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Zhang Guanhua, deputy head of the Institute of Taiwan Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Briefly

Airline president investigated

The president of China Southern Airlines Holding Co is being investigated after he allegedly seriously violated discipline, according to a statement from the Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on Wednesday. Si Xianmin, 58, is also chairman of China Southern Airlines. He graduated from Tsinghua University and started his career in 1975.

Top legislature ratifies AIIB

China's top legislature on Wednesday ratified the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank agreement, which establishes the legal framework for the bank. Lawmakers voted on the agreement at the closing of the bimonthly session of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. The China-backed multilateral development institution is tasked with financing infrastructure construction across Asia.

804 kg of illegal ivory seized

Forestry police in Beijing seized 804 kilograms of illegal ivory and other products during a crackdown on the illegal wildlife trade, local authorities said on Wednesday. Other seizures included 11.3 kg of rhinoceros horn and 35 bear paws. The ivory seizure, worth an estimated 24.4 million yuan (\$3.8 million), was the largest for wildlife products.

CHINA DAILY — XINHUA

ANTI-GRAFT

Success of Fox Hunt campaign continues

By CAO YIN

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A total of 627 fugitives have been captured since “Fox Hunt 2015” began in April, the Ministry of Public Security said on Wednesday.

Of the seized suspects, 162 were connected with cases involving more than 10 million yuan (\$1.6 million), and 32 suspects had been overseas for more than 10 years, the ministry said.

Eighty-eight fugitives were seized by Guangdong police, 68 were caught by Shanghai police and 67 were arrested by Jiangsu police, it said, adding that 258 people turned themselves in.

The ministry's use of police liaisons at home and abroad resulted in two fugitives being sent back from the United States and four suspects returned from Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Spain.

Another 213 fugitives were captured in Southeast Asia.

Fox Hunt 2015 is an important part of China's Skynet operation targeting suspected economic criminals, many of them corrupt officials.

The ministry added that it will continue giving priority to capturing fugitives.

COOPERATION

Li: China wants stability with Japan

Tenor of relationship should not fluctuate, premier tells business delegation in Beijing

By AN BAIJIE

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China is willing to work with Japan to push forward the development of stable, long-term ties, Premier Li Keqiang said on Wednesday.

Though the China-Japan relationship is being improved, Li told a Japanese business delegation in Beijing, both sides have to face the reality that there are some difficulties.

The nations should make efforts to prevent the fluctuation of ties to create more opportunities for both sides and maintain the peace and stability of Northeast Asia, Li said.

The delegation of 220 business leaders from 65 Japanese companies was led by Shoji Muneoka, chairman of the Japan-China Economic Association.

The association has organized such trips annually since 1975.

Li told the delegation that entrepreneurs should play an



Premier Li Keqiang waves to delegates from the Japan-China Economic Association after a group photo at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

important role in improving ties, and he hoped that the business leaders would push the China-Japan relationship in the

right direction.

The premier also outlined China's economic situation, government efforts in upgrad-

ing the economic structure and possible cooperation with Japan to develop new markets in other countries.

Some of the delegation members expressed concerns over the decline in Japanese investment in China and China's poli-

cies for foreign investors.

Muneoka said he has noticed that the Chinese government is using market mechanisms to resolve the problem of excess production capacity.

Hu Zucui, vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, who met with the delegation on Tuesday, said that China is trying to achieve economic growth with technological innovation and environmental protection, and that China is willing to cooperate with Japanese companies, according to Kyodo News Agency.

During a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday in Seoul, Li urged Japan to properly tackle the issue of history “in a responsible manner” and to “undertake positive policies toward China.”

Li made calls for “nurturing mutual trust” and “deepening pragmatic exchanges and cooperation” during the meeting.

It is hoped that Japan will “fully perceive the great sensitivity, tangibly honor its solemn commitments made so far, effectively face history squarely and reflect on it, and properly tackle the relevant issue in a responsible manner,” he said.

CROSS-STRAITS RELATIONS

Singapore plays positive role in ties with Taiwan

By HE NA

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Singapore, which has been a wellspring for key advancements in cross-Straits ties in the past, is once again attracting world attention with an announcement by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council that General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Xi Jinping and Taiwan leader Ma Ying-jeou will meet there on Saturday to exchange views on the future of relations.

It will be the first cross-Straits meeting between top leaders of both sides of the Taiwan Straits since the founding of New China in 1949.

Ni Yongjie, deputy director of the Shanghai Institute of Taiwan Studies, said he believes Singapore was chosen mainly because it has played a special role in relations in the past.

In April 1993, Wang Daohan, then-president of the mainland-based Association for Relations across the Taiwan Straits, and Koo Chen-fu, chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation in Taiwan, held a groundbreaking meeting in Singapore.

“The meeting marked the beginning of cross-Straits engagement and laid the foundation for further improvement of ties,” Ni said. “Lee Kuan-yew, the first prime minister of Singapore, played an important role in promoting the success of the meeting. Singapore's contribution to cross-Straits relations has been written into history.”

Ni said that Xi and Ma had many choices of places to meet, but Singapore was best. As a country whose main population has ancestral homes in China, Singapore has long played a positive role, he said.

