the second meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation. Yang emphasized that China attaches great importance to the strategic partnership with Indonesia, and will further deepen energy and food cooperation with Indonesia.

As countries with important influence in the region, China and Indonesia should join hands to work for sound and sustained development of regional cooperation, Yang said. Yang said China will continue to support the building of the ASEAN community and support ASEAN in playing the leading role in East Asia cooperation. Yang said that his visit to Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia on August 9 to 13 is aimed to promote the in-depth growth of the strategic partnership between China and the 10-member ASEAN and to enhance cooperation on international and regional affairs.

**China Strongly Opposes U.S. State Department’s Statement on South China Sea**

Beijing, Aug. 4 (Xinhua) — China expressed its strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition on the press statement released Friday by the U.S. Department of State on the South China Sea, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said here Saturday.

The statement “completely ignored the facts, deliberately confounded right and wrong, and sent a seriously wrong signal, which is not conducive to the efforts safeguarding the peace and stability of the South China Sea and the Asia Pacific region,” Qin said in a statement.

China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters, and has ample historical basis for this, said Qin.

China set up offices in Xisha, Nansha and Zhongsha Islands, which were affiliated to the Guangdong Province, in 1959, to administrate the three islands and their adjacent waters, said Qin.

“Setting up Sansha city is the Chinese government’s necessary adjustment of the current administrative agencies, which is completely within China’s sovereignty,” he said.

It needs to be pointed out that China and regional countries have worked to maintain the peace and stability of the South China Sea, and safeguard the freedom of navigation and trade in the past 20 years, said Qin.

In 2002, China and Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which states that sovereign states directly concerned should resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means and through friendly consultations and negotiations, and should not take moves that will escalate and complicate the disputes, said Qin.

However, it is worrisome that certain countries do not respect and abide by the DOC, by undermining the basic principle and spirit of the DOC again and again in a provocative way, said Qin. “This has created difficulties for the negotiation of the Code of Conduct (COC).”

Therefore, China, while holding an open
attitude towards the negotiation of the COC with the ASEAN countries, advocates that parties concerned should strictly abide by the DOC, so as to create necessary conditions and atmosphere for the negotiation of the COC, Qin said.

The United States on Friday voiced concerns about rising tensions over the South China Sea, and cited China’s establishment of Sansha city and garrison to single Beijing out for criticism. Why does the U.S. turn a blind eye to the facts that certain countries opened a number of oil and gas blocks, and issued domestic laws illegally appropriating Chinese islands and waters? Why does the U.S. avoid talking about the threats of military vessels to Chinese fishermen by certain countries and their unjustified claims of sovereignty rights over Chinese islands? And why do they choose to abruptly express concerns on and fiddle with the issue at a moment when regional countries are enhancing communication and dialogue and trying to solve the disputes and calm the situation? Qin asked.

“The selective blindness and expression of concerns of the U.S. side run against the attitude of ‘no position’ and ‘not to intervene’ that they have claimed to hold on the South China Sea issue, and is not conducive to the unity, cooperation, peace and stability in the region,” Qin said.

At the moment, the Asia-Pacific region, a relatively stable and dynamic region in the world, is a major engine for the global economic recovery, Qin said.

The U.S. side should follow the trend of the times, respect the common aspiration of countries in the region to maintain peace and stability and promote development, respect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and make more contributions to the peace and prosperity of the Asia Pacific, said Qin.

China and ASEAN countries have established the largest free trade area among developing countries since the two sides initiated dialogue more than 20 years ago. The two sides have jointly faced the challenges of Asian financial crisis, the global economic and financial crisis as well as major natural disasters, making progress in cooperation in all areas, according to Qin.

China attached great importance to the friendly cooperation with ASEAN, support the process of ASEAN integration and ASEAN’ s major role in the East Asia cooperation, said Qin.

China is ready to work with ASEAN countries to eliminate disturbance and further promote the development of the bilateral strategic partnership, Qin said.

10 Vietnamese Fishermen Rescued Near China’s Sansha

Guangzhou, Aug. 10 (Xinhua) — Ten Vietnamese fishermen were rescued Thursday after their boat ran aground near China’s newly-founded city of Sansha in the South China Sea, China’s maritime authorities said Friday.

The South China Sea Rescue Bureau said it received a report early Thursday morning that Vietnamese-flagged fishing boat QNG92443 ran aground in waters of the Xisha islands following an engine failure. The ship was located at the Langhua Reef, about 60 nautical miles south of Yongxing Island, where the government seat of Sansha is stationed.

The bureau said it immediately dispatched a vehicle to the site and rescued 10 Vietnamese fishermen, who were found floating at sea on pontoons, at 3 p.m.

The fishermen have been sent to Yongxing Island, the bureau added.

China started forming the government of
Sansha in mid-July. It is a prefecture-level city that administers the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islands and the surrounding waters in the South China Sea.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi Holds Talks with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Troika Delegation

On August 9, 2012, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi held talks with representatives of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Troika including Alfredo Moreno Charme, Chilean foreign minister, Nicolas Maduro Moros, Venezuelan foreign minister and Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Cuban vice foreign minister. Both sides exchanged in-depth views on China’s relations with CELAC, China-Latin America cooperation as well as other international and regional issues of common concern.

They agreed that establishing relations and conducting dialogue and cooperation between China and CELAC were in the interests of both sides and would contribute to the comprehensive cooperative partnership between China and Latin America, which features equality, mutual benefit and common development. Both sides agreed to set up a regular foreign ministers’ dialogue mechanism between China and Latin American and Caribbean States Troika and hold the first round of dialogue in September. Both sides agreed to promote China-CELAC dialogues and exchanges so as to expand the pragmatic cooperation between China and Latin America and establish the China-Latin America cooperation forum.

China and Bhutan Hold the 20th Round of Border Talks

On August 10, 2012, Fu Ying, head of the Chinese delegation and Vice Foreign Minister and Khandu Wangchuk, head of the Bhutanese delegation and Acting Foreign Minister of Bhutan held the 20th round of border talks in Thimphu.

Fu said that China and Bhutan are linked by mountains and rivers and share cultural similarities. In recent years, the two countries have
maintained political contacts, pushed forward economic and trade cooperation steadily, expanded people-to-people exchanges and cooperated soundly in international affairs. China appreciates Bhutan’s adherence to the one-China policy and is willing to strengthen cooperation with Bhutan for common development. Over the past 28 years, the bilateral border talks have made important progress and peace and tranquility have been maintained along the border line of both countries.

China hopes to make joint efforts with Bhutan on the basis of previous talks, continue to seek fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solutions through friendly consultations and make the border line a bridge of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Khandu noted that Bhutan attaches great importance to its relations with China and is committed to stepping up the bilateral cooperation in trade, culture, tourism and other fields. Bhutan firmly pursues the one-China policy, thinks highly of China’s long-term foreign policy of treating all countries as equals, no matter large or small and good-neighborly friendship and is willing to strengthen coordination with China on the international arena. Bhutan sincerely expects the early settlement of border issues between the two countries and believes appropriate solutions will be found with the joint efforts of both sides. It hopes to work with China to safeguard peace and tranquility of the border area.

**Chinese Envoy to Nepal Designated Ambassador to SAARC**

The Chinese government has assigned China’s ambassador to Nepal Yang Houlan to be the ambassador of China to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The Chinese envoy submitted his Letter of Credence to this effect to Ahmed Saleem, Secretary-General of the SAARC at his office in Nepali capital Kathmandu on August 9, 2012.

In the letter to Saleem, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi said the assignment is aimed to consolidate and enhance China’s friendly relations and cooperation with the SAARC.

China is an observer nation of the eight-member regional organization established in 1985.

Saleem stressed that the organization has the responsibility to convey positive information of strengthening cooperation to the world and he is willing to be committed to the development of SAARC-China relations.
Chinese Premier Warns of “Complicated, Grim” Job Situation

Beijing, July 22 (Xinhua) — Premier Wen Jiabao has warned of new employment pressure amid China’s economic slowdown, saying the country will face a more complicated and more severe situation in creating sufficient jobs.

China’s economy is facing several outstanding problems with its economic growth, which will continue to weigh on the job market, Premier Wen said in a speech on employment delivered at a national conference last week.

The full text of the speech was released Sunday by the State Council on the central government’s website.

Wen said the negative impact of the global financial crisis on China’s employment will linger for quite some time, leading to an imbalance between labor supplies and demand.

He said China needs to promote employment while maintaining steady and rapid economic growth.

“We should pay more attention to developing the real economy, encouraging the development of labor-intensive manufacturing industries and the service sector,” Wen said.

China’s economy grew by 7.6 percent in the second quarter of this year, marking the slowest pace of expansion in three years due to sluggish external and domestic demand.

The premier urged authorities at all levels to work harder to create jobs, saying that expanding employment is a top priority in ensuring and improving people’s livelihoods.

According to Wen, 98 million jobs were created in urban areas from 2003 to 2011 and the registered unemployment rate in cities and towns has stood below 4.3 percent for the past nine years.

Wen said the government has helped more than 28 million laid-off workers to find new jobs over the past nine years.

More people are leaving rural areas to seek jobs in the Chinese cities, with the number of migrant workers topping 250 million as of the end of 2011, 139 million more than that of 2003, according to Wen.

He called for local authorities to implement more proactive employment policies and give more priority to job creation when making national economic development programs and restructuring the economy.

China’s July CPI Eases to 30-Month Low

China’s consumer inflation eased to its lowest rate in two and a half years in July, giving the government more leeway to loosen credit to spur the slowing economy.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of inflation, grew to 1.8 percent year on year in July, the slowest rate since February 2010, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced Thursday.

The rate was 0.4 percentage points lower than the figure for June.

