

Mainland probes Taiwanese for national security violation

A resident of Taiwan, Lee Ming-che, is under investigation for being suspected of endangering national security, a Chinese mainland official said Wednesday.

Developments of the investigation, in line with judicial process, will be disclosed in a timely fashion, Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, told a press conference.

The mainland will protect the legitimate rights and interests of all residents of Taiwan who come to the mainland, as long as they abide by the regulations and laws, said Ma.

Shanghai court sentences man for stealing shared bike



Shanghai court sentences man for stealing shared bike. [Photo/Xinhua]

A man has been sentenced to four months for stealing a bike in Shanghai. The convict surnamed Tao stole the bicycle of a bike-sharing company from the roadside and carried it home on a tricycle where he used a saw to cut the

lock on Dec 25. The shared bike was valued at 2,265 yuan (\$329.31).

The Jinshan District People's Court sentenced him for four months with five-month probation and fined him 2,000 yuan.

Tao, who was summoned by police on Dec. 28, confessed to his crime. "It's all because of greed. I saw that the bike was parked on the side of the road for nearly 15 days and I decided to take it home," he said.

In December, Shanghai Minhang District People's Court sentenced a man surnamed Han for three months with three-month probation and a fine of 1,000 yuan for stealing a shared bike in September.

In Xiamen, a woman was ordered 10 days detention for painting a yellow shared bike blue in an effort to hide its ownership and keep it illegally.

China welcomes more job-seeking foreign graduates

Four months before getting his Master's degree in computer science, Irish student Gareth Lacey got a job offer from a Chinese tech start-up in Beijing's equivalent of Silicon Valley.

It might not sound like a big deal to a science postgraduate student in Beijing, but the offer did not come easily.

China only recently dropped the work experience requirement for foreign postgraduates, opening a floodgate of opportunities, especially to foreign students pursuing higher education degrees in China.

It had been almost impossible for foreign students to be employed right after graduation. Two years of work experience were mandatory in most cases, Beijing-based foreign students said.

Lacey, who has been studying at Beijing Institute of Technology, will be among the first to benefit.

He described the policy as a "welcome change" for himself and many foreign graduates in similar positions.

According to a January circular issued by Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Education, foreign students with a postgraduate degree or higher from Chinese or "well-known" foreign universities can be offered employment within a year after graduation.

Applicants should be healthy, have no criminal record, obtain a B grade

average (or 80 out of a 100-point scale), have a job offer related to the major of study and with an income no lower than the local average.

Successful applicants will be given a one-year work permit, which can be extended to no more than five at renewal.

Lacey said the Chinese job market is a big draw for foreign job-seekers due to competitive salaries and relatively low living costs.

With its rapid development, China's market has more to offer foreign job-seekers. Typical jobs for expatriates used to be language teachers, multinational executives, and foreign mission staffers, but the range is widening quickly.

Figures on the number of foreign employees in China are not always available. It was estimated that in the first decade of this century, the number of foreigners working in China grew three times to 220,000, according to the Ministry of Public Security, which oversees immigration affairs.

Lacey said that with the new policy, he suspects there will be a large increase in recent graduates seeking work in China.

"I found it hard to understand in the past that multiple scholarships were offered to foreign students to study in China, but after graduating, they had to leave," he said.

Chinese universities began aggressively enrolling foreign students in 2010. The amount of scholarships has been increased over the years.

The country aims to become Asia's top destination for international students by 2020, targeting 500,000 foreign students enrolled per year by then.

The Beijing-based think tank Center for China and Globalization estimates that about 398,000 foreign students came to study in China in 2015.

Wang Ying, director of the international student office under Beijing Institute of Technology, said Beijing's Zhongguancun hi-tech zone had actually started piloting the policy last year and it was well received.

Postgraduates jumped at the opportunity, Wang said. Last year, his school organized eleven job affairs for international students. Each was full packed. Tech giants like Huawei were among the hiring firms.

"Many of our students were thrilled. They told me they wanted to learn Mandarin and work in China," Wang said.

