

Labs report advance as physicists are honoured

Only 10 days after reporting a breakthrough in superconductor development, Chinese scientists have made another one, putting China in a leading position in superconductor research, People's Daily reported yesterday.

The new discovery — by scientists at Beijing University and the Beijing Modern Physics Research Centre — was said to be at the same level as an advance made by Japanese scientists announced by a Japanese radio broadcast on Wednesday.

An experiment at Beijing University on the same day confirmed that a superconductor made of oxides of yttrium, barium, copper and other metals had zero electrical resistance at 91 degrees Kelvin (minus 182 degrees Centigrade) and

began to show lessened resistance at temperatures above 100 Kelvin (minus 173 degrees Centigrade). The transition range is quite narrow and the drop in resistance steep.

Scientists tested the magnetic properties of the material and found that strong diamagnetism appeared when the temperature approached 92 degrees Kelvin, according to the newspaper.

A main use of liquid nitrogen-cooled superconductors is expected to be as electromagnetic components of a new generation of powerful computers.

The researchers' results were assessed as "reliable" on Thursday by professors Guan Weiyuan and Yang Guozhen of the Physics Institute of the Chinese Academy of

Sciences and superconductor physicist Zhao Zhongxian.

Zhao is one of the 13 physicists who on February 20 reported finding that for modified baroxides, the critical temperature onset was above 100 K, and resistance approached zero at 78.5 K (minus 194.5 degrees Centigrade).

Meanwhile, to honour the Chinese scientists who have made great contributions to research into superconductors, Premier Zhao Ziyang pledged on Thursday to create an atmosphere of democracy, unity, harmony and liveliness in which intellectuals can make due contributions to their country and people and socialism.

Meeting a group of scientists in Zhongnanhai, the site of the headquarters of the Party Central Com-

mittee, he said that the Party will continue improving the working and living conditions of intellectuals.

The 16 scientists, including three women, were from the Physics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Physics Department of Beijing University.

Zhao expressed confidence that China can catch up with the advanced countries in the ongoing worldwide technology revolution now that it has built up a contingent of scientists of fine quality through efforts over the past three decades.

He reaffirmed the Party's policy of respecting knowledge and people with expertise, describing it as "unswerving." He noted that there have been "fundamental changes"

in the relations between the Party and intellectuals thanks to the implementation of the policy since 1979.

"Not long ago some people tried to incite intellectuals against the Party. In my opinion, they can never succeed and the intellectuals will never be taken in," he said.

"We certainly have shortcomings in our work, but generally speaking, we have made great improvements and will continue making improvements," he said.

Another report in People's Daily quoted Zhou Guangzhao, the newly appointed president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying that the academy would direct its major efforts toward serving the economic development of China. He called that the focus of the academy's current reform.

Zhou said two-thirds of the scientists and technicians in the academy would be sent to the production front to form a close relationship between scientific research and industrial production. At the same time, efforts will be made to promote research work, in which a group of picked scientists will be encouraged to engage.

The task of the academy during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period is twofold, according to Zhou. First, it will co-operate with enterprises in their technological transformation and the importing of new technology so their products can enter the international market.

Second, comprehensive research on natural resources, the environment, ecology and the ocean will be stressed.

Women told to guard their rights by law

by our staff reporter
Ma Lixin

Chinese women were urged yesterday to learn to protect themselves with the law.

Hao Jianxiu, a member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee, also called on them to raise standards of technology and culture and increase their sense of competitiveness in the present reforms.

She spoke at a gathering of about 1,500 people at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday to celebrate the 77th anniversary of International Working Women's Day.

"Women should know the specific legal articles and regulations for protecting their rights and fighting against sexual discrimination, unhealthy phenomena or deeds that invade, humiliate, oppress or injure women and their dignity," she said.

She reminded the meeting that Chinese women had been freed from humiliations of the old society and now "hold up half the sky" in the country's socialist construction.

She attributed these advances to the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the nation's socialist system, without which China would have no great future and the Chinese women's liberation movement would either be "in vain or would go astray."

"In the past year, as the country developed the political and economic reforms and the policy of opening to the outside world, Chinese women from various professions made glorious achievements that add fresh and brighter content to the annual celebration of the women's own holiday," Hao said.

"For these achievements," she continued, "we are proud of ourselves. And all the people in China are happy about it."

At a time when China is stressing healthy and scientific family life, Chinese women should help everyone in the family to learn from one another and support common goals, she said.

Women should play an active role in the country's population control drive and be meticulous in nursing and educating the young, Hao continued.

She noted that Chinese women must continuously strengthen their relationship with women of other nationalities, foreign countries and regions and establish "close and sincere ties" with them in an effort to safeguard world peace and the rights of women and children everywhere.

In 1986 the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) received 49 visiting delegations from 28 countries and regions and sent 17 Chinese women delegations abroad, according to members of the ACWF.