The Producer Price Index (PPI), a main gauge
of inflation at the wholesale level, fell 2.9 percent in July from a year earlier.

The easing inflation is believed to be a result of the base effect. The CPI growth rate hit a 37-month high of 6.5 percent in July last year before gradually retreating as China’s economy slowed for eight quarters in a row.

Food prices, which account for nearly one-third of the prices used to calculate China’s CPI, edged up 2.4 percent in July from a year ago, down from a growth of 3.8 percent in June.

Surging vegetable prices were the driving force for the CPI’s growth. Rain and flooding affected vegetable production in many places during the peak supply season, pushing up vegetable prices by eight percent.

Pork prices fell 18.7 percent, dragging down CPI growth by 0.71 percentage points, NBS said.

Zhang Lijun, a researcher with the Development Research Center under the State Council, said abundant domestic agricultural production has helped stabilize prices. He called for more attention to be paid to severe ongoing droughts in the United States that are expected to impact China’s edible oil and grain prices.

Although the falling inflation rate was largely attributed to easing food prices, Zhang said it actually reflects shrinking social demand amid the slowing economy.

Qu Hongbin, chief economist at HSBC China and co-head of Asian Economic Research at HSBC, said the data suggests that China’s real economy, especially industrial enterprises, are facing increasing deflationary pressure.

“The decline of the PPI has highlighted the grim facts of sluggish market demand, shrinking business orders and continuing destocking,” he said.

Dwindling orders from Europe and other trade partners have sapped China’s exports and, combined with a cooling property sector, slowed the country’s economic growth rate to 7.6 percent in the second quarter, the lowest level since the first quarter of 2009.

At a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee that was presided over by President Hu Jintao on July 31, authorities reaffirmed that they will prioritize stable economic growth and adhere to a proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy to weather current economic hardships.

To boost growth, the government has loosened the monetary supply, cut taxes for small businesses and encouraged private businesses to invest in sectors previously closed to them.

The central bank has cut its lending and deposit rates twice, as well as lowered the amount of funds that banks must keep in reserve.

Since the easing inflation rate offers more room for monetary expansion, Liu Ligang, an economist with ANZ National Bank Limited, said the central bank will lower the reserve requirement ratio in August, as well as another time within the year.

But he did not take the deflation risk seriously, citing his belief that consumer prices are likely to rebound slightly in the following months due to a waning base effect.

According to Wang Jun, a researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchange, climbing costs will cause the CPI to surpass 2 percent before long.

The central bank warned in a quarterly monetary policy report that consumer prices could bounce back after August on the back of rising costs for labor and resource-intensive products such as electricity, water and natural gas.

Despite expectations for a slight price rebound, analysts generally agreed that the annual inflation rate will remain below three percent, well within the government’s target of four percent for the year.
China Will Not Relax Property Control Policies

Beijing, July 19 (Xinhua) — China will continue to maintain a firm grip of its real estate market and consolidate previous achievements in bringing down home prices so as to prevent them from rebounding, according to an urgent government notice released Thursday.

“Local authorities must strictly implement the nation’s property control policies. They should not relax the control and relevant requirements unauthorized,” according to the notice.

“Those that have loosened up controls must set straight the policies,” said the notice, which was jointly released by the Ministry of Land Resources (MLR) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

It also ordered local authorities to step up efforts in monitoring land pieces left idle even though they were sold.

The latest announcement came as the nation’s housing prices and sales both showed signs of warming. Official data released Wednesday showed that 25 cities, out of a statistical pool of 70 major cities, saw new home prices rise in June from the previous month. The figure was drastically up from six cities that saw month-on-month price gains in May.

“Fluctuations have appeared recently in the property market and land market. Although they have not changed the overall picture, the complexities and instabilities have increased in the market,” said the notice.

The notice ordered that local authorities prioritize land supplies for affordable housing. Meanwhile, supplies for ordinary commercial residential houses should be further increased, according to the notice.

The notice also said that the Ministry of Land Resources will enhance monitoring of the nation’s land market in order to prevent the occurrence of high-priced land pieces for both commercial and residential property.

Local governments should set a reasonable starting price for land-use-right transfers. Meanwhile, local governments should make adjustments in advance to land auction plans if the land pieces involved are highly likely to see record bidding prices, the notice said.

Ma Xiaoming, a senior NBS statistician, attributed the recent price warming to recent interest rate cuts implemented by the government to bolster the slowing economy and the altering mind-set of home buyers who fear the prices will further pick up.

China has tightened its curbs on the property sector since 2010 as home prices rocketed beyond the reach of average wage earners. The government has restricted home purchases in several cities while requiring higher down payments and introducing property taxes. The clamp-down has since cooled the market gradually.

The central authorities have reiterated their firm
stance on property market regulation many times this year.

Premier Wen Jiabao said earlier this month the government must make unswerving efforts to ensure house prices return to reasonable levels and block a price rebound that would undermine the effects of previous efforts.

China Will Never Loosen its Consolidation Efforts in Rare Earth Regulation

by Lan Xinzhen

Inner Mongolia’s Dalahai Village was a place of utopian beauty. With a landscape of lush green hills, exuberant grasslands and herds of sheep and cows, the village used to be the quintessential image of a nice place to live.

Today, the quaint village is gone, replaced by a barren landscape void of life. Cancer cases among the remaining local populace have been on the rise.

What’s the reason for the cataclysmic change? Li Guirong, a Dalahai villager, puts the blame on the discovery of rare earths.

“We knew something was wrong sometime in the late 1980s when the trees and local vegetation blossomed but didn’t bear any fruit,” Li said. “Later, they stopped growing at all.”

Rare earths, a group of 17 elements, are valuable, non-renewable resources essential in the manufacture of a range of hi-tech products, including wind turbines, laptops and hybrid cars.

China has the richest rare earth reserves in the world, with Baotou in the north and Ganzhou in the south as major reserve zones.

Growing awareness of the dangers of mining rare earths has galvanized the Central Government to act.

At a press conference addressing new government measures to control errant rare earth mining operations, Su Bo, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), outlined a series of new government regulations to rein in the sector.

In March, a team led by Su took an inspection tour of a rare earth exploitation site in Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province. The team was shocked by the environmental pollution and the cost to clean up the area, a whopping 38 billion yuan ($5.97 billion).
“China shoulders 95 percent of global rare earth output, at the cost of polluting its environment. This needs to change,” said Su.

**Disputes on the Rise**

To improve the local ecological environment, the Chinese Government began to take restrictive measures two years ago, intensifying control over the exploitation, processing and export of rare earth.

Nevertheless, China’s regulation on rare earth triggered groundless opposition from the European Union, the United States and Japan. On March 13, the trio lodged a joint complaint to the WTO, accusing China of breaking WTO rules on rare earth exports. On July 27, the three turned to the WTO’s dispute-settlement system to have an expert panel investigate the issue.

The United States, EU and Japan said China’s exports controls, including export quotas and export tariffs, unfairly favor China’s domestic manufacturers.

Shen Danyang, spokesman of China’s Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), says differently.

“China has reiterated that curbing rare earth mining operations and output was done for the sole purpose of protecting the environment. We didn’t mean to protect domestic industry by twisting trade,” said Shen. “This is going to take time and we’re going to face a lot of pressure, but we’re going to fight this to the end.”

**Reasons for Friction**

Although China has emphasized that its export management measures are designed for environmental protection and sustainable development, foreign buyers continue to oppose the controls.

“Their goal is to continue importing cheap rare earth from China,” said Gao Yunhu, Deputy Director of the Rare Earth Office under the MIIT.

The United States has its own rare earth reserves but has shut down most rare earth mines. The EU lacks rare earth and relies on China to supply its demand. Japan hopes to import rare earth minerals at low prices to maintain its competitiveness in the hi-tech sector.

China is the world’s largest producer and exporter of rare earth, accounting for 95 percent of the global output but having only 36 percent of global reserves, according to the MIIT.

Spurred by surging international market demand, illegal mining and smuggling operations rampant in the rare earth sector have caused the price of the valuable resources to plunge. From 1990 to 2005, China’s rare earth exports increased 10 fold, but prices nose-dived 50 percent.

“China’s regulation of the rare earth sector is totally consistent with WTO rules,” said Gao. “China treats domestic and foreign companies equally, and the price of rare earth should be adjusted by the market. China has synchronized..."
management and regulation in all links, from exploitation to processing and finally to export.”

WTO’s expert panel is designed to avoid unfair competition caused by trade distortions, said Ma Yu, Director of the FDI Department of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the MOFCOM.

“If China only has restriction on exports and foreign consumers have to pay a different price compared with domestic consumers, it is distorting the trade. But China has implemented restrictive measures in all links, from rare earth exploration and processing to exports. Those measures will have the same impact on both domestic and foreign buyers. For the same product, they pay the same price. This doesn’t violate WTO rules because we have never twisted trade,” said Ma.

**China’s Stance**

Four measures will be taken to clear polluted areas around China. First, environmental requirements will be implemented in production, processing and exports and optimized entry criteria in rare earth exploitation established. Second, the environment protection standard will be enhanced and any company that fails to meet those standards within a required period of time will be shut down. Third, an overall environment check will be conducted. Up to now, a list of 56 qualified rare earth production companies has been released. Finally, more advanced production technology will be adopted to continuously improve the whole sector’s production level, according to Su.

China will continue its rare earth supply to the world when intensifying efforts in resource and environmental protection. China also hopes other countries with rare earth resources shoulder their due responsibility in global rare earth supplies, said Su.

“Opening up the rare earth sector is the existing policy. We will follow a win-win strategy of maintaining a reasonable amount of rare earth supply to the international market, while at the same time protecting the environment and resources,” said Su.

