

Sisters Day festivities



Women wearing ethnic Miao costumes celebrate Zimei Jie, or Sisters Day, as they march in a parade on Monday in Taijiang county, Qian-dongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture, Guizhou province. The festival is similar to Valentine's Day and dates back more than 3,000 years. NING JIAN/ FOR CHINA DAILY

China tries to bring back 3 fugitives in US

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco and ZHANG YAN in Beijing

China hopes to further intensify cooperation with US law-enforcement agencies to bring back three fugitives accused of corruption at home and exposed in a visa fraud probe in California, an official familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The two countries will try to keep in close contact and share information on the case, said the official who did not wish to be named due to the sensitive nature of the case.

The three people gained their US "green cards" by faking documents, and as a result those green cards could be revoked. "We'll enhance cooperation with our US counterparts and ask for assistance in arresting and bringing them back to China."

On April 5, US federal agents raided several locations in the greater Los Angeles area. They searched the office of the California Investment Immigration Fund, or the CIIF, in San Gabriel; a home in

The suspects could face charges of visa fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to defraud the federal government, according to Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

Arcadia; a town house in El Monte and a Porsche SUV. They seized computers, financial documents and other records for evidence of the suspected fraud.

No arrests were made, and Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, said on April 6 no charges had been filed against the suspects at this point. They could face charges of visa fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to defraud the federal government.

Victoria Chan, an attorney, and Tat Chan, her foreign national father, persuaded more than 100 Chinese

nationals to invest a total of \$50 million with the CIIF and related companies since establishing the business in 2008, according to a search warrant unsealed by the US District Court for the Central District of California.

The court document also named another suspect, Fang Zeng, the father's female companion and a Chinese national.

Among Chan's clients were at least three fugitives on China's 100 most wanted list, who were charged with crimes like bribery, according to the affidavit. They were able to obtain green cards based on false information.

Xu Jin, number 13 on the

list, was formerly the director of the Wuhan Municipal Development and Reform Commission in Hubei province. He was suspected of abusing power and bribery. Xu used fake documents to obtain a temporary US green card in 2010 and fled China in 2011 with his wife, according to the Chinese government.

His wife, Liu Fang, number 66 on the list, was formerly deputy director of the Hubei branch of China Life Insurance Co. She was accused of bribery and obtained her US green card through deceit in 2010, according to the Chinese government.

There was little information about the third fugitive, identified as "K.L.," according to the affidavit.

The US has become a popular destination for corrupt Chinese officials to flee due to the lack of an extradition treaty and judicial differences between China and the US.

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What's on the label? Only driver will know

By CHINA DAILY

Cainiao, the logistics firm backed by e-commerce giant Alibaba, has said it aims to roll out "invisible waybills" on parcels nationwide by the end of this year to help prevent personal data theft.

The company's system, now being tested in five northwestern provinces, encrypts a recipient's name, address and phone number on a parcel and only allows express delivery drivers to access the information through a specially designed app.

"China has the largest logistics industry in the world, but the personal information placed on waybills has caught the eye of criminals," said Bao Ying, a Cainiao spokeswoman. "To better protect the privacy and interests of our customers, we came up with invisible waybills."

Express parcel senders have

93

the number of partner companies working with Cainiao's system

been required to provide their real names and phone numbers since late 2015. However, security experts have warned the information on waybills could be stolen if not disposed of correctly.

Major shopping websites, such as JD.com, have introduced similar encryption systems for their delivery drivers. Yet with a network of 93 partner companies, Cainiao's system could be the most extensive.

Testing was launched on March 23 in cooperation with Huangmajia, a logistics and

delivery company based in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province. Bao said if all goes well, the system will be rolled out in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen in June, and nationwide by year's end.

The response has been mixed, according to the head of Huangmajia's terminal in Xi'an, which has 16 delivery drivers. Huang, who did not want to give his full name, said some have reported receiving positive feedback from customers, but others have raised concerns about learning how to use a new app.

So far, the invisible waybill service is free, Bao said, as introducing charges could slow adoption of the system.

"We're doing this to stop the offline leakage of personal information, but we're also working hard to stop online leaks by using cloud technolo-

gy and monitoring systems to see who is extracting the data," she added.

