

TOP NEWS

Closing the gap



The Xiangjiang Bridge, in Guizhou province, stands one day short of completion in this aerial photo taken Wednesday. The bridge connects the city of Zunyi and Yuqing county and is more than 1.7 kilometers long with a main span of 560 meters. LIU XU / XINHUA

Foreign enterprises 'should not worry' about export law

By ZHONG NAN
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The Ministry of Commerce reiterated on Thursday that foreign companies have nothing to worry about regarding the Export Control Law because China's business environment will continue to improve.

The legislative work on regulations related to the law is under drafting and the list of the goods concerned will be further improved. The list will be released in due course, said Gao Feng, the ministry's spokesman.

Meanwhile, the list attached to the previous export control regulations remains in effect.

Gao was speaking during an online news conference in answer to a question on whether foreign companies may be required under this law to submit additional information to the Chinese government, including their intellectual property rights or trade secrets, when applying to export goods on the list.

The law, which took effect on Tuesday, states that if any country or region abuses export control measures to endanger China's national security and interests, China can take reciprocal measures commensurate with the actual conditions.

China will carry out its export control work in accordance with internationally accepted practices, and will effectively protect all legal rights and interests of the exporters, including intellectual property rights on various products, Gao said.

"Foreign-funded companies should not be worried," he said.

The Export Control Law stipulates that export control work should support the overall national security concept and improve export control management and services, said Song Wei, an associate research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing.

Export control has become an important means of ensuring national security and interests. Large economies and regional blocs, such as the United States and the European Union, have introduced export control laws, said Xue Rongjiu, deputy director of the China Society for WTO (World Trade Organization) Studies in Beijing.

China just upgraded its foreign trade legal system to reinforce the protection of its own industrial and growth interests, he added.

Australian wine

While China is creating favorable conditions for global companies to expand their presence in its massive market, Xue said the country is also taking necessary measures to ensure the lawful rights of its own businesses.

After China determined that Australian exporters have been dumping wine in its market, it decided to impose provisional deposits on Australian wine imports.

The Ministry of Commerce said those temporary anti-dumping measures would stay in effect for up to four months and under special circumstances could be extended to nine months.

China will continue to investigate this case in accordance with legal procedures and come to a final ruling on anti-dumping measures based on the investigation's results, Gao said.

Under a preliminary ruling at the ministry last week, China started imposing on Saturday deposits of 107.1 percent to 212.1 percent on Australian wine imports as a provisional anti-dumping measure.

When China announced anti-dumping measures on Australia's barley exports in May, the spokesman said that the investigation and adjudication involved was all in accordance with Chinese laws.

US visa rules for CPC members opposed

Ministry: 'Sound, steady development of bilateral relations' crucial for both countries

By MO JINGXI
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China expressed firm opposition on Thursday to the United States tightening its visa rules for members of the Communist Party of China, and it called on the US government to abandon any hatred and abnormal mindset it may have for the CPC.

"This is an escalation of political oppression against China taken by

some extreme anti-China forces in the US who are driven by a strong ideological bias and deep-rooted Cold War mentality," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular news briefing in Beijing.

The new visa rules, which took effect immediately, limit the maximum validity of travel visas for Party members and their families to one month and a single entry, The New York Times reported.

Hua said that what the US did does not serve its own interests and would only undermine its self-claimed openness, freedom and institutional advantages in front of people in the world.

"We hope some people in the US can adopt a rational, calm and objective attitude toward China and China's development," she said, calling on the US to work with China and promote correct understanding of each other through dialogue and communications.

"The sound and steady development of bilateral relations is in the fundamental and long-term inter-

ests of both countries and their people. It is also the common aspiration of the entire world," she said.

On Thursday, Hua also urged some US politicians to respect basic facts and stop using Xinjiang-related issues as a pretext to interfere in China's internal affairs.

She made the remark after Washington banned imports of cotton produced by a firm in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region allegedly for using "slave labor".

"The fake news of so-called forced labor is fabricated by some US politicians in order to constrain and oppress relevant parties and

companies in China and curb China's development," Hua said.

She said that the US practice goes against international trade rules and market economic principles, undermines the industry and supply chains and hurts the interests of businesses and consumers including those in the US.

China will continue to take necessary measures to safeguard Chinese businesses' legitimate rights and interests, Hua said.

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Chang'e 5 makes first step in journey home

By ZHAO LEI
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The lunar samples collected by China's Chang'e 5 robotic mission have set out on their journey to Earth after the craft conducted late Thursday night the first-ever moon-based space launch by any Chinese space vehicle.

The lunar rocks and soil gathered by Chang'e 5's lander-ascender combination are scheduled to land at a preset site in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region in mid-December, completing the world's first endeavor in 44 years to bring lunar substances back to Earth.

According to the China National Space Administration, the ascender carrying the samples activated a 3,000-newton-thrust engine at 11:10 pm on Thursday to lift itself to an elliptical lunar orbit, marking the first time for a Chinese spacecraft to blast off from an extraterrestrial body.