Su also said that China will continue to encourage foreign investment in the sector. Thus far, the United States, Germany, France, Canada and Japan have set up 38 wholly owned or jointly funded rare earth companies in China.

“As the next step, we will encourage foreign investment in environment restoration, recycling and reuse of rare earth wastes, as well as in manufacturing of rare earth processing equipment. This will help enhance China’s ability in protecting the environment and resources when exploring and processing rare earth.”

MIIT and MOFCOM will continue international communication to clarify China’s stance on this issue. China has never intended to gain any economic or political benefits with such a minor sector as the rare earth. It will accelerate coordination with other rare earth producing and
consuming countries to solve resource and environmental problems facing the sector.

“We hope to facilitate continuous improvement of rare earth technology around the world,” said Su.

Meanwhile, China will refuse to loosen its regulations on the sector. Dealing with rare earth pollution is a major problem that the Chinese Government is facing when tightening regulations. On August 6, the MIIT released the Entry Criteria of the Rare Earth Sector, rectifying the sector from production scale, processing technology and energy efficiency. It’s widely estimated that 20 percent of the production capacity will be phased out.

**Reflection**

Whether China can win the WTO dispute remains to be seen.

China’s restriction on rare earth production and export is meant to protect the environment, a move that is accepted under WTO rules, said Song Hong, head of the Department of International Trade at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

“But the United States, EU and Japan claimed that rare earth was not among the list of China’s export control products when China entered the WTO. This is quite disadvantageous for China. China promised to impose a tariff on 84 products during its WTO entry, but rare earth is not among them,” said Song.

China will continue its regulation on the sector whether it wins or loses in the trade friction. Shutting down polluting exploration and processing factories will inevitably restrict its rare earth exports. For China, the important issue isn’t in winning or losing the appeal but in reflecting why the rare earth regulation has triggered such an international dispute.

“The essential problem lies in the production link. We should reflect on why we failed in rectifying such a small sector after years of efforts,” said Tu Xinquan, Deputy Director of the WTO Research Center under the University of International Business and Economics.

Although China has exploration and smelting quotas each year, illegal mining and illicit extraction of rare earth resources and smuggling of rare earth products through bypassing the export quota system are common problems in the sector because we lost control of the source, said Tu.

In order to control the source of the whole sector, China should initiate a strategic plan on rare earth exploitation and a general layout for its further development. Moreover, the country should enhance the approval threshold for strategic resources, such as rare earth minerals, said Tu.

Any mines approved before that are not in line with relevant government policies and regulations should be shut down. Industrial integration is the key. After integrating the currently fragmented industry, industrial behemoths will have the sense and ability to control productivity and prices, even without government restriction and supervision, said Tu.

Similar practices are quite common in other countries, such as the iron ore industry in Brazil and Australia. They enjoy a very high industrial concentration ratio and their exports rely heavily on price control, but they seldom receive lawsuits, said Tu.

**Bogu Kailai Stands Trial for Intentional Homicide**

The intentional homicide trial of Bogu Kailai and Zhang Xiaojun began on August 9,2012 in the Hefei City Intermediate People’s Court in Anhui Province.
The People’s Procuratorate of Hefei City, capital of east China’s Anhui Province, filed the charges against the two in the Hefei City Intermediate People’s Court on July 26.

Bogu Kailai and her son surnamed Bo had conflicts with Neil Heywood over economic interests. Worrying about Neil Heywood’s threat to her son’s personal security, Bogu Kailai decided to murder Heywood.

She asked Zhang Xiaojun, the other defendant and then an employee of the general office of the Chongqing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), to invite Heywood to Chongqing Municipality in southwest China and to accompany him from Beijing. Heywood stayed in Room No. 1605 of the 16th building of a vacation resort, the Lucky Holiday Hotel, in Chongqing.

On November 13, 2011, Bogu Kailai met Heywood in his hotel room for a drink. After Heywood was drunk, vomited and asked for water, she put the poison she had prepared, and which Zhang had brought along to the hotel room, into Heywood’s mouth, which led to Heywood’s death.

The prosecuting body said the facts of the two defendants poisoning the victim to death are clear and the evidence is substantial.

Their behavior has violated Article 232 of the Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China; therefore, the two defendants should be held criminally responsible for intentional homicide, according to the prosecuting body.

The case is a joint offense with Bogu Kailai as the principal and Zhang Xiaojun as the accessory, the prosecuting body said.

The Hefei City Intermediate People’s Court accepted the case according to the decision designating jurisdiction made by the Supreme People’s Court, and delivered a copy of the indictment in a timely way to the two defendants Bogu Kailai and Zhang Xiaojun, and also informed the two defendants and the close relatives of the victim of their litigation rights and obligations.

The court notified the lawyer to meet the defendants and gave the lawyer access to the entire case file, fully ensuring the litigation rights of Bogu Kailai, Zhang Xiaojun and the close relatives of the victim.

The Hefei City Intermediate People’s Court began the public trial on August 9, after following the legal procedure of issuing a notice before the trial and making a public announcement.

During the trial, procuratorial authorities presented relevant evidence, witnesses appeared in court to testify, and defense counsels entrusted by Bogu Kailai and Zhang Xiaojun to represent them pleaded on their behalf.

An attorney representing Neil Heywood’s close relatives was present during the trial and made comments.

More than 140 people attended the trial. They included relatives and friends of Bogu Kailai, Zhang Xiaojun and Neil Heywood, diplomats from the British embassy and consulates in China, representatives from the media, deputes to China’s legislature, members of China’s political advisory body, as well as people from all walks of life.

After Thursday’s court session, the court announced an adjournment and the judgment will be announced on a day to be decided.

According to the court, four other police officers, who were suspected of covering up Bogu Kailai’s illegal conduct during the investigation into Neil Heywood’s death, were also charged by the People’s Procuratorate of Hefei City with bending the law to achieve personal benefit.

The officers are Guo Weiguo, former deputy chief of Chongqing’s Public Security Bureau, Li Yang, former chief of the bureau’s criminal section, Wang Pengfei, former chief of the bureau’s technical detection team and also former chief of the Public Security Sub-bureau of Chongqing’s Yubei District, and Wang Zhi, former executive deputy chief of the Public Security Sub-bureau of the municipality’s Shapingba District.

The court held an open trial for the officers on August 10.
IV. CHINA AT LONDON OLYMPICS

The 30th Olympics Open in London
Dai Bingguo Attends the Opening Ceremony

On July 27, 2012, the five rings of the Olympics shined in the “London Bowl”. The opening ceremony of the 30th Olympics kicked off in the Olympic Stadium in London in the evening.

The Chinese government’s representative and State Councilor Dai Bingguo and leaders from about 80 countries and regions attended the opening ceremony.

The ceremony kicked off at 21:00. British Queen Elizabeth II announced the opening of the 30th Olympics at 0:18 midnight amid cheers and applauds of the audiences.

The modern Olympics with a history of 116 years of development have become the event where human civilizations share and converge with each other. Approximately 10,500 athletes from 204 countries and regions will compete in 302 games of 26 sports. Another four athletes will compete in the capacity of “independent athletes”. Along the Thames the 204 member Olympic Committees of the International Olympic Committee family gathered together once again.

The torch ignition suspense was unveiled at around 0:30am. After 70 days of relay, the flame of the London Olympics torch which was lit in Olympia, Greece arrived outside the Olympic Stadium. After the last relay by the legendary British athletes including Beckham and Redgrave, seven young torchbearers ran to the center stage and ignited flame in the 7 copper petals on the ground. Then the copper petals in a circle symbolizing the 204 participating countries and regions were all ignited. The long stems attached to the main torch rose up slowly and converged to the huge main torch. The Olympic flame blazed in the center of the Stadium.

The US legendary athlete, 70-year-old Muhammad Ali who once lit the main torch of the Atlanta Olympics was also present at the opening ceremony. Suffering from Parkinson’s disease, Ali sat in the wheelchair to receive the other 8 flag escorts including the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He then joined the escorts and shared the Olympic glory once again.

This is the third time that modern Olympics come to London. In 1908, the British took over the Olympics from the Italian government which was plagued by financial difficulties and made the event a success. Shortly after the end of the Second World War in 1948, London once again hosted the Olympics so that the vessel of the Olympics sailed out again after 12 years of suspension. Today, the Olympics come to London again, bringing the once-every-four-year most prestigious sports event to the country which was suffering the financial crisis and injecting the confidence and hope of economic recovery in people’s hearts.

Danny Boyle, the director of Slumdog Millionaire turned the “London Bowl” into a big stage during the 80 minutes of show after the opening ceremony. Audiences experienced the Idyll of the British Isles, recalled the history of British industrial revolution and enjoyed the display of such classic British cultural, film and art symbols as Shakespeare, Mr. Bean, Charlie Chaplin, 007 and rock and roll.

In the following parade, the Chinese delegation entered the stadium as the 42nd team. The men’s basketball star Yi Jianlian walked in the front holding high the national flag, continuing the
tradition that a men’s basketball player holds the national flag and walks in the front since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The Chinese delegation comprises of 621 members, including 396 athletes who will compete in 212 games of 23 sports except football, handball and equestrian. During the Beijing Olympic Games four years ago, the Chinese delegation in the home-court won 51 gold, 21 silver and 28 copper medals. In the London Olympics, Liu Xiang, Li Na, Sun Yang, Lin Dan and Yi Jianlian are the most eye-catching Chinese sports stars. Xiao Tian, deputy head of the Chinese delegation said that the goal of the Chinese delegation is to fight hard, play to their normal level, keep strengths in their strong games, strive to achieve the double results of scores and spiritual civilization and win honor for the motherland.

LOCOG Chairman Sebastian Coe and Jacques Rogge who has been President of the International Olympic Committee for 11 years addressed the opening ceremony respectively.

