

CHINA

Secessionists warned about 'red lines'

Mainland to take 'resolute measures' if provoked on Taiwan question

By ZHANG YI
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Resolute measures will be taken if the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces dare to make provocations, or even cross the red line, a Chinese mainland spokeswoman said on Wednesday over Taiwan politicians' comments about a war across the Taiwan Straits.

"We are patient and willing to do our utmost to strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification. At the same time, we will never tolerate 'Taiwan independence,'" Zhu Fenglian, spokeswoman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said at a news conference in Beijing. Zhu's remarks came after media reported that Chen Ming-tong, head of the island's security authority, claimed recently that the mainland has learned from the Russia-Ukraine conflict that if it launched a war against Taiwan, it would be a "comprehensive one".

A recent poll conducted by Global Views Monthly, a Taiwan-based news magazine, showed more than half of Taiwan people surveyed were unwilling to go to war in the event of one between the two sides. Among the respondents aged 20 to 29, the percentage of those who didn't want to go to war was about 70 percent.

Yang Nien-dzu, the island's former head of "defense", said recently that if the two sides started a war, the People's Liberation

Army would be able to finish the battle in a day or two, media on the island reported.

Zhu said more Taiwan compatriots have come to realize that "Taiwan independence" means war, and "Taiwan independence" separation is the biggest threat to peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits.

"For a long time, the Democratic Progressive Party authorities on the island have deceived the people of Taiwan by making up lies. They thought they got away with it, but a lie is a lie and it will not deceive the people," she said.

She said that being used as "cannon fodder" by the DPP to seek "independence" runs counter to the common aspiration of Taiwan compatriots for peace, development and a better life.

In response to the island's residents' declining confidence that the US will send troops to help Taiwan in the event of a war across the Straits shown in recent public opinion surveys, Zhu said more Taiwan compatriots have realized that foreign forces have been using the Taiwan question to contain the mainland, at the expense of the interests of Taiwan people.

The DPP has been taking action such as proposing to extend compulsory military service, expanding the military budget and inciting people to resist the mainland, which are acts of pure political manipulation for its own selfish interests, she said.



A Long March 11 rocket sends three satellites into orbit from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center on Wednesday. WANG JIANGBO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Successful launch shows new rocket factory's solid steps

By ZHAO LEI
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China launched a Long March 11 solid-propellant carrier rocket on Wednesday morning from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China, deploying three satellites into space, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CASC).

The rocket blasted off at 10:29 am and soon placed the Tianping 2A, 2B and 2C satellites into their planned orbit. The launch was the 413th flight of the Long March rocket family and the eighth space mission by China this year.

The satellites will be used to survey space environment and correct orbital prediction models, the State-owned space conglomerate said.

The company said the rocket was the first built by a new rocket factory in the eastern coastal province of Shandong.

The factory is the first rocket manufacturing facility in Shandong and builds solid-propellant carrier rockets designed by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology in Beijing, a major subsidiary of the CASC.

Located in the suburbs of Haiyang city, the 800-hectare factory has started trial operation with an initial annual production capacity of 10 solid-propellant rockets. Meanwhile, engineers are install-

ing more assembly lines inside the plant, the company said.

Upon completion, the factory will be capable of producing 20 rockets each year, it added.

"The factory is mainly tasked with manufacturing our Long March 11 and Smart Dragon series solid-fuel rockets," said Jin Xin, deputy project manager of the Long March 11, adding that the project is intended to facilitate sea-based launch missions and nurture local space-related industries in Shandong.

The idea of establishing a rocket factory was initiated by the Shandong provincial and Yantai city governments in June 2019 after a Long March 11 carried out China's first sea-borne launch from a submersible in the Yellow Sea that month, he said.

