



China expels Philippine gunboat near Huangyan

The China Coast Guard expelled a gunboat of the Philippine Navy that intruded into waters off China's Huangyan Dao in the South China Sea on Tuesday **3**

Chinese SMEs' growth, confidence rebound in Q3

An index gauging the development of China's small and medium-sized enterprises rebounded significantly in the third quarter as govt pro-growth measures took effect **10**

Classic music integrates with traditional Chinese culture

Classic music integrates with Chinese fine traditional culture, telling China's story and the story of how China connects the world, Zhou Ping, head of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, told Global Times **16**

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VOLUME 15 • NO. 4158 • WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2023 • PRICE 2 YUAN

人民日报社主管 环球时报社主办、出版

► Initiative has created a new paradigm for international cooperation: official BRI turns vision into action: white paper

By Li Xuanmin and Qi Xijia

China has issued a white paper on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) on Tuesday, highlighting the role that the iconic "project of the century" has played in global development during the past decade as well as its achievements in living up to its ultimate goal of building a global community of shared future.

The white paper was released at an important juncture that is deemed as both a milestone and a new start of BRI cooperation, after President Xi Jinping

proposed the grand initiative 10 years ago. It was also issued ahead of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) to be held this month, which analysts believe would serve as a testimony debunking stepped-up Western slandering, while uniting more consensuses on the initiative's future development blueprint.

The momentum development of BRI has unfolded an unprecedented chapter of global growth, illustrating a path to global connectivity, peace and prosperity that prompts the China-proposed

initiative to become the world's largest platform for international cooperation with the broadest coverage in the past 10 years, the white paper showed.

When the economic globalization agenda appears to be overshadowed by certain countries' ill-intended push for "de-risking" and camp confrontation, Chinese and foreign observers pointed out that the BRI – which fundamentally differs from the Western cold war and zero-sum game mentality – is growing



in importance.

The initiative has been spearheading in erecting a new multipolar

global order in which the interests of every participant are equally represented rather than "a small Western hegemonic clique" predominating, they said, predicting the mega project will play a more prominent role in bridging differences and promoting cooperation in the face of future unprecedented challenges.

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United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appeals for an end to the "vicious cycle of bloodshed, hatred and polarization" in reaction to the latest escalation in the Palestine-Israel conflict during a news briefing at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on October 9, 2023. Photo: VCG

US, West urged to end neglect of Palestine issue as tension simmers

By GT staff reporters

The Israel-Gaza conflict entered its fourth day with Israel declaring on Tuesday control regained over the Gaza border. Chinese analysts urged US and Western leaders to stop the long-term marginalization of the Palestine issue and stop fanning the flames of the conflict, calling for more efforts to calm the situation in order to prevent a potential sixth war in the Middle East.

In retaliation for the Hamas militant attack on Saturday, Israeli airplanes bombed Gaza City's downtown until early Tuesday, cutting off food and other supplies. The Israeli military activated an unprecedented 300,000 reserve soldiers and placed a blockade on the Gaza Strip, increasing concerns that it was preparing a ground invasion.

Early Tuesday,

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Address: The Global Times English Edition, 2 Jintai Xilu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100026 • The Global Times is published six times a week from Monday to Saturday.

News Dept: (8610) 65367574 editor@globaltimes.com.cn • Ads Dept: (8610) 65369595 advertising@globaltimes.com.cn • Subscription Dept: (8610) 65369602 subscription@globaltimes.com.cn • Marketing Dept: (8610) 65367665 marketing@globaltimes.com.cn

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Upcoming BRF to 'unite more consensuses' on its future devt

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The white paper entitled "Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future" expounded on the background against which BRI was launched: it is in response "to a changing global situation and the expectations of the international community."

A new global landscape

"It is no longer acceptable that only a few countries dominate world economic development, control economic rules, and enjoy development fruits," the white paper said. As such, the BRI has contributed new ideas and new approaches to international exchanges, and produced a fairer and more equitable global governance system that takes humanity to a better future.

"Since the BRI was launched, building a community with shared future has turned from a concept into action, and a vision into reality. More and more countries comprehend what China says that development is an inalienable right of all countries, not a privilege of just a few Western countries," Maya Majueran, director of BRI Sri Lanka, a Sri Lanka-based organization that specializes in BRI cooperation, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

"The current world is unfair and disproportionate... as the US and its Western allies often coerce or abuse their power to maintain their hegemonic positions," Majueran said, adding that countries, especially

those from the Global South, wanted to see that the future of humanity should be in the hands of all countries, international rules should be written together by all, and development benefits should be shared by all.

The publication of the white paper held more special significance in light of the current toxic geopolitical environment, under which Western politicians and media outlets have been sparing no efforts to vilify the BRI.

"It is important that we clarify the origins and development of the BRI, its implementation principles, and how it serves humanity and lead to the construction of a community with shared future. It will put [the new round of] Western smearing campaign in vain," He Weiwen, a senior fellow and executive council member of China Association of International Trade, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

In response to a question concerning competition from similar infrastructure initiatives by other countries, Li Kexin, Director-General of the Department of International Economic Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry, said at a news conference on Tuesday that China welcomes all parties to scale up inputs on basic infrastructure in developing countries, and is willing to cooperate with all parties on the basis of openness, inclusiveness, equal footing and mutual benefits, to provide more high quality international public goods.

It is also expected that based on the comprehensive picture provided

by the white paper, participants of the upcoming BRF – standing at the 10th anniversary of the BRI – could discuss and draw out a new course for its development in the next decade.

"The past 10 years marked just the beginning of the BRI cooperation. The future will be even brighter in the next decade and beyond," Liang Haiming, dean of Hainan University Belt and Road Research Institute, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

In addition to infrastructure, another focal point of BRI cooperation is to expand "third-party market cooperation," especially with Europe and other Western countries, which will break the traditional model and create a new paradigm for global cooperation between the developed and developing world, Liang said.

The white paper offers a detailed glimpse into the decade achievement of BRI. One among which is the promotion of all-rounded connectivity in multiple fields including policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and closer people-to-people ties.

Liang said the BRI has made great contribution in sharing China's development model and experience with other participating nations. One of such wisdom is epitomized in building infrastructure, as a popular Chinese saying goes "if you want to get rich, build roads first."

"The BRI connects the past, the present and the future. This initiative was launched by China, but it belongs to the world and benefits the whole of humanity," reads the white paper.

Priority is to stop additional parties from engaging in Israel-Gaza conflict: experts

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the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, the UK and the US released a joint statement in which they expressed their "steadfast and united support" to Israel and condemned