“Hey, Jude, don’t make it bad. Take a sad song and make it better. Remember to let her into your heart. Then you can start, to make it better¡” In the charming night, the former Beatles lead singer Paul McCartney performed the classic songs Hey, Jude. At this moment, people forgot the differences of nationality, race and color and expressed longing for a better tomorrow by signing together.

Before the opening ceremony, Queen Elizabeth II held a welcome reception at the Buckingham Palace for the international dignitaries, including national and regional leaders. Dai Bingguo attended the event.

State Councilor Dai Bingguo Visits the Chinese Sports Delegation in London

On July 26, 2012, State Councilor Dai Bingguo, who was entrusted by General Secretary Hu Jintao of the CPC Central Committee and Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council as the representative of the Chinese government, went to the London Olympic Village to see the Chinese sports delegation participating in the 30th Summer Olympics.

Dai Bingguo, representing the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, extended cordial greetings and best wishes to all the athletes, coaches and working staff of the Chinese delegation. He expressed the hope that the Chinese sports delegation could carry on the Olympic spirit of being “faster, higher, stronger”, live up to the great trust of the people, and go all out to strive for excellence and win glory for the country.

Dai said that the Olympics is the largest and the most influential sporting event today in the world. Four years ago, the Beijing Olympic Games was successfully held in China with the strong support of the international society. The London
Olympic Games is the first Olympics following the Beijing Olympics. China, as a member of the international Olympic family and the previous host, is an active participant and a strong supporter of the London Olympics. China sent a big sports delegation consisting of 621 members to the London Olympics. “You are not only athletes, but also friendly envoys of the Chinese people. I hope that you will display a confident, open, positive, progressive image of the Chinese people, and reap a harvest in both athletic performance and spiritual civilization to be presented as the gift to the 18th congress of the party.”

The representatives of athletes and coaches extended appreciation to the CPC Central Committee and the State Council for the support and encouragement. They said that they would spare no efforts and work hard to live up to the expectations and trust of the motherland and the people.

Dai also visited athletes’ quarters and the restaurant in the Olympic Village and had a cordial conversation with Chinese athletes.

Liu Peng, Director of the General Administration of Sports of China, accompanied Dai Bingguo during these activities.

**State Councillor Dai Bingguo Watches the Shooting Match and Meets with IOC President Jacques Rogge**

On July 28, 2012, State Councillor Dai Bingguo, as the representative of the Chinese government, watched the final of women’s 10m Air Rifle. Yi Siling, a Chinese athlete, won the first gold medal of the London Olympics with her outstanding performance. Dai expressed warm congratulations to Chinese athletes and encouraged them to continue to win honor for the motherland.

During the competition, Dai also met with IOC President Jacques Rogge. Dai said that China supports the Olympic cause and is willing to further strengthen cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and make greater contributions to carrying on the Olympic spirit, enhancing the friendship among the people around the world, and promoting world peace and development.

Jacques Rogge warmly welcomed Dai to attend the opening ceremony of the London Olympics as the representative of the Chinese government. He appreciated the active support and participation of China in the Olympic cause. He extended best wishes for the further success of Chinese athletes in the Olympic Games in London.

**Chinese Delegation Thanks LOCOG for Good Organization**

London, Aug. 12 (Xinhua) — The London organizing committee overcame difficulties to deliver an excellent Olympic Games, Chinese delegation chief Liu Peng said on Sunday.

“We had a really good experience in terms of the Games’ organization by the International Olympic Committee and the London organizers,” Liu said on the last day of the 17-day Games in the British capital.

“The organizers overcame a lot of difficulties when they provide the athletes with good competition and living conditions,” Liu said.

Last time London hosted the Olympics in 1948, Britain was struggling in the rubble after six years
of war. No new stadiums were built for the “austerity games”: Wembley doubled as an athletics stadium after organisers poured 800 tonnes of cinders over the greyhound track.

When the Games came back to Britain more than 60 years later, the economy was once again in a low tide as official figures in July showed the economy had sunk deeper into recession.

The Games, with a price tag of about nine billion pounds, have 34 competition venues spreading across London and the south east including nine new permanent venues and 25 temporary sporting venues. Liu said the volunteers also impressed him.

“We felt the real hospitality and friendship from the host country and enjoyed the volunteers’ attentive and heart-felt services. We are really thankful for these,” he said. The organizers recruited more than 70,000 volunteers for the Games and Paralympic Games.

Chinese Swimming Team Leader: Ye Shiwen’s Success is Expected

The 16-year-old Chinese swimmer Ye Shiwen’s success at the London Games had aroused lots of questions from foreign medias, however, the team leader of the Chinese swimming team Xu Qi said that Ye’s good result was expected.

“Ye Shiwen’s result was expected,” he said. “It is a little bit better than we had hoped, but not surprising.”

Ye stunned the world at the London Olympic Games when she won the gold medal in the 400 meters individual medley and set a world record time of four minutes 28.43 seconds, knocking over a second off the previous record, which had been held by Australian Stephanie Rice and five seconds off her own personal best.

What made Ye’s win all the more incredible is that she swam the last 50 meters of the race faster than men’s 400 meters medley winner Ryan Lochte had done earlier.

However, Xu called the comparison between the American star and the teenager girl meaningless.

“To compare Ye’s result with Lochte’s is meaningless,” he said. “Ye was behind after 300m and she need to try her best to win the race, but Lochte had already established the lead before the freestyle and didn’t need to do his upmost.”

Some foreign medias questioned how Ye could produce such an incredible feat, and Xu said: “Michael Phelps won eight gold medals at the Beijing Games, and American swimmer Missy Franklin is also incredible. Why can’t China have a talented swimmer?”

“The improvement of Chinese swimming is the reward of our efforts in many years,” he added. “And we also have good coaches from different countries, who gave us lots of help.”
Ye Shiwen also won the gold medal in the 200m medley with a time of 2:07.57 and set another new Olympic Games record.

“There is no doping, the Chinese team has always had a firm anti-doping policy,” she said. Official tests proved, however, that the accusations were completely groundless and false.

“I think that we have good and scientific training: that is why we progress. I’m very lucky because from childhood we have trained in a very scientific way, so it is not difficult for me to work hard,” said Ye, who took up swimming at an age of 6 after a kindergarten teacher had spotted her big hands and directed her parents to the pool.

Sun Yang Wins Gold and Breaks World Record in 1,500 Meters Freestyle

London, Aug. 4 (Xinhua) — If the swimming world is casting an eye around for the next superstar, Sun Yang could well be one of the candidates as he showed with his stunning swim to win the 1,500 meters freestyle and beat his own world record in the event.

Sun won in a time of 14:31.02, eight and a half seconds ahead of his nearest rival and 3.12 seconds faster than the record he set in Shanghai in 2011.

However, the Chinese swimmer, who went into the race with a gold medal from the 400 meter freestyle, silver from the 200 meter freestyle and bronze 4x200 meter medley had to overcome a heart-stopping moment when he jumped into the pool before the race began.

Amid calls for quiet from the area announcer before the start, Sun was allowed to take his place back on the blocks and once the race began, he swam into an early lead with Park Taehwan and Ryan Cochrane giving chase.

It looked to begin with as if it wasn’t going to be Sun’s fastest swim, as he was two seconds off his own record place after 600 meters, but all of the swimmers in London have stressed that records are not important at the Games where the main thing is winning gold and after 700 meters Sun was three and a half seconds ahead of his closest pursuer, Cochrane.

The gap had widened by the 900 meter mark as Sun upped the pace and began to close in on the record time, while behind, Oussama Mellouli overhauled Park to move third.

With 300 meters to go Sun was over six seconds ahead as the crowd began to cheer him home as Cochrane and Mellouli were involved in a titanic battle for second. Cochrane held on, but Sun took
the applause, the record and gold as he walked out of the pool draped in his nation’s flag.

It was China’s fifth gold medal at these Olympics in the swimming pool and the seventh world record to be smashed in London.

“Super Dan” Wins Final Battle against Arch-rival Lee Chong Wei

by Bai Xu, Ji Ye

London, Aug. 5 (Xinhua) — Every match has a winner.

It was just one shot, which went across the back line of the court. But because it was the match point, fate became different for those at two sides of the net.

Chinese badminton star Lin Dan beat his arch-rival Lee Chong Wei from Malaysia 2-1 after dropping a game, and won the gold medal in men’s singles Sunday afternoon in the Wembley Arena. He is the first shuttler to have defended his Olympic title in the event.

The word “heart-stirring” was not enough to describe how fierce the competition was, as they were both best shuttlers in an era, topping the world rankings alternatively.

Lin didn’t seem to be in form in the first game, lashing the shuttlecock out of the court for at least nine times and delivering at least five returns into the net.

Lee, the No. 1 seed, changed his direction abruptly, posing threats to the Beijing Olympic champion with diagonal smashes. With a lapse of Lin, the set concluded 15-21.

The beginning of the second game saw the duo locked in a tug of war, before Lin began pulling ahead after a long exchange and finished the set quickly with a drop shot 21-10.

Atmosphere became strained in the decider, when shots from both players became faster and the pair tumbled sometimes for a retrieval. Even the umpire began making mistakes and corrected after being challenged by Lin.

Their scores tied from 1-1 to 19-19. Crowd cheered and waved national flags. But while they were playing, every one was holding breath, with only sound of the shuttlecock hitting the racket. At this time each tiny lapse could be fatal.

Lee broke the ice first by making a mistake to send the bird into the net, and then struck the last
shot out of the court. 21-19. The audience seethed with excitement.

The overjoyed Lin rushed around the arena for celebration and threw his vest to the audience, while his rival sat on the court sobbing. Then the gold medalist returned to hug Lee. The song, We Are the Champions, resonated in the arena.