Before the ascender was launched, the lander-ascender combination erected a small Chinese national flag to honor the country, the administration said.

The ascender will later rendezvous and dock with Chang'e 5's orbiter-reentry capsule combination, which is now traveling in lunar orbit at an average altitude of about 200 km. Next, it will transfer the lunar

samples to the reentry module and then separate from the combination.

The orbiter-reentry capsule combination will later return to Earth orbit, where the pair will separate, and the reentry capsule will conduct a series of complicated maneuvers to return to Earth's land.

Chang'e 5, China's largest and most sophisticated lunar probe, was launched by a Long March 5 heavy-lift carrier rocket early on Nov 24 at the Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan province, setting out on the world's first mission since 1976 to return lunar samples to Earth.

The spacecraft has four main components — an orbiter, lander, ascender and reentry capsule.

The spacecraft separated into two parts — the orbiter-reentry capsule combination and the lander-ascender combination — while in lunar orbit early Monday morning.

On Tuesday night, the lander-ascender combination landed on a region north of Mons Rümker, a mountain overlooking a vast lunar mare called Oceanus Procellarum, or the Ocean of Storms, on the western edge of the moon's near side, becoming the third spacecraft to successfully touch down on lunar surface this century. The first two to achieve this feat — Chang'e 3 and 4 — were also from China.

Shortly after the touchdown, the lander began to use a drill to obtain underground samples from 2



The lander-ascender combination of Chang'e 5 robotic lunar probe finished gathering lunar samples and packed them in a vacuum container on Wednesday night. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

meters beneath the surface. It finished the underground operation at 4:53 am on Wednesday. The craft then started gathering surface soil with a mechanical arm. Samples were packed into a vacuum container inside the ascender.

All of the collection and packing processes ended at 10 pm on Wednesday, having taken a total of nearly 19 hours, much sooner than expected.

Project planners have allowed the lander-ascender combination to work about two days on the moon to accomplish the gathering and packing tasks.

Experts said that planners needed to leave sufficient time for the craft to perform the sophisticated collection operations in case of possible malfunctions, adding that completion ahead of schedule indicates the apparatus worked very well.

Inside

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Multiple provincial, Party official appointments made

By CAO YIN
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Two Chinese ministries have received new Party secretaries after the officials in the top positions in the departments reached the retirement age of 65, and acting governors have also been appointed in several provinces.

Under recent decisions made by the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Tang Renjian has been appointed secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs' Party group, replacing 66-year-old Han Changfu. Wang Wentao has been named secretary of the Ministry of Commerce's Party group, replacing 65-year-old Zhong Shan.

Information on the reshuffling was disclosed on Wednesday via the respective websites of the ministries, where Han and Zhong are still the ministers.

Under Chinese law, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, is authorized to appoint a minister.

Tang, 58, a native of Chongqing, started his career in 1983 and joined the Party in 1991. He acquired broad experience working in various agricultural departments for about 30 years before becoming governor of Gansu province in May 2017.

After Tang was moved to the ministry, the Standing Committee of the Gansu People's Congress appointed Ren Zhenhe as acting governor on Thursday.

Wang, 56, the Ministry of Commerce's new Party secretary, came from Nantong, Jiangsu province. He began his career in 1985 and joined the Party in 1994. He served in many posts in Shanghai, as well as in the provinces of Yunnan, Jiangxi and Shandong, before becoming governor of Heilongjiang province in May 2018.

The Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress appointed Huang Qiang as Sichuan's acting governor on Wednesday, as former governor Yin Li has been appointed Party secretary of Fujian province.

Huang, 57, from Zhejiang prov-

Under Chinese law, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, is authorized to appoint a minister.

ince, worked in China's aerospace industry for more than 20 years. He became vice-governor of Gansu in 2014 and was appointed executive vice-governor of Henan four years later.

Also on Wednesday, Feng Fei was named acting governor of Hainan by the Hainan Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee, as former Hainan governor Shen Xiaoming became the provincial Party secretary.

Feng, 58, a native of Jiangxi province, served in the State Council's Development Research Center for about 20 years. In 2015, he was appointed vice-minister of industry and information technology, and a year later, he became vice-governor of Zhejiang.

Earlier, Guizhou, Jilin, Yunnan and Hunan provinces named acting governors at each legislature's standing committee, as their ex-governors all became provincial Party secretaries.

Li Bingjun, 57, former deputy Party secretary of Jiangxi, was appointed acting governor of Guizhou, while Han Jun, 57, vice-minister of agriculture and rural affairs, was named acting governor of Jilin.

Wang Yubo, 57, deputy Party secretary of Yunnan, became acting provincial governor, while Mao Weiming, 59, former chairman of the State Grid Corp, was appointed acting governor of Hunan.

According to the Constitution, the governor of a province should be elected and removed by the provincial people's congress. Its standing committee has the right to name a candidate as acting governor, a decision that will later be put to a vote at the local annual congress.

Hitching a lift

Snowboard enthusiasts take ski lift to the top of the slope in Changchun, Jilin province, on Wednesday. YAN LINYUN / XINHUA

