

CHINA

Lithuania starts 'rumor' over ID cards

Foreign Ministry says Baltic country never applied for diplomat extension

By WANG QINGYUN
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Lithuania has never applied for an extension of the identification documents of its diplomats in China, and was "simply starting a rumor" by claiming that it didn't get a reply from China for its request for an extension, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Friday.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said on Thursday that Chinese authorities had informed Lithuanian diplomats that their identification cards would soon no longer be valid, and that the Lithuanian side was "given extremely short time", but "did not get any answer" to its request for a longer period, according to Reuters.

Rebuking Landsbergis' remarks, Wang said that Lithuania created "a farce" by suddenly having all its diplomats leave China without informing China in advance.

After Lithuania allowed Taiwan authorities to set up a "representative office" there, China announced the downgrading of its ties with the Baltic country to the level of charge d'affaires in November.

The measure conforms to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, general international law and practice, and the diplomatic principle of reciprocity, Wang said at a news conference.

Under the circumstances that bilateral ties had already been downgraded, China asked the Lithuanian mission in China to renew the identification documents for its diplomats, Wang said.

Such a move is a normal procedure of China's service for and management of foreign diplomatic missions, conforms to international law and conventions, and does not affect the Lithuanian diplomats' normal performance of duty or their life, he said.

In the meantime, China, according to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, guarantees safety and lawful rights of all diplomatic missions in the country, and ensures normal operation of all the missions, including Lithuania's, Wang said.

"Instead of facing and rectifying its mistake, Lithuania spread false information and tried to deflect its responsibility, which China regrets deeply and opposes firmly," Wang said. "Lithuania's attempt to create the false impression of 'one China, one Taiwan' and undermine China's sovereignty will fail."

Also, Lithuania is "totally miscalculating" by "attempting to blackmail China politically", Wang added.

Regarding Czech media reports that China may detain a Lithuanian national without criminal charges, Wang said the reports are "purely fictional and very absurd".

Commenting on a resolution of the foreign affairs committee of the senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic passed to call for the Czech government to support the departure of Lithuanian diplomats in China, Wang urged "the relevant side to ... observe the one-China principle and take concrete actions to maintain the healthy development of bilateral ties and China-Europe ties".

Guizhou community embraces rule of law

By YANG JUN in Guiyang
and YE ZIZHEN

Shushe community of Weining county, Guizhou province, is putting up eye-catching billboards to improve the legal consciousness of its residents.

In an effort to popularize knowledge of the law among residents of the community, billboards and signs with the content of the Civil Code are now seen along the main streets in Shushe.

"Conflicts of interests among residents often occurred and the outlook of the village was not good," said Guan Zhengfa, Party secretary of Shushe community. "The need to improve locals' legal knowledge and neighborhood relations was urgent."

As Shushe shook off poverty through the nectarine industry in 2020, the local government sped up building Shushe into a model community with rule of law.

The deserted train station — once the driving force of economic development — then became a hub to help improve social civilization and legal knowledge among the people.

"We tried to minimize the changes to the old train station and make full use of it so residents can keep their memories and also learn legal knowledge," said Kong Yun, an official with the Weining county's justice department.

An 800-square-meter legal culture square was established at the old train station.

To meet residents' demands for legal services, a people's mediation office was set up in Shushe community, providing legal consultancy and aid, according to local authorities.

A library was also set up in Shushe for residents to read relevant legal documents.

Fu Chenggang, a 22-year-old local, still recalls the whistling of the train in childhood.

"Changes in our community are great. In addition to the expanded road and renovated houses, I also feel people-to-people relationships are more friendly. There are no more physical fights and quarrels between residents," Fu said.

A college graduate, Fu decided to come back to his hometown and devote himself to its development, becoming a village official after graduation this July.

"Through the lectures held here, I learned the Land Law, which deals with the major problem in rural China, and it will benefit my future work here," said Fu.

"There are both online and offline lectures about different laws. The lectures provide us a tool to protect our rights."

In 2019, Shushe was honored as a model community with the rule of law by the Guizhou provincial government.

Recalling the start of the program, Guan, the Party secretary, said, "Residents had concerns about the plan of building the community into a role model of rule of law, but after our explanation, they all get the meaning of the program and are very supportive."

Apart from providing legal services, all types of activities are held year-round. For instance, special campaigns about legal education were launched on traditional Chinese holidays, Guan added.

"By holding the activities, we expect villagers to proactively participate in the rule of law, and also enhance their abilities of self-discipline and self-protection."

In March 2020, the Shushe community was recognized by the Ministry of Justice along with another 1,044 villages and communities nationwide as a role model with the rule of law.

Zhang Chi contributed to this story.

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Batik design



Models display batik clothes designed by graduate students at Liuzhou Institute of Technology in Liuzhou, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, on Thursday. Batik is a dyeing technique using melt wax, and is recognized as a national cultural heritage. WANG YIZHAO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Preparations underway for moon landing

By ZHAO LEI
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China is making preparations for a moon landing that will place its astronauts on the lunar surface, according to a senior official at the China Manned Space Agency.

Dong Nengli, head of the agency's technology bureau, said at a news conference at the State Council Information Office in Beijing on Friday afternoon that space program planners and engineers are researching the road map and technologies for the manned moon landing.