“I think this medal is a recognition of my efforts in the past four years,” Lin said. “After the Beijing Olympics, I had to work harder to defend my title, as more people wanted to beat me.”

Commenting on the match just now, the 29-year-old player said that in the first game he was performing against the wind and wasn’t as active as Lee. When he was in the more favorable position against the wind, he seized the chances.

When they were tied 19-19 before the ending, “I wasn’t thinking too much,” he said. “I pinned my hope on my rival’s lapse.”

Lin became emotional at the topic of the “big four”, or the four best players in the past 10 years. “We are not only rivals, but good friends,” he said, referring to Lee, Indoensian prodigy Taufik Hidayat and Denish legend Peter Gade. “I am so lucky to have such great and respectable opponents in my career, and I do cherish each opportunity playing with them.”

While the disappointed Lee Chong Wei said, “he made less mistakes than me.”

With an ankle injury, he was so eager to win the gold medal, which would have been the first gold for Malaysia. “But I lost. It was very hard to beat Lin,” he said. “There is just one Lin Dan in the world and he is great.”

Four years ago in Beijing, the final of men’s singles was similar, when Lee was outgunned by his Chinese foe, to whom, however, the 30-year-old Malaysian has mixed feelings.

“In fact, we are good friends,” he said. “I hope we can be friends forever.”

China’s badminton head coach Li Yongbo sat by the court while Lin was playing. “I had hoped that my presence could give Lee Chong Wei some pressure,” he said.

After the match, the 50-year-old former shuttler shed tears. “He was just wonderful,” he said. “They were both really wonderful and they presented the audience a show of the world’s top level.”

Li felt sorry for Lee Chong Wei. “To be frank, it was not easy for him, and the loss was such a pity,” he said. “He was born in a wrong time. Without Lin Dan, he has been the champion already. They are equally outstanding.”

Earlier on Sunday, Chinese shuttler Chen Long outplayed Lee Hyun Il 2-1 in a hard battle, snatching the bronze medal of men’s singles.

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**China’s Zou Retains Men’s 49kg Olympic Boxing Champion**

London, Aug. 11 (Xinhua) — China’s Zou Shiming outscored Kaeo Pongprayoon from Thailand 13-10 in a controversial fight to retain the men’s 49kg champion at the London Olympics here on Saturday.

Zou, who edged the Irish fighter Paddy Barnes on Friday’s semifinal, became the first time a boxer who has retained the title of this category.

The 31-year-old veteran took the advantage in the first round 2-1, in which both fighters seemed reluctant to attack first.

The second round was much hotter than the first one, Zou defended his side better than his opponent, ending the second quarter 4-3.

Pongprayoon made effort in the third round to pull the score back, but Zou was more efficient to end the third and final round with 7-6, pocketing his third medal and second gold at his
three Olympic Games. The decision was met by boos from the crowd and Pongprayoon collapsed to the floor when the decision was announced before leaving the ring in tears.

“Every match was difficult, both for me and my opponents,” said Zou.

“Second gold medal is great for me. I’m enjoying it.”

Zou was known as the number one fighter China, especially after he claimed the bronze medal at 2004 Olympics. He pocketed three titles from 2005 to 2011 at the World Championships, and those trophies put a lot of pressure on his shoulder.

It was possibly the final Olympic show for the father of a one-year-old son. He was to spend more time with his wife and son after going back home.

“I’ve promised them I would bring back home another Olympics gold, and today I fulfilled my promise,” said Zou.

Zou wasn’t on his top form before the final. He failed to harvest overwhelming victory in every of his three previous matches, and his breathtaking semifinal arose the concern of the Chinese boxing fans.

“There was too much pressure. Luckily I won the match after all. All I want to do now is to have a very very good rest,” said Zou.

Pongprayoon said: “I feel that I won and I could see that the crowd thought I won. I don’t know why I lost. I’ve lost to him twice before and both times I think I should have won.

“I am still really happy, still very proud to bring back a silver medal.” he said.

China: Moving out of Gold Medal Complex

Beijing, Aug. 10 (Xinhuanet) — An Olympic medal used to harbour the hope of building a great nation in China. The success of a single Olympic champion often lead to the popularization of a certain sport in China. But now, things have changed.

Liu Xiang is a super sports star and a hero in China. His success changed people’s view of China’s athletics.

Despite his tragic exit at the London Olympics on Tuesday. Chinese audiences now have a much more normal view on their champions’ successes and failures.

Audience member, London: “The Chinese crowd is getting mature. It’s no longer that important if the athlete wins a gold medal or not. Liu Xiang tried his best and he led the Chinese people’s enthusiasm in the Olympics. We should enjoy the process more than the actual result.”

Like Liu Xiang, many Chinese Olympic champions have became icons in their field. Their success in some way has pushed the development
of China’s sports industry.

China Open, started in 2004, the same year that China claimed its first tennis gold medal in Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Eight years later, China Open has become the most premier event in Asia and one of the top eight tennis events in the world.

Charles Hsiung, Deputy-gen. Manager, China open promotions: “This is in fact one of the fastest growing tournaments in the world in tennis, and super star effects are quite important to our tournaments because a lot of people when they talk about tennis they think Li Na, they think Peng Shuai, they think Zheng Jie. Sports is a growing industry in China. As the country prosper, as the people prosper, as we live a better life, we look for friends and recognition. So again, it has to do with the Chinese economy and its development over the last eight years apart from all the things we are doing and all the things than governments are doing, that to enforce the course of tennis in China.”

China now provides not only good athletes, but also good events. Winning more gold medals doesn’t mean everything, for in the end, sports are something to enjoy.

The sports industry is maturing in China. Olympic Champions play an important part in that process. China will need more of them, but not as badly as it used to, as people now have more confidence in the country’s sporting ability.

Liu Xiang Crashes Out Olympics But Wins Respect

London, Aug. 7 (Xinhua) — Waiting on the starting blocks, Liu Xiang looked beyond the hurdles to the finishing line. Several seconds later, Liu crashed into the first hurdle in his first round heat of the men’s 110m hurdles at the London Olympic Games on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old Liu injured his right foot and limped off the track, ending his hope to regain Olympic glory in London.

Everything seemed to be deja vu when the former world record holder and 2004 Olympic champion withdrew from the 2008 Beijing Games because of a tendon injury in his right foot.

But this time Liu made things different. He hopped over the rest of the distance on his left foot to symbolically finish his race. He also stopped at a hurdle and kissed it, earning a rousing ovation from the 80,000 crowd at the Olympic Stadium.

“What Liu Xiang did today reflected the true Olympic spirit,” said Chinese athletics team leader Feng Shuyong. “Winning is not so important, participation is what matters.

“We’ve all seen how hard it is for him. It is such a pity but his spirit is there.”

“I think he made a lot of efforts over the past four years trying to do well. But in competitive sports, anything can happen.

Liu’s spirit and sportsmanship won praise,
not only from Chinese sport officials and millions of Chinese, but also from his foreign friends and opponents.

“I regard him as probably the best hurdler in history and have so much respect for him. It was horrible seeing him limp off like that so you have to go and help people,” said British hurdler Andy Turner, who won the heat in 13.42 seconds and helped the struggling Liu off the track at the finish.

Turner’s respect for Liu was echoed by Aries Merritt of the United States, who set the season leading time of 12.93 seconds before the Games. “It’s just a tragedy for that to happen to one of the best hurdlers of all time,” said the American. “I do not think he is injured before the competition. He warmed up great. Everything looked fine. I just think he had a technical mistake. He got too close to the hurdle. He clipped it and it is really hard to recover after something like that.”

Jamaican star sprinter Usain Bolt also lauded Liu Xiang a “true champion” despite his heartbreaking elimination from Games. “It must be hard for that to happen for the second time in a row. He’s a great athlete,” said Bolt, who successfully retained his Olympic crown in men’s 100m dash by clocking 9.63 seconds Sunday night.

“One of the most amazing things is that he came back. He switched legs and started leading with a different leg. He’s a true champion. It’s so bad for him,” he added.

According to Feng Shuyong, Liu probably ruptured his Achilles tendon while taking off at the first hurdle and the intensive training leading up to the Games should be one of the reasons that caused the injury to recur.

“I think the problem happened with the taking off. We all know that at the moment of taking off the tendon sustains great pressure,” said Feng. “The initial diagnosis from the medical staff is that he had a broken Achilles tendon.

“The injury is the same one he had in Beijing (2008). In the last several years he received good medical care, but the injury is still there. An Achilles tendon injury is almost impossible to recover fully.” Liu was considered as a serious medal contender in London after he came out from the Achilles injury and adopted the seven-step to the first hurdle.

After winning a dramatic silver in the 2011 IAAF World Championships in Daegu, South Korea, Liu enjoyed an all-win record as he harvested three straight wins at the start of this outdoor season including setting a season fastest time of 12.97 seconds by then in the Shanghai leg of 2012 IAAF Diamond League in May and a wind-aided mark of 12.87 seconds in the Eugene leg early in June.

However, the Chinese superstar has been haunted by injury clouds since July 13, his 29th birthday, when Liu Xiang pulled out of the final of Diamond League London Grand Prix with back pain.

“He felt uncomfortable after the heats. Before we came here, Liu Xiang sometimes felt pain in the chest when breathing, especially during training and competitions,” Liu’s long-time coach Sun Haiping told Xinhua at south London’s Crystal Palace stadium on that day. “We decided to pull out of the finals just for the sake of caution.”

Just three weeks later, on their return from Germany training camp to London, Sun revealed Liu got further injury worries.

“In Germany, Liu felt pain in the foot where his old injury was. The doctor there said it was not serious. But I don’t think so. I want to examine it further in London because I still worry about it,” said Sun at Heathrow airport last Friday.
Olympic Diving Roundup: China Still Dominates But Chasers Closer

London, Aug. 11 (Xinhua) — The 14-day diving competitions at London Olympics ended on Saturday with the Chinese “Dream Team” bagging six out of the eight golds on offer but its gap with the rest of the world is shrinking.