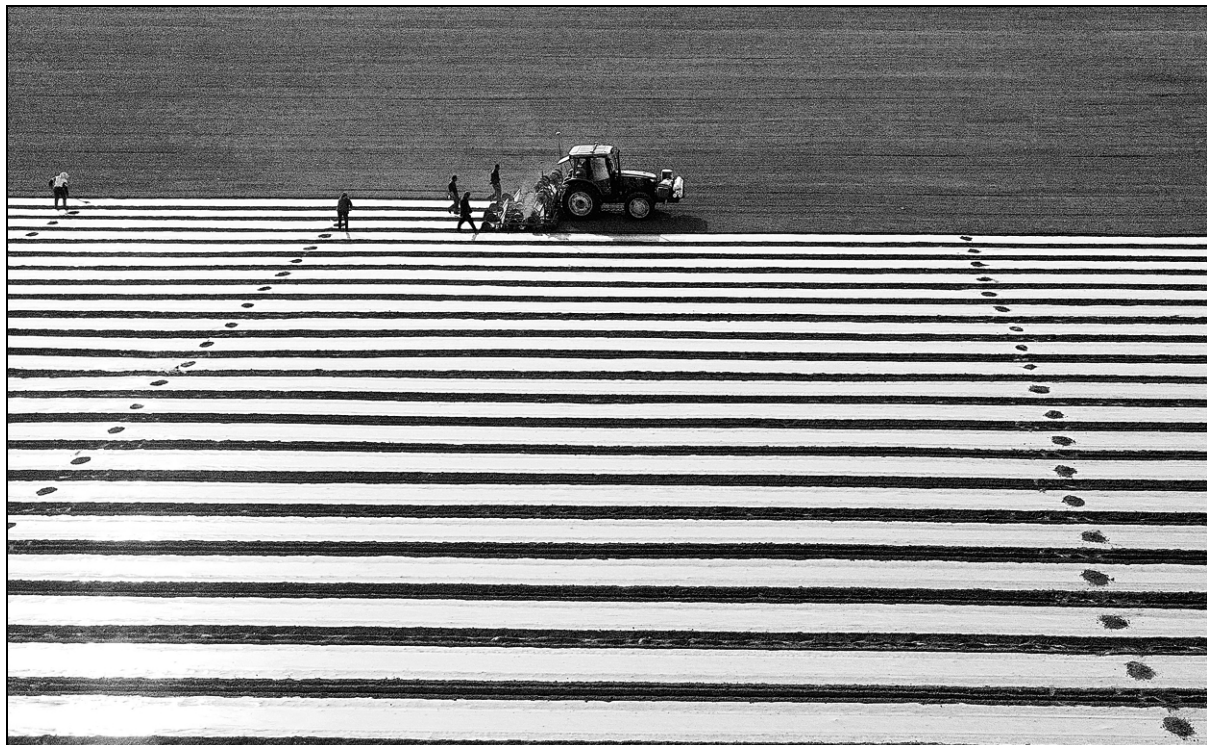
The Long March 11 conducted its first flight in September 2015 at the Jiuquan launch center.

The model has a length of 20.8 meters, a diameter of 2 meters and a liftoff weight of 58 metric tons. It is capable of sending satellites to low-Earth or sun-synchronous orbits.

So far, the rocket has performed 12 launches — 10 at land-based launch centers and two from ships — that successfully placed more than 50 satellites into space.

Designers have begun to develop the Long March 11A, an upgraded variant which will be more powerful than the existing model, Jin said.

Planting time



Farmers plant cotton in a field in Yuli county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Tuesday. A major production base, some 5,200 vehicles will plant about 67,000 hectares of cotton in the county this year. QUE HURE / FOR CHINA DAILY

Waste capacity can cope with virus

By HOU LIQIANG
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China has sufficient capacity to ensure the timely disposal of medical waste and sewage generated from COVID-19 epidemic control, an official with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said.

As of the end of last year, the annual disposal capacity for medical waste in the country was 2.15 million metric tons, up by 39 percent from the end of 2019, Ren Yong, director-general of the ministry's department of solid waste and chemicals management, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

In addition, the country boasts an annual emergency disposal capacity of an extra 2 million tons, he continued.

"Currently, almost 70 percent of areas listed as either medium or high risk for COVID-19 have had less than half of their daily disposal capacity used," he noted. "So, we have managed to dispose of all medical waste on the day it was generated."

The ministry has asked local governments to be prepared to put their emergency disposal capacity into operation. "Such capacity must be capable of being activated at any time," he stressed.

According to the Sichuan provincial environmental authority, the province has ramped up its efforts to tap the potential of existing waste disposal capacity to help tackle medical waste.

It designated 35 incineration facilities for domestic waste disposal, as well as five facilities for hazardous waste disposal, as a backup, which has increased the province's emergency medical



Workers transport medical waste from a hospital treating COVID-19 patients in Changchun, Jilin province, last week. WANG QIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

“Almost 70 percent of areas listed as either medium or high risk for COVID-19 have had less than half of their daily disposal capacity used.”