The appeal of a Chinese job is not confined to metropolises like Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen.

There is enthusiasm in mid-level and even smaller cities.

Ayaz Ali, a Pakistani Ph.D. candidate studying at Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said it was

his dream to work in the northwest city of Lanzhou.

Ali said other than participating in the world's leading cryospheric research, he finds the local culture accommodating to Muslims like him. The province of Gansu, where Lanzhou is located, has a relatively large Muslim population, and Islamic rituals and practices are observed.

Ali said many Pakistani students come to study in China, but until now few have been able to stay on after graduation, which remains a cause of concern among Pakistani students in China.

"After all, it is also very hard to find a good job back home," he said.

Ma Xiaolei, director of the international student affairs office at Beijing Language and Culture University, said lowering the employment threshold for foreign students serves the strategy to reinvigorate China through human resources development.

He said foreign employees will help Chinese enterprises gain an advantage as they expand overseas, and it is logical for foreign graduates of Chinese universities to put to use what they learn in school.

To open its market, China has also been easing the residence and entry policies for foreigners.

Last year, 1,576 foreigners obtained permanent residence in China, rising 163 percent over the previous year. Foreigners with permanent residence will enjoy the same rights as Chinese citizens in areas such as investment, housing purchases and schooling, among other rights.

[Chinese syndicate stands trial for faking baby formula](#)



Two staff of food safety watchdog investigate milk powder at a supermarket.
[File Photo]

A Chinese syndicate of 11 people stood trial on Tuesday in Shanghai for allegedly producing and selling counterfeit baby formula imitating popular foreign and domestic brands.

The group was accused of manufacturing milk powder cans that copied the designs and logos of Beingmate and Abbott and filling them with cheap and inferior formula. The products were sold to the market through traders in several east and central China cities.

According to the indictment, at least 15,000 cans of counterfeit Abbott baby formula and 9,000 cans of counterfeit Beingmate products were sold between 2014 and 2015, earning illegal gains of millions of yuan.

The Shanghai food safety watchdog, police, and procuratorate were alerted to act in September 2015 after Abbott reported the case.

The authorities said they have been tracing and confiscating all fake products of the two syndicates on the market.

People convicted of manufacturing or selling counterfeit products can be sentenced to life in prison in severe cases.

The two-day trial, heard in the Third Intermediate People's Court of Shanghai, ended Tuesday without the announcement of a judgment.

Child's death prompts better supervision of shared bikes



Rental bikes on the street. [Photo by Guo Yiming/China.org.cn]

Supervisors and law experts have called for better supervision on shared bikes and more parental guidance for children following the death of a child riding a shared bike in Shanghai.

On Sunday, an elementary school boy, riding an Ofo shared bike, died after being hit by a bus in Shanghai.

Ofo issued a statement on Tuesday pledging to assist the police investigation related to the death. The company said it is working on an effective prevention mechanism to prevent children under 12 years old from using shared bikes.

Chinese national road safety law requires a person to be 12 years old or older in order to ride a bicycle or tricycle.

However, with a growing number of shared bikes on the streets, children under 12 years old have become frequent users. If a user forgets or fails to lock an Ofo bike after use, for example, it is free for the next user to use, even if the rider has not registered for an account via smart phone.

Guo Jianrong, general secretary of the Shanghai Bicycle Industry Association, said the association has required Ofo to place smart locks on its bikes. Ofo's chief rival, Mobike, uses smart locks that can only be unlocked using a phone.

"Rules need to be established to supervise the use of shared bikes," said Liu Chunyan, a law expert at Tongji University.

"If an accident happens because of the quality of a bicycle, for example, a brake failure, the company should be held liable. In other cases, the company is not at fault," Liu said.

Cui Minyan, China division chief of Safe Kids Worldwide, said parents should give more guidance to their children regarding shared bikes.

"Parents may underestimate the danger of road traffic and think their children have good bicycle skills. The absence of guidance may easily lead to tragedies," Cui said.