The two events China lost in London were men’s individual 3m springboard and 10m platform.

Russian diver Ilya Zakharov turned over China’s defending Olympic champion He Chong in the springboard final, while American world silver medalist David Boudia succeeded in his vengeance against China’s world champion Qiu Bo in men’s platform event.

While divers spearheaded by Russian, American, German and British improving rapidly in terms of difficulty and quality of moves, China has no more absolute advantage in either degree of difficulty or consistency of execution in diving, especially in men’s events.

After triumph over Qiu, who has been dominant on the World Series since 2010 in both 10m platform and synchro platform and never encountered any defeat in recent years, Boudia said the rest of the world are catching up with the Chinese, and set feet on China dominance in diving.

“Everyone knows China is dominant in every single diving events. But we can win,” he said.

His opinion was joined by British overwhelming favorite Tom Daley, who captured a bronze medal in platform event.

Daley said diving was an unpredictable event. Those scraped through into the final can be the ones grabbing gold medals from the Chinese.

Divers of Mexico, United States, Britain have showed their talents during London competitions while emerging stars from Australia, Malaysia and Canada are seizing their berth in the battle.

China’s team manager Zhou Jihong said China has some stranglehold in women’s events but gradually lost dominance in men’s events.

She said the Chinese team has expected difficulties in men’s events in London as they face increasing challenge from a raft of superb divers from around the globe with high degrees of difficulties in their dives.

“Unfortunately we lost the two titles in men’s platform and springboard as our divers did not perform to their normal level,” she said.

“They have good techniques but need more experience and practices to improve their mental strength,” Zhou said.

The Chinese squad won five gold medals in 2000, six in 2004 and seven in 2008. They may face greater challenges four years later in Rio Olympic Games.

China Cheers for First Tibetan Olympic Medalist

Xining/London, Aug. 12 (Xinhua) — She grew up herding yaks on a plateau meadow, just like many other women from rural Tibet. Singing and praying accounted for much of her spare time. And it was not until 2008 that she got the chance to watch the Olympic Games on TV for the first time.

But 22-year-old Choeyang Kyi has etched her name into history as China’s first Tibetan Olympic medalist, having secured a bronze medal in the women’s 20-km race walk event held on Saturday...
at the London Summer Olympics.

“I had only one thought in mind — fight! The crowds were so enthusiastic. That helped me stay in high spirits,” she told reporters after the race.

Chinese fans have hailed her success, flooding her account on Sina Weibo, a popular microblogging site, with well-wishes and congratulations.

“Last night, all of the Tibetans here stayed up and watched your game on the track. We were thrilled to see you win a medal. Tashi delek (blessings)! Hope you can bring more glory to the Tibetan people,” wrote microblogger Kelsanga.

“She smiled a lot during the final 20 km. But I was almost thrilled to tears,” wrote blogger “Xiaoye Q” from northeast China.

Feng Jianping, director of the Qinghai provincial sports bureau, hailed Choeyang as “the pride of Qinghai, of Tibetans and of China.”

Choeyang’s parents watched their daughter make history on TV in their rural home in Haiyan county, located in the Haibei Tibetan autonomous prefecture in northwest China’s Qinghai province. Although they were unable to understand the Mandarin-speaking commentator, Gonpo Rabten and Sonamje stared at the TV, fingering prayer beads and chanting Buddhist sutras.

When Choeyang crossed the finish line, her parents smiled, tears welling up in their eyes. Cheers and applause could be heard breaking out in the tents that make up their herding community on the Jinyintan pasture.

They prepared milk tea and food at home as relatives, friends and neighbors flocked to their house, bringing ceremonial white scarves to extend their greetings.

Choeyang said she has missed her parents a great deal, as she has not been home for a long time due to her training.

“My blessings go to my parents and every single one of my supporters,” she said.

The woman, whose name in Tibetan means “the sun,” cited renowned Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang as her idol.

“Liu Xiang is the model for Chinese track athletes. He has done his best and he has my full support,” she added.

FROM HORSEBACK TO TRACK

Choeyang’s uncle Haichen, who accompanied her to the London games, said Choeyang first showed her athletic ability at the age of nine, becoming known in her community for her exceptional horse-riding skills.

Her parents sent her to the provincial sports school seven years later after she won a township-level marathon. In 2008, Choeyang was picked by coach Yuan Dejiu to concentrate on the race walk event. She joined the national race walk team two years later.

“Choeyang grew up on the plateau, which may explain her strong heart and breathing capacity, but what really makes her stand out is perseverance,” Yuan said. “She takes the pain in the training and never lets up.”

To prepare for the Olympics, Choeyang trained
hard at the Qinghai Duoba National Sports Training Base, starting her training at 9 a.m. daily and walking about 30 km every day.

After Choeyang earned her Olympic qualification in March, Feng visited her home and gave a 50,000-yuan (7,874 U.S. dollars) subsidy to her impoverished family. She was also given a 3,000-yuan monthly allowance for her training.

Qinghai sports officials said many Tibetan children in rural areas have great athletic potential, but have not had access to proper training.

But the tide has started to turn. The proficiency of Tibetans in sports like shooting, archery and track and field events has led some of them to emerge at national sports competitions.

“We will bring more exceptional Tibetan athletes to the world stage,” said Feng. “Choeyang represents just the first step.”

V. TIBET TODAY

11th Panchen Lama Visits Liuwu New District in Lhasa

The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (2nd L) visits the Liuwu new district in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, July 27, 2012. The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Friday visited the Liuwu new district, the economic and technological development zone and a farmer in Lhasa. (Xinhua/Chogo)

The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (1st L) visits the Liuwu new district in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, July 27, 2012. The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Friday visited the Liuwu new district, the economic and technological development zone and a farmer in Lhasa. (Xinhua/Chogo)
The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (2nd L) visits the Liwu new district in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, July 27, 2012. The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Friday visited the Liwu new district, the economic and technological development zone and a farmer in Lhasa. (Xinhua/Chogo)

The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (1st L) visits the Lhasa State-level Economic and Technological Development Zone in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, July 27, 2012. The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Friday visited the Liwu new district, the economic and technological development zone and a farmer in Lhasa. (Xinhua/Chogo)

The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (Front) visits the Lhasa State-level Economic and Technological Development Zone in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, July 27, 2012. The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Friday visited the Liwu new district, the economic and technological development zone and a farmer in Lhasa. (Xinhua/Chogo)

The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu (L) talks with farmer Anu as he visits Anu’s home in Yabda Township of Doilungdeqen County in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, July 27, 2012. The 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Friday visited the Liwu new district, the economic and technological development zone and a farmer in Lhasa. (Xinhua/Chogo)
Tibet Looks to Improve Students’ Health

Lhasa, July 18 (Xinhua) — Tibet in southwest China is carrying out a scheme to improve the nutrition of 240,000 students in its agricultural and pastoral areas, local authorities said Wednesday.

The scheme was launched in March in schools of 74 counties, cities and districts across the plateau region, said Lu Mingxiu, director of the Education, Scientific and Cultural Section of Department of Finance of Tibet autonomous region.

Pupils and junior school students in the agricultural and pastoral areas will be supplied with fruit, milk, eggs and other snacks every day, Lu added.

“Considering the traditional custom of Tibetan people, the school also prepares Tsamba (a unique Tibetan staple food made of highland barley flour) and yak butter tea for the students,” said Tashi Norbu, a teacher of Hor Township Central Primary School.

Norbu said his school has provided apples, milk and dessert for the pupils after each meal since March to help improve the physical fitness of the students.

In Lhundrup county, the central primary school of Qangga, food supply for each meal is shown on the whiteboard in the canteen every day, Ngawang Gyaltse, according to a cook of the canteen.

Every student in the school should be given 150 grams of meat, 500 grams of vegetables and 80 milliliters of milk every day, said Gyaltse, adding that the quality of meals is much better than before.

Tibet remains among the poorest regions in China as a result of its adverse environment and poor infrastructure.

What’s Wrong for Tibetans to Learn Chinese?

On July 29, an “official” from the “government-in-exile” claimed that the “self-immolations were resulted from the hardline language policy of the Chinese government in Tibet stressing only Chinese teaching in schools” at the Dalai Lama’s 77-year-old birthday celebration in Taiwan.

Here I’d like to ask why a simple language issue could incur loss of life. And what is wrong for ethnic Tibetans to learn Chinese? Obviously, it was an attempt of the Dalai clique to blemish the Chinese government, which is both unfair and groundless.

As a matter of fact, Tibetan learning is always guaranteed by law in China. The Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and the Law on
Ethnic Regional Autonomy both clearly prescribe that all ethnic minorities have the freedom to use and develop their own spoken and written languages. In 2005, the Stipulations of the Tibet Autonomous Region for the Study, Use and Development of the Tibetan Language was promulgated and implemented in Tibet.

Losang Thume, who has been engaged in research on Tibetan language for 12 years said, the Tibetan language is booming now. But in the old Tibet, it had never been popularized as it is today. Tibetan courses are offered in schools of all sorts and at different levels. In particular, Tibetan is the main language to use in primary schools of pastoral areas and townships. And the senior high school or college entrance examinations must be taken in Tibetan for Tibetan language courses, and scores must be reported in the transcripts. Besides, all courses of Tibetan literature and Tibetan medicine are taught in Tibetan in universities, in which doctoral degrees can be conferred.

Since 2003, Tibet has implemented the long-distance teaching program under the support of the Ministry of Education, State Commission of Development and Reform, and Ministry of Finance. Almost all 1,400 middle and primary schools in Tibet could receive the TV programs, some even through the satellite equipment as well as DVDs of Tibetan language teaching materials.

