



South Africa, who graduated at the first CDVEC summer school at Larkin Community College, age of 18 who are unaccompanied by parents or guardians. Photograph: Dara Mac Dónaill

Zhu to answer human rights questions during Irish visit

take an open attitude and talk about it".

He added, however, that discussions might concentrate on "more important questions and views".

Mr Zhu's arrival on September 2nd will begin the first official visit by a Chinese premier to Ireland. The Chinese Vice-Premier, Mr Li Lanqing, was in Dublin last year.

Mr Zhang said Premier Zhu would use his visit to exchange views on how to expand co-operation between the two countries in all areas.

"He wants to learn about the successful experience Ireland has had on economic development. He will brief Mr Ahern on China's economic development. China and Irish relations have developed very well."

Mr Zhang referred to the Taoiseach's visit to China in 1998, which resulted in the Asia Strategy "in which Ireland made China a key co-operative partner and an area of expansion, especially in the high-tech and education sectors".

Mr Zhang said trade between Ireland and China had doubled in the past year. "China is fully confident of the mutual beneficial co-operation between the two countries and the great possibilities for further development."

The Prime Minister will be the first foreign head of state to stay in Farmleigh House. He will be accompanied to Ireland by an entourage of 170, including ministers and vice-ministers.

Premier Zhu will travel from

Ireland to Brussels to attend the 4th Sino-European summit. He will also be celebrating 30 years of diplomatic relations between Belgium and China.

The Taoiseach invited Mr Zhu to Ireland during a meeting of regional leaders in Seoul, South Korea, last October. They discussed initiatives to improve trade and political links between the two countries.

Mr Zhu has a stated interest in the high-tech sector and is expected to visit software companies during his stay.

Proposals to twin Dublin with Beijing caused a major row last March. The Independent Tibet Network urged the lord mayor of Dublin, Mr Maurice Ahern, to abandon the idea, which Amnesty International described as "dreadfully inappropriate".

WORKERS

FURTHER job losses are expected in Cork following an announcement by Bourns Electronics Ireland that 25 employees at its plant in Mahon are to be made redundant.

A company representative said production of certain lines would be transferred to Costa Rica over the next month.

The Cork plant makes a wide range of electronic components for the telecommunications, automotive and industrial markets. Since June Bourns, which employs 280 people, has been working a four-day week because of the slowdown in the electronics industry.

Remanded on assault charge

An English journalist with an address in west Cork has been remanded in custody with consent to bail after being charged with assault causing harm to his partner.

Mr Ian Bailey (44), of the Prairy, Lissacaha, Schull, Co Cork, appeared at Clonakilty District Court yesterday on charges of assaulting Catherine Jules Thomas, on August 18th, at the house the couple shared.

Mr Bailey agreed to surrender his passport and consent to bail was given on his own bond of £3,000 and an independent surety of £15,000.

Mr Bailey was remanded to Clonakilty District Court on August 31st.

Fire at home of alderman

Minor damage was done to the home of a Limerick city independent alderman, Mr Michael Kelly, in a fire. A bedroom was partly damaged in the house, which is at Ballyneety, five miles from Limerick city.

Lotto jackpot close to £3.5m

Tonight's Lotto jackpot will be close to £3.5 million, the National Lottery said yesterday.

"This is the fifth draw for this particular jackpot, which has rolled since the last bumper jackpot of £6,640,485 on August 8th," a spokeswoman said.

Last Wednesday's jackpot was £2,736,834. The National Lottery has some practical advice for would-be millionaires this weekend:

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Pg 4