Ren Yong, director-general of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment's department of solid waste and chemicals management

waste disposal capacity by 952 tons a day.

To date, a total of 169,100 tons of medical waste have been disposed of in Sichuan since the COVID-19 outbreak, of which 17,900 tons have been related to virus control.

Action coming to tackle trash smuggling

By HOU LIQIANG

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment has vowed to take specific action to crack down on the smuggling of waste into China from overseas, as criminals have become more creative in their efforts to avoid detection.

After four years of phasing out imports of garbage, China completely banned foreign waste imports last year. The country, however, is still confronted with challenges in preventing overseas waste from entering, Ren Yong, director-general of the ministry's department of solid waste and chemicals management, said at a news conference on Wednesday.

Driven by profit, some companies are still smuggling trash into the country, he said. In 2021, the General Administration of Customs investigated 110 waste smuggling cases involving 42,000 metric tons of foreign garbage.

Ren said smugglers have found

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involving 42,000 metric tons of smuggled foreign waste were investigated by the General Administration of Customs last year.

creative ways to smuggle waste into the country. Some have even declared trash as being goods to be put on sale in the Chinese market.

The booming businesses of recycled raw materials import and the repair and maintenance services in bonded zones have created loopholes that may allow waste from overseas to enter China, he said.

Ren said the ministry, in cooperation with the General Administration of Customs, will step up measures that target the entire industrial chain of waste smuggling in accordance with the emerging characteristics.

Ren said the ministry has established a dynamic work mechanism that adjusts on a daily basis in accordance with the COVID-19 control situation, to help areas listed as being at either medium or high risk.

Aside from getting all medical institutes involved in epidemic control under environmental supervision, the mechanism ensures that all medical waste and sewage are collected for concentrated disposal, he noted.

He said sewage treatment capacity in medical institutes and urban sewage disposal plants is generally able to meet demand and everything is running as normal.

Under the ministry's guidance, local environmental authorities have strengthened supervision over all sewage disposal facilities in hospitals, locations used for quarantine, and sewage disposal plants, he said. The authorities have urged immediate rectification of any problems found.

The ministry will beef up the management of recycled raw material imports so that no waste will be smuggled through that channel, he noted.

He said the ministry will also set up an information-sharing mechanism with other government bodies as it endeavors to ramp up the supervision of solid waste from key maintenance service providers in bonded zones.

China started importing solid waste in the 1980s, back when it was considered a source of raw materials. Despite its relatively weak capacity for waste treatment, China was the world's largest solid waste importer for many years.

Against the backdrop of rising public awareness about environmental protection and the public concern about pollution, the central government published an action plan in July 2017 to completely ban waste imports by 2021.

Nation aims to be global hub of IP protection

By CAO YIN
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Greater efforts will be made in training intellectual property specialists, the most fundamental, core and critical element in helping China become a global center for intellectual property rights, an official from the country's top IPR regulator has said, adding that the country plans to achieve the goal of having more than 1 million IP professionals by 2025.

Talent is the most basic and key element for building a strong IP power, Feng Zhaolong, from the National Intellectual Property Administration's personnel department, told a news conference on Wednesday.

"As we train more specialists, we plan to optimize the system by paying close attention to education on IPR protection, application, public services and international affairs," he said. "The number of specialists able to register IPR and review applications will also be increased, and it's our hope that they will be able to cover every step of IPR work."

Feng revealed that China has 690,000 IPR professionals, adding that the country's "goal is to have more than 1 million by 2025". More than 50 universities nationwide have established IP colleges, providing strong support for the industry's development, he added.

Sun Wei, head of the China Intellectual Property Training Center, also told the news briefing that more school students will be taught about IPR-related issues.

He said that so far, about 2 million students in around 1,400 primary and middle schools have learned about IPR through classes, remote education platforms and books.

A total of 165 schools have been identified as national level IP pilot schools, Sun added, noting that there are thousands of trained full- and part-time teachers nationwide and several relevant textbooks have been published.

Sun said the administration has developed 24 online platforms offering more than 570 courses, and that they have received over 9 million visits.

The administration will work with Chinese social media platforms to popularize IP awareness and introduce high-quality courses from overseas for young Chinese, Sun added.

"We'll also work with Bilibili, a video-sharing platform popular with younger generations, to make videos that will appeal to the youth, teaching them more about IPR and the skills involved in protecting it," he added.

Xinhua contributed to this story.