“Singaporean leaders have maintained close relations with both sides over the years and earned their mutual trust,” he said.

However, Li Jiaquan, former director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Taiwan Studies, expressed a

Timeline of major cross-Straits events



April 27-29, 1993

The first Wang-Koo talks, held between Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits Chairman Wang Daohan (left) and Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman Koo Chen-fu, took place in Singapore. It was the highest level talks to have taken place between the two sides of the Straits since 1949. Four agreements were signed to promote trade and people-to-people exchanges.



April 29, 2005

Hu Jintao (right), then-general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with Kuomintang Honorary Chairman Lien Chan in Beijing. Hailed as epoch-making, it was the first meeting of top figures from the two political parties since 1945.

when Mao Zedong went to Chongqing to seek reconciliation with KMT leader Chiang Kai-shek. Hu called on both sides to establish mutual trust and find common ground, in hopes of opening new prospects for cross-Straits relations.

May 28, 2008

Hu Jintao, then-general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, met with KMT Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung in Beijing. Both agreed that the two sides should resume official dialogue under the 1992 Consensus.

June 11-14, 2008

A delegation headed by Taiwan-based SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung visited Beijing for talks with Chen Yunlin, president of ARATS, marking the resumption of cross-Straits institutional consultations after a nine-year suspension.



Nov 3-7, 2008

Chen Yunlin (left), the chairman of ARATS, led a delegation to Taiwan. On Nov 4, Chen met with then-SEF Chairman Chi-

ang Pin-kung to finalize the negotiation of various issues surrounding the Three Links, including increasing the number of direct flights, routes and airports, opening direct cargo shipping routes and fully opening postal services. On Dec 15, 2008, the Three Links were officially launched.

May 26, 2009

Hu Jintao, then-general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, met with the president of the KMT, Wu Po-hsiung. During the meeting, Hu emphasized the need for both sides to strengthen economic cooperation and support the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement. The agreement was signed in Chongqing on June 29, 2010. Under the agreement, the two sides agreed to “gradually reduce and remove trade and investment barriers and create a fair environment.”

Feb 25, 2013

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, met Lien Chan, honorary chairman of the Kuomintang, in Beijing. According to Xi, the CPC is aiming for new achievements in cross-Straits exchanges and cooperation, overcoming difficulties to usher in new prospects for the relations and join hands with Taiwan compatriots to embrace the great reju-

venation of the Chinese nation.

June 12-14, 2013

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, met with Wu Poh-hsiung, honorary chairman of the Kuomintang in Beijing.

May 4, 2015

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, met Kuomintang Chairman Eric Chu in Beijing. It was their first meeting.

Sept 3, 2015

Lien Chan, honorary chairman of the KMT, attended the Victory Day military parade in Beijing.



Oct 14, 2015

Andrew Hsia (left), Taiwan's mainland affairs chief, met with Zhang Zhijun, director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. Both reaffirmed the 1992 Consensus as the basis for continued peaceful and stable cross-Straits relations.

— WANG YANFEI

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Ni Yongjie, deputy director of the Shanghai Institute of Taiwan Studies

different view, saying he thought the choice of Singapore was merely expedient.

“Taiwan's election campaign

is heading into the home-stretch, and the Kuomintang is facing a landslide defeat. The KMT is determined to win sup-

port from the mainland to turn the situation around,” Li said. “It is the last chance for the KMT. The Singapore meeting fills a need at the right time.”

Some media have called the meeting a “surprise,” but Zhang Guanhua, deputy head of the Institute of Taiwan Studies at CASS, said it was to be expected.

“Actually the meeting is an event both sides have hoped for — and for a long time — since relations with the mainland

began to warm after Ma came to power in 2008,” Zhang said.

According to Zhang, Singapore in some sense is considered a blessed place. Holding the meeting there is a reminder of progress already achieved in cross-Straits relations, he said.

“We need to consider and deal with cross-Straits relations in a strategic way, with a long-run view. Cross-Straits peaceful development will not change because of the election result.”

Ties: ‘A turning point for relations’ reached

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“The cross-Straits relations have reached a turning point, and both sides are facing the question of which way to go,” said Zhang.

“It was not easy for both sides to make the meeting happen,” he said. “It is hard to imagine that two leaders would sit face to face if relations were strained. The meeting is a result of peaceful development of cross-Straits relations.”

Zhang said the leaders' meeting was decided on during his meeting with Andrew Hsia, his counterpart from Taiwan, in October in Guangzhou.

That was the fourth meeting between top cross-Straits affairs officials from both sides since last year. In May, Zhang and Hsia had a formal meeting on Kinmen, a Taiwan islet just a couple of kilometers off the coast of Fujian province.

“The meeting between Xi and Ma is the result of the concerted efforts of both sides and all compatriots, benefiting from cumulative results achieved in the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations,” Zhang said. The mainland has always taken “a proactive and open attitude” toward holding a cross-Straits leaders' meeting, Zhang said.

“This time, two leaders can talk face-to-face for the first time and make a statement of their positions on cross-Straits relations. Actually, the meeting itself is a statement,” said Zhu Songling, a political science professor at the Institute of Taiwan Studies at Beijing Union University.