"The results of their work will be seen in due course. Our astronauts will definitely touch down on the moon," he told reporters.

The news conference invited key

figures from China's manned space programs, who are also members of the Communist Party of China, to share their stories and thoughts with journalists.

China's space authorities have a long-term plan to land astronauts on the moon and set up at least one scientific station there. They hope to use the manned missions to carry out scientific surveys and technological research, explore ways to develop lunar resources and strengthen the nation's space capabilities.

Zhou Yanfei, a deputy chief designer of China's manned space program, said in September 2020 that the country has the capacity to independently land astronauts on the moon because of its technologies, well-trained, innovative profession-

als and efficient research and management systems.

Toward that goal, Wang Yanan, editor-in-chief of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, said Chinese engineers need to build new, stronger carrier rockets and spacecraft before they arrange a moon-bound journey for Chinese astronauts.

"The nation's current rockets and manned spaceships can't send astronauts to the moon because they are not designed for such a mission. We need to design a new rocket, a new spacecraft, a lunar landing capsule and a new spacesuit fit for a moon walk. We also need to upgrade our ground support system that was designed for operations in low-Earth orbit rather than on the lunar surface," he explained.

Designers at the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, the country's major maker of carrier rockets, are researching a super-heavy rocket that will be several times bigger and mightier than the Long March 5, now the biggest and strongest in China's Long March rocket family.

With a length of nearly 90 meters, the new rocket, which has yet to be named, will have a liftoff weight of about 2,000 metric tons and will be able to place a 25-ton spacecraft into an Earth-moon trajectory, designers said, adding that this new model will serve the manned lunar landing.

China has conducted three robotic landings on the moon, deployed two rovers and brought samples back to the Earth.

PATH TO GLORY | RURAL VITALIZATION

Xinjiang prevents return to poverty

By CHENG SI
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The Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has improved its monitoring and aiding mechanism to consolidate the results of poverty-alleviation work, making sure that no local resident will be plagued by poverty again.

According to the region's rural vitalization bureau, the region has arranged inspection visits to about 12 million village residents from May to June, among whom 773,600 are recognized as key groups who need continuous help although they are already lifted out of poverty.

The key groups include those facing sharp decreases in income due to severe disease, natural disasters, epidemics or problems such as living in dilapidated houses and lack of drinking water.

The bureau said that the region has tailored measures for those key groups by stabilizing their jobs and guaranteeing their basic needs.

For example, for those severely disabled and who lost their ability to work, the region offers them minimum living allowances. The bureau said that, so far, nearly 99 percent of the people in the key groups have received help from the government.

Niyima Tsering, from the region's Hejing county, lost his income earlier this year as his homestay business was suspended due to the COVID-19 epidemic. His financial condition got worse after his second baby was born and his wife couldn't work while breastfeeding.

He then reported his difficulties to the village and was included into the key group by the local government in June.

To help him get a stable job, the local government arranged for him to learn welding skills at the county's vocational school and introduced him to an iron workshop after he finished training courses.

He now has a rather stable



A man tends business at a store in Hejing county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, in April. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

11,400 residents

who faced the risk of returning to poverty have received skills training in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region this year.

monthly salary of about 5,000 yuan (\$785).

The rural vitalization bureau said that promoting the key groups to get stable jobs is a good way to prevent them from being trapped in poverty again, so the region has made great efforts to organize residents to learn working skills and help them land jobs.

Since earlier this year, about 11,400 residents facing the risk of returning to poverty have received skills training with allowances of about 67 million yuan allocated. For example, 436 of them were trained

to make clothes and 314 to drive farm equipment.

On March 20, 2020, the former Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development of the State Council released a guideline to establish a monitoring and aiding mechanism to prevent formerly impoverished people from returning to poverty.

Extreme poverty in China was eliminated by the end of last year, while more calibrated measures have been introduced to help those families who are vulnerable to emergencies, disease and disasters and are facing risks of returning to poverty.

It said that establishing and improving the monitoring and aiding mechanism is effective to consolidate poverty-alleviation work, which is a good way to prevent poverty.

Mao Weihua in Urumqi contributed to this story.

Briefly

SHANGHAI
Teacher fired for erroneous remarks

A teacher at Aurora College has been sacked for making misleading comments on the number of victims of the Nanjing Massacre during a class, the Shanghai college announced on Thursday. The college said on its website that Song Gengyi, a teacher from its school of film, made an erroneous remark in her journalism course on Tuesday which resulted in "serious negative impact in society". The teacher was fired in accordance with the college's regulations. During the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression (1931-45), Japanese invaders killed about 300,000 Chinese civilians when they invaded Nanjing in December 1937. In 2014, China's top legislature designated Dec 13 as National Memorial Day for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

BEIJING
China renews blue alert for cold wave

China's meteorological authority on Friday renewed a blue alert for a cold wave, forecasting low temperatures and gales in vast regions of the country. From 8 am Friday to 8 pm Saturday, temperatures are expected to drop by 6 C to 8 C in central and east China, according to the National Meteorological Center. Some areas could see a temperature drop of more than 12 C, according to the center. The center advised the public to take precautions against the cold weather and strong winds and suggested traffic and police authorities prepare for icy road conditions. China has a four-tier, color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe weather, followed by orange, yellow and blue.