Moves aim to attract foreign investment

by our staff reporter
Liu Hong

China is launching a four-pronged effort to improve the investment environment for overseas businesses in the country, Zhang Haoru, Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, announced in Beijing yesterday.

The move reflects the State's determination to expand greatly the utilization of foreign funds in 1987.

The effort will include the improvement of legislation, close guidance of investment direction, the holding of more international investment seminars and new measures to facilitate the operation of foreign-funded enterprises.

Some more legislative measures will soon be worked out as supplements to the "22 Articles" and eight detailed regulations issued earlier and aimed at making it much easier for overseas investors to do business in China.

"These regulations will focus on helping enterprises with their foreign exchange balance, reducing costs, simplifying procedures and ensuring the autonomy of enterprises," Zhang said.

Because "too many" non-productive projects like taxi firms and tourist facilities were establish-

ed with foreign capital in the past, China will pay greater attention to guiding investment this year. "We will be more strict in selecting projects for foreign investment," Zhang said.

"Setting up joint-venture hotels in cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou will be duly controlled," Zhang added. "Export-oriented and advanced technology enterprises will be encouraged, and special treatment will be provided upon examination and confirmation."

The ongoing nation-wide cut of over-heated capital expenditures and the tight control on investment do not conflict with China's determination to seek more foreign investors. In fact, they are measures to promote the investments given priority, Zhang said.

The country will concentrate on beefing up efficiency and the quality of Chinese personnel in joint ventures.

Zhang said, "Improvement of management skills of the Chinese personnel in joint ventures is of vital importance to the existing enterprises with foreign investment."

Summing up last year, Zhang said foreign loan agreements signed totalled \$6.94 billion, a rise of 96.6 per cent over 1985, and foreign loans under execution reached \$4.83 billion, a rise of 93 per cent over 1985.

"The loans to China in 1986 almost doubled the figure of 1985," Zhang noted, adding that such a situation was better than expected.

Referring to the 48 per cent fall in new foreign investment contracts, worth \$3.308 billion in 1986 — Zhang said: "We should look not only at the figures but the nature of the investment. The quality and structure have improved."

He noted that 76 per cent of the projects approved in 1986 were productive enterprises as against only 45 per cent between 1979 and 1985.

Zhang said companies with foreign investment in China were "quite satisfied." He noted that the United States consulting firm AT Kearney had recently interviewed 70 American investors in China and found that 50 per cent said they viewed their operations here as very good or good. Only six per cent said they had not been successful.

Tanzanian President in Beijing

Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi arrived in Beijing yesterday afternoon on a five-day State visit to China at the invitation of Chinese President Li Xiannian.

Accompanying him on the visit are his wife, Sitti Mwinyi, Tanzanian Foreign Minister Benjamin Mkapa and the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Zanzibar Government, Salmin Amour.

During his stay in Beijing, Mwinyi is scheduled to meet Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping and Li Xiannian and hold talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang. The Tanzanian President will also tour Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's province of Sichuan.

(Xinhua)

Guangzhou's 6,000 taxis hustle for fares

by our staff reporter
Guo Zhongshi

GUANGZHOU — They start moving and beeping at about six in the morning, and they keep bustling through the narrow streets till well after midnight, competing for customers at the wave of hand or a resounding shout of "Taxi!"

Every day for the past several years, more than 6,000 taxis have carried travellers and local residents everywhere in this southern coastal city, providing a service superior to that in any other city in China.

A recent survey, conducted

privately by the city's Passenger Transport Management Department, revealed that more than 82 per cent of the taxis in 130 companies had complied with the maintenance standards and 74 per cent were using meters in good condition.

"Many companies are running their business effectively with their own rules and regulations, and most taxi drivers have been giving good services to passengers," said Sun Chuying, chief of the department.

Sun told China Daily that his department was established recently to supervise the management of taxi companies. It co-ordinated the

work of these companies, drew up necessary regulations, set prices, distributed petrol and handled passengers' complaints.

Referring to the contract system adopted by many taxi companies, Sun said that most of the taxi companies were good and had helped to ease the strain on public transport.

Most of Guangzhou's taxi companies have hired out their vehicles to drivers who are entitled to all earnings after handing over to the company a certain amount of their monthly profit, usually around 2,000 yuan.

The system has spurred the enthusiasm of drivers who, unlike those in other cities, are willing to

drive around the city and carry anybody regardless of distance, Sun said.

To make an average 200 to 300 yuan a month, a driver has to spend 8 to 10 hours a day on the road.

However, taxis have become one of the main causes of traffic accidents in the city's narrow streets, which are often encumbered by pedlars, piles of building materials and bicycles.

"Because they are making money, they often drive much faster than other motor vehicles, which tend to give them the right of way," Sun said.

The management of some companies left much to be desired, he

admitted. "Some drivers, having their eyes set on money, do not use meters and over charge."

To cope with the situation, Sun said his department had urged tax and police departments to jointly formulate new rules controlling meters, prices and receipts.

"Companies which do a good job should be awarded, and those which receive the most complaints from passengers should be punished," he said.