In addition, the training programs for Tibetans provided by the government have help local Tibetans to master their mother tongue. As a result, the illiteracy rate of young and middle-aged people has dropped from 30 percent in 2003 to 1.2 percent in 2011.

I hereby want to ask the “official”, is it the right thing for ethnic Tibetans to learn only Tibetan in the modern world?

As one of the 56 ethnic groups in China, Tibetan language and culture have interacted with those of the Han and other ethnic groups. In fact, now many Tibetans would like their younger generations to learn Chinese.

Dzamla, a mother of six living in Maqu County, Gansu Province, said she often told her children to study Mandarin in order to find good jobs.

A primary school principal in Lhasa said, “Tibetan students must grasp both Tibetan and Chinese because they should learn modern technology apart from keeping their traditional culture.”

“Tibetans need to learn Chinese in order to better communicate with the outside world. Learning Mandarin will not undermine Tibetan, instead it will enrich the Tibetan language. As early as the 7th century, literatures on inland science, medicine, religion and politics had all been translated into Tibetan, which have contributed a great deal to the development of Tibetan language and culture, said Gonchekya, a researcher with the Academy of Social Sciences in Tibet Autonomous Region.

In this sense, learning Chinese has become a prerequisite for the Tibetan economic and social progress just as learning English is so important for Chinese, which symbolizes people’s desire to strive for modernization and a better livelihood. But has the “English learning fervor” destroyed the Chinese culture?

Yet Tibetan language not only should be passed down, but also developed in the modern era. So are the teaching methods of Tibetan language. Due to lack of teaching materials of science subjects, the Chinese government has provided a lot of support in funds and talents for the research program. Thanks to its efforts, bilingual textbooks of math from Grade One to Grade Three have been compiled and put into use in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Furthermore, the Tibetan language should also be developed with the times. Since 1980s and 1990s, the Tibetan information processing technology has made a breakthrough. For example, Tibetan software such as the word processing and digital editing, type-setting and printing systems were invented and applied. After the 21st century,
the Chinese government fulfilled the task of standardizing the coding of Tibetan, and launching Tibetan websites.

Well, has it ever happened that the language of some small ethnic group was lost? Yes, it did happen in history.

Since the colonists stepped onto the North American land in the 14th century, the number of American Indians was sharply reduced within several hundred years. Its culture and language had been extinguished, and only a few people can speak their native language at the present time. Most of them are bilingual, if say, they can speak the language. By contrast, Tibetan has not been destroyed, instead, it has flourished.

It is understandable for Tibetans to have a sense of crisis in terms of their language and cultural identity because there is a small population of Tibetans, but a big population of Hans, according to a Chinese scholar. But Tibetans are more longing for development.

Just as a Tibetan scholar said: “An ethnic group will be left deserted and in oblivion if it is backward in culture, education and science.”

As a matter of fact, many countries in the world have the problem of protecting the languages of their ethnic minorities. The Chinese government has made a role model for them in the policies it has made and measures it has taken.

Given the above, the language issue should only be discussed in the context of development, but not in the context of “cultural extinction” and “clashes between ethnic groups”. However, the Dalai clique attempted to use this issue to deceive the innocent young Tibetans and monks to sacrifice their valuable lives. What they schemed is to draw the attention of the world community by force and prevent the “Tibet issue” from being marginalized in order to realize the “Tibet independence” and “separating Tibet from China”.

However, truth does not exist in the defamed reality. And the lies of the Dalai clique will not hold water.

(Source: China Tibet On line)

Returnees Promote Tibet’s Cultural Diversity

Lhasa, July 17 (Xinhua) — In an obscure alley of downtown Lhasa is a club where returned Tibetans from overseas universities teach youngsters English for free and provide financial and consulting services for the needy.

The club, known to the locals as “Hope Corner,” provides English training and consulting services concerning applications for visas and scholarships from overseas universities.

Its volunteers visit orphanages and senior citizens centers regularly and raise funds for needy students through college.

The club is aimed at promoting cultural diversity and serving public interests in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet autonomous region.

Communication is never a problem at the club, as the volunteers are all proficient in at least three languages: Tibetan, English and Mandarin.

“Last week, returnees from Britain gave a workshop about the different teaching methods in Chinese and British classrooms,” said Tsering Dekyi, founder of the club. “The audience, mostly young Tibetan students, were all excited and asked many questions. You can see on their faces the desire to learn more about different cultures.”

Tsering Dekyi taught English at a primary school in Lhasa before she got a scholarship to study at Goshen College in Indiana of the United States in 2000.

During four years in the U.S. she did not just earn a degree, but also gained ideas of serving the
public interest and promoting cultural diversity.

After she returned to Lhasa in 2004, she began teaching English at Tibet University. In the following year, she founded an English salon, the prototype of today’s Hope Corner, for Lhasa residents to learn to speak English.

“I thought the young people in Lhasa needed such a place to learn English and share their ideas,” she said.

Tsering Dekyi was soon joined by dozens of people who had a similar background and were as enthusiastic in public welfare projects.

“I joined the program hoping to encourage young Tibetans to learn knowledge and exchange ideas in a healthier environment,” said Gelsang Dorji, one of the co-founders of Hope Corner.

“It’s a pity many Tibetans spend long hours drinking liquor and singing karaoke to kill time — unlike residents in big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, they have little access to cultural activities such as operas and concerts,” he said.

Gelsang Dorji, a Columbia University graduate and now a clerk at Bank of China’s Tibet branch, was among the six earliest participants in the project.

Today, the club has nearly 100 volunteers and has become one of the most popular social organizations in Lhasa. More than 1,000 Lhasa residents have participated in its activities over the past seven years.

“Returnees from abroad often give lectures for free, and citizens are encouraged to speak English at the club’s oral English sessions,” said Tsering Dekyi. “Many young Tibetan students look up to the volunteers as idols and are eager to work as hard as they do.”

In addition to English teaching, the volunteers have helped at least 60 needy students through college. “Many of them have graduated and secured jobs in different parts of Tibet,” she said. “Those who work in Lhasa have become volunteers themselves hoping to repay the society.”

Sonum Dekyi was a girl of few words when she first joined the club to practise oral English. Now she has learned to speak loudly in public and discuss a wide range of topics with the volunteers.

“I hope someday I can also study abroad, because you’ll never open your mind if you stay home all the while.”

Nyima, a lab worker at Tibet’s disease control and prevention center, joined the club to learn oral English and was soon heavily involved in its community services. A fluent English speaker, he has just received an offer to study in the U.S.

“I owe a lot to the club and all its volunteers,” he said. “Out of faith and passion to build a better community, they spend so much time and efforts helping other people fulfil dreams.”

Thanks to the reform and opening-up drive, many Tibetans have had the opportunities to study and travel abroad. At Tibet University alone, 38 teachers have studied in countries including the U.S., Britain, Norway, Japan and the Republic of Korea since 2005.

They have concentrated on physics, biology, mathematics, history, linguistics, computer science and medicine. Twelve of them have obtained a PhD and 26 have got master’s degrees, according to the university’s foreign affairs office.

Across Tibet, about 420 people have studied abroad over the past decade, according to figures provided by the exit and entry administration of the regional public security bureau.

A Short History of Tibetan Opera

Described by the UNESCO as “the most popular traditional opera of minority ethnic groups in China” and “a comprehensive art combining folk song, dance, storytelling, chant, acrobatics and
religious performance”, Tibetan opera was inscribed on the organization’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009.

While it has survived more than 600 years’ changes of history and society, Tibetan opera originated from a beautiful ancient tale at the beginning.

In the 14th century, a high-ranking monk named Thangthong Gyalpo decided to build iron bridges across all major rivers in Tibet to facilitate the transportation and pilgrimage. He spent three years in raising money, but finally failed. To achieve his dream, he selected seven beautiful and clever girls from among his followers, and created a performance group to travel across Tibet to earn money by performing simple-plot song and dance dramas adapted from Buddhist stories. This is believed to be the source of Tibetan Opera.

During the reign of the fifth Dalai Lama, in the 17th century, Tibetan opera matured. It was separated from religious rituals and became an independent dramatic form dominated by singing and dancing, and in particular used flamboyant masks.

As the opera matured it became increasingly complex in structure, containing many literary

strands, with very beautiful story depictions.

By the 19th century most districts in Tibet had their own opera troupes. Tibetan opera features prominently in a number of Tibetan festivals and temple fairs, some of which are specifically designed for it, such as the Shoton Festival.

Today, Tibetan opera withstands changes of history, still thriving on stages and playing an important role in Tibetan people’s life. It is even set up as a major in Tibet University.

On May 20, 2006, Tibetan opera was added on the list of National Intangible Cultural Heritage.
Commissar Paljor at the Grassroots

Text & Photo by Zhou Aiming

I haven’t been to Tibet for many years because I am affected by altitude sickness. Yet, this time, with my friend Chen Dan who had asked to join me, I planned to fly to Lhasa in the middle of March, which is the most difficult time in Tibet. The reason why I chose to go there is that this was the only time Chen Dan could spare in the whole year. Our trip to the frontier, according to arrangements by Commissar Wulho Phuchung, would start from Tsang in the worst possible weather, to interview our soldiers and experience the situation when they were busiest.

We interviewed the Sims Azalea Female Service Team and the leader Paljor. In 2008, Paljor leading the Corps stationed in the tents, now new barracks have been built in 2011. Our decision to interview Commissar Paljor was due to his manner towards the soldiers at the station. That night, it was he who hosted the dinner. He asked everyone to be seated and dined together. From his words, we could sense a love for his brothers. No one can resist. So I invited him to do an interview and he immediately consented. While I was busy formatting my digital recorder, Commissar Paljor had adjusted our planned route, which would save us almost a whole day. He also drew a map for Xiao Zhao, who was not so familiar with the way yet. Paljor was born in the city of Shigatse in 1974. His father came from Rinbung County, and mother from Lhatse County. When he was two years old, he began to remember clearly the dates and numbers.