Zhang Pengfei, an information services official at the State Post Bureau, welcomed encrypted waybills as an innovation that can better protect people's personal data. "It will take time for deliverymen to adapt to this change, but it's a good start," he said.

However, law professor Liu Deliang at Beijing Normal University said online data theft and "underground exchanges" are still the much bigger threat.

"We should focus on legislation that targets telecom fraud and phone call harassment and act vigorously against crime," he said. "When there's no underground exchanges, there'll be no personal information leakage."

Zhang Yue contributed to this story.

Korean Peninsula draws new focus

Beijing urges calm as US sends carrier group to troubled region

By MO JINGXI mojingxi@chinadaily.com.cn

China called for restraint on Monday after the United States said it had sent a carrier group in a show of force against Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.

"China has been paying close attention to the development of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Under the current circumstances, we think all parties should show restraint and not take action that may intensify regional tensions," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Monday.

During the meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Florida last week, Hua said, both sides agreed on the goal of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and reaf-

firmed that they would continue to carry out UN Security Council resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a comprehensive way.

"The two sides agreed to keep close communication and coordination regarding the Korean Peninsula issue," she said at a daily news conference in Beijing.

"China reaffirmed its adherence to denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, maintaining the peace and stability of the peninsula and solving problems through dialogue and coordination," she said.

Hua said China further explained its "dual-track" approach, which calls for denuclearizing the peninsula while also establishing a path to ensure peace; and the "dual-suspension" proposal, which calls for suspending Pyongyang's nuclear and missile activities as well as

large-scale drills by Washington and Seoul.

"We think China's proposals are reasonable and objective, and we hope the parties will seriously consider them and make a constructive response," she said.

Meanwhile, China's special representative on Korean Peninsula affairs, Wu Dawei, arrived in Seoul on Monday, where he will meet and exchange views with Kim Hong-kyun, who represents the Republic of Korea in the six-party talks to denuclearize the peninsula.

Wang Junsheng, an Asia-Pacific studies researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the US is putting military pressure on the DPRK by sending the carrier strike group there.

"Given the current complicated situation on the peninsula, the Chinese envoy's trip shows that China is still making mediation efforts to restart the negotiations and achieve peace and stability on the peninsula," he said.

A load of crocs

Border police in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region of southern China seized 77 specimens and hundreds of products made from the protected Siamese crocodile. The products, including 370 pieces of crocodile skin and 90 tails, were detected on a truck attempting to cross the China-Vietnam border in early March.

ZHAO HUABIN/ FOR CHINA DAILY



Myanmar: Consensus 'basically reached' on the Myitsone Dam

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Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin told reporters after the meeting that one section of the China-Myanmar crude oil pipeline has been finished, while China has built a refinery near Kunming, provincial capital of Yunnan.

"Recently, the two sides have been discussing operation of the pipeline. After the signing of the agreement, I believe the pipeline will be put into operation soon," Liu said.

He said the project will not only transport oil that China imports from Myanmar, but will also benefit regions

along the pipeline.

The two sides also reached "important consensus" in areas such as energy, interconnectivity and infrastructure cooperation, Liu revealed.

China and Myanmar have "basically reached consensus" on the Myitsone Dam project, which was delayed by the former Myanmar government, Liu said.

"Both sides expressed positive expectations," he said, adding the two sides will continue the discussion to reach a proper win-win settlement. "It is predictable that there will be a result acceptable to

both sides in the coming future."

Liu said a gap in the nation's common efforts that existed in the past will be filled by the decision to focus combined efforts more on the livelihoods of Myanmar's people.

U Htin Kyaw also met Premier Li Keqiang on Monday. Li stressed that stability in northern Myanmar has a direct effect on security of Southwest China.

China does not want to see the border area disturbed and will support Myanmar's efforts to realize domestic peace and reconciliation, Li said.



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Train: Frequent trips forecast within decade

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Greg Hands, British minister of state in the Department for International Trade, said the new line shows the global demand for UK goods.

"This new rail link with China is another boost for global Britain, following the ancient Silk Road trade route to carry British products around the world," he said.

The train is returning to

Yiwu three months after arriving in the UK. Robert Soames, business ambassador to Britain's prime minister in the construction and infrastructure sector, said he expects a weekly or daily service will be

established within the next decade.

"The train is a fantastic alternative to air and sea freight, as air is more expensive and sea takes longer," Soames said.