Huang Mingsong, deputy chief of the department, said he was confident Guangzhou's taxi companies could be well organized and set an example for other cities in the country.

Arriving, from Paris...



Michel Cogan-Portnoi, Yves Cressent and Pierre Caillard of France land first at the Beijing Airport yesterday evening to complete the first half of the 35,000-kilometre Paris-Beijing-Paris air race. Seventeen planes set out on February 27 on the first leg of the rally, which is the longest ever held and carries a \$25,000 first prize. The return leg — via Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Jordan and Italy — begins on Wednesday.

China Daily photo by Guo Jianshe

Kampuchea 'Great moment of hope' on arms discussed in Jakarta

JAKARTA (Agencies via Xinhua) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Indonesian leaders began wide-ranging talks focused on Kampuchea yesterday, spokesmen for their two countries said.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, taking time off for yesterday's Muslim prayers, said the talks were "going very well."

Asked if new ideas had been broached on Kampuchea, he said only, "it's time for prayer now."

As Shevardnadze pressed Moscow's political offensive in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Jakarta said the German Democratic Republic's Foreign Minister, Oscar Fischer, would arrive here next week from Hanoi for talks on Kampuchea.

Diplomats in the region have said Shevardnadze's tour could lead to a breakthrough in the eight-year war in Kampuchea between UN-recognized guerrillas and the Viet Nam-backed Phnom Penh regime.

Shevardnadze is due to visit Hanoi next week, and Asian diplomats here said they believed Moscow may try to pressure Hanoi into a settlement on Kampuchea.

WASHINGTON (Agencies via Xinhua) — US President Ronald Reagan called his arms negotiators to the White House yesterday for strategic planning, having told Americans the superpowers are at "a great moment of hope for all mankind" on arms control.

Reagan summoned negotiators Max Kampelman, Maynard Glitman and Ronald Lehman for lunch to give them new instructions for the Geneva talks. The trio are expected to appear before reporters to play up a subject — world peace — that Reagan hopes will erase the stain of the Iran-Contra scandal from his presidency.

"I've never felt so optimistic about the prospects for success in this area as I do today," Reagan told visiting newspaper publishers on Thursday.

"We've spent enough time in the last few months on inside Washington politics," he said in reference to the scandal that has dominated headlines in the nation's capital.

"So far as I'm concerned, the American people sent me here to do a job, and there are just two years left to get it done, and part of that job is to strengthen the founda-

tions of world peace," he told the publishers.

Reagan hailed as a "great breakthrough" a Soviet decision to separate the issue of his "star wars" anti-missile plan, the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), from an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe.

Reagan also depicted the Soviet offer, which would ban such missiles from Europe, as vindication of his own "Zero Option" proposal of November 1981, which he recalled being "greeted with a great deal of skepticism."

A Soviet draft treaty, like a counteroffer presented in Geneva on Wednesday by the US side, would limit the superpowers to 100 warheads on missiles in Soviet Asia and the United States.

Meanwhile, the West European allies pondered the implications of a future without US nuclear missiles on their territory after hearing of the proposed US deal with Moscow to remove them.

In a private session at Nato headquarters on Thursday, US arms control negotiators briefed their allies on a US draft treaty to abolish all Soviet and American medium-range missiles based in Europe in the next five years.

Israelis profess ignorance

TEL AVIV (Agencies via Xinhua) — The Israeli Government "did not know" that American navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard was spying for Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Thursday, adding that "the time has not come for an internal investigation" of the case.

Earlier President Chaim Herzog, said he hoped Israel would learn lessons from the affair, which has caused a major crisis in US-Israeli relations.

And Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a public gathering that Israeli political leaders were not informed of the spying carried out by Pollard, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for spying by a US court on Wednesday.

Rabin added that the unit responsible for the espionage had been dismantled.

Peres also said he was "greatly surprised" at a reported complaint by US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger about the spy case.

Weinberger was reported to have said that if Israel became too strong, the risk of war in the Middle East would increase.

Yesterday, Israeli radio quoted the Defence Secretary as telling Israel's Ambassador to Washington that Pollard should have been hanged for spying for Israel.

The radio's Washington correspondent also quoted Weinberger as saying in a telephone conversation with Ambassador Meir Rosenne that the United States will have to invest billions of dollars to remedy the damage caused by Pollard's operation. He did not reveal his source for the story.

Rosenne, interviewed by Israel radio immediately after the report, refused to confirm or deny the content of any conversation he had with Weinberger.

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Today's weather

City	Min(°C)	Max(°C)	Weather
Beijing	-2	6	cloudy
Chengdu	10	21	clear
Guangzhou	19	27	overcast
Hangzhou	7	12	showers
Hong Kong	18	24	showers
Kunming	4	21	clear
Shanghai	6	12	showers
Shenyang	-9	-1	clear
Taipei	19	26	overcast
Tianjin	0	6	overcast
Wuhan	8	12	showers
Xi'an	5	17	cloudy