“I was only two years and four months old when Chairman Mao passed away. At that time, my little brother was only two months old and still in swaddling clothes. He knew nothing but I had formed a deep impression. My mum had hung a portrait of Chairman Mao on the wall. We each wore a piece of black area has the longest frontier line in Tibet for most of its history, there was frontier, but the frontier defense was weak. In the past, the Korkhas in Nepal had invaded Tibet in 1888, in and out from Shigatse. They had harassed and attacked the common people, plundered the Tashilhunpo Monastery, and were not driven out until the Qing Dynasty sent General Fu Kang’an’s troops. Such history should never be repeated, as a graduate coming from native origins, I thought the frontier defense should have a lot of responsibility, so I decided to choose the Frontier Corps as my career.”

Thus, he was enrolled by the Tibet Frontier Corps ahead of time as one of the first graduates drafted into the army. He said frankly that his choice was much influenced by his father, a policeman. Though he only had a short time with him, the father’s words and acts had deeply touched the son’s soul. That year, the Tibet Frontier Corps recruited 24 college graduates in total. The central Corps (in Lhasa) also kept some. Paljor volunteered to go to the basic level, thus he was assigned to the office of the Shigatse Detachment.

On October 28, 1996, Paljor reported his arrival at Shigatse Detachment with another three men. The Head and Commissar of the Detachment had a talk with him, asking him what he could do. He replied that his major was Marketing Economy Management...
and maybe because it was little related with frontier
defense, he could probably do nothing. “What can
I do? It’s not easy to tell, really!” They asked again,
“Do you have any request?” “Yes”, he answered, “I
dare not say it as a request. I would like to do the
major work here, no matter how hard or wearisome
it is.”

For frontier defense in Tibet, if there is no frontier,
thен there is no frontier management, nor frontier
army. So the major work is frontier management.
Paljor was just assigned to the office of Frontier
Management. At that time, “Nearly every office had
only one staff member. My office had the most—
two.” He smiled.

Paljor had served in the Detachment Office for
one year. Then he was sent to work in the area
around Nyalam and Dram from July, 1997, at the
County of Saga in 1998, Dingri in 1999, becoming
Head of the Dingri Lulu Frontier Inspection Station
in 2000, at Kangmar, Dingkye, Drongpa counties in
the following years, and at last, transferred to the
central Corps in Lhasa in 2006. In the Corps, he
worked as Director of the Frontier Management
Office for two years, then, he returned Shigatse
Detachment in 2008. In October 2011, he was
assigned Commissar at Nyalam Frontier Inspection
Station and began to have three stars on his shoulder
strap. “I have been working at the grassroots, the
front of the frontier. The boundary of Tibet is more
than 4000 kilometers, of which Shigatse has 1753
kilometers. Among the twenty-one frontier counties,
Shigatse has nine. Therefore, Shigatse is a much larger
frontier defense region than where I’ve been working
until today. As people say, I have almost taken root
at the base station.”

Paljor, on becoming rooted at the front, has a
strict definition of Frontier Defense. During our
three-hour interview he took nearly thirty to forty
minutes to explain to me the responsibilities, mission
and system of the Frontier Defense in order to relieve
my ignorance and also in expectation of helping
people understand what the frontier police of the
PRC are doing.

The frontier police having been subordinated to
the Ministry of Public Security, follows the order of
the People’s Police and the system of active service.

When I want to find its full counterpart, Paljor
explained, “In the USA, it’s called the Coast Guard,
in Nepal and other countries, it’s usually called the
Immigration Office. Our frontier defense is something
like their Immigration Office, yet, not completely the
same, because the Immigration Office, besides frontier
defense, also sets up the Office of Entry and Exit
Administration, or, by another name, the Foreigner
Administration Office, as that in our Public Security
Bureau. Our patrol is also different from that of the
Liberation Army. They are guarding our territory,
but we are keeping law and order, something like
the patrol duties of the policemen on the Tiananmen
Square, the purpose of which is to prevent and
repress illegal activities. In other responsible areas like
Dingri or Dram, we mainly offer service in population
administration and public security, including
handling cases like illegal immigration, boundary
markers or post destruction, drug smuggling, and so
on.”

For frontier defense in Tibet, most outposts lie
at the height of about 4000 to 5000 meters above sea
level. All year round it’s cold and dry with thin air
and is known to be uninhabitable. In the past, all
supplies had to be carried by manual labor. Some
other places like Drenthang and Metok, though
having a nice landscape at a low altitude, are sealed
off like an isolated island by ice and snow for more
than half a year. Take the town Drenthang in
Dingkye County as an example, there is no other
village out of the county seat. It will take two days
for people to enter or leave on foot. At night, travelers
on foot can only have a sleep on a piece of wood or a
faggot in the wild like a dog. Along the western
boundary line is Drongpa and Saga - where if your
vehicle breaks down, you can do nothing but huddle
up until you are lucky to meet another passing vehicle
and you can ask the driver to take a message for
help. If it happens to arrive at a place where there is
power and TV in the room, it is truly a bonus. The
young soldiers, one group after another, maintain
the posts with their youth and their health. But it is
not easy for one to stay here for more than ten years.
I asked Paljor how he could do it. He answered, “I
am a native. It’s what I do and I find the more work
I do the more I can learn from it. The work seems
Dalai Lama’s Way out Requires Compassion

by Xinhua writer Cheng Yunjie

Beijing, July 18 (Xinhua) — Describing self-immolation as “very, very delicate political issue,” the 14th Dalai Lama has said he will “remain neutral” on the topic in order to avoid offending the relatives of the self-immolators.

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The remark demonstrates that politics remains a vital factor in the Buddhist’s decision-making process, despite the fact that he has claimed to have
relinquished his political and administrative role in the so-called “Tibetan government-in-exile.”

If he has devoted his mind to religion, he would explain why he hasn’t explicitly forbidden self-immolation based on Buddhist doctrine. Questions like “is it right or wrong to commit suicide for Buddhism?” should not be avoided.

“If I say something negative, then the family members of those people will feel very sad. They sacrificed their ...life. It is not easy. So I do not want to create some kind of impression that this is wrong,” he was quoted as saying by the Hindu, an Indian English-language newspaper.

This inner struggle revealed by the Dalai Lama might be able to dampen some discontent over his dodging of core questions. But it is sad to see that his justification is below where it should be.

It might be better if he could temporarily put aside his worries about the deepening sorrow of those family members to concentrate on the simple questions: what benefits do the self-immolators receive? If they’ve done something wrong, nobody else can suffer for their faults during their endless life cycle. If there are some merits in their self-destruction, are these merits worthy?

The Dalai Lama does have reason to care about the grieving family members. The fear of deepening their sorrow is not as meaningful as helping them to cope with their sadness and turn misfortune into advantage.

After a series of self-immolations took place in China’s Tibetan-populated regions, several copycat suicides by teenagers and depressed people have been reported. Psychologists warn that clergy immolations are demonstrating to the public that it is permissible to give up hope and their lives so long as they follow suit.

Tibetans who have been taught not to observe other people’s errors, as specified in Buddhist scripture, are reluctant to comment on the self-immolations by clergy and lay people, but that doesn’t mean they agree with it or support it.

According to reports, the Dalai Lama has prayed for those who died after committing self-immolation in public and refused to call for an end of a practice that violates a basic Buddhism doctrine — not to kill.

In the Buddhists’ eyes, the Dalai Lama is their spiritual leader, if he reminds the followers of the doctrine, the self-immolation tragedy will definitely end.

It is immoral and inhumane to sacrifice other people’s lives for one’s own political agenda.

While overseas splittists brand self-immolations as a “protest of Chinese repression” and “cultural genocide,” local Tibetans have found themselves gaining easier and broader access to education, traveling more conveniently, living in better houses and continuing to maintain Buddhist tradition.

Anyone who visits Tibet can see for themselves the progress China has made in facilitating local democracy, as well as social and economic development.

Like any other country, China has its own imperfections. The situations in Tibetan-populated regions are no worse than elsewhere across China. From a Buddhist perspective, aren’t these imperfections a healthy reminder for people to renounce that which binds them to suffering and to nourish the compassion to do more good for the world?

Playing up problems for the purpose of sowing discord and hatred are detrimental to freedom in Buddhism and world peace. According to the teachings of Padmasambhava, the root guru of Tibetan Buddhism, a Mahayana Buddhist must abandon the discrimination of abodes, nations, geographies, social ranks, enemies and friends to equally benefit all beings.

Many people remember Dalai Lama’s comment “violence, even violence on the self, creates more violence” when Thubten Ngodup set himself on fire after a hunger strike by Tibetan refugees in New Delhi in 1998. What’s chilling is that some die-hard anti-China forces are advocating the Dalai Lama’s silence, presuming the Chinese government is seeking the man’s help to diffuse a “domestic crisis”. But they have miscalculated the situation.

If the Dalai Lama’s top concern is Buddhism, the solution to his dilemma is not in politicking, but inspiring people within his influence to exercise more compassion and avoid more self-immolations.
Nyingchi Remote Medical Center which is supported by Chinese Navy General Hospital was opening at 11 July 2012 in Nyingchi County, Tibet. The establishment and opening of the Telemedicine Center is one part of the aid work to Tibet by the hospital. Under the support and assistance of the Chinese Naval General Hospital, Nyingchi County Hospital's medical standards has been significantly improved, the number of outpatients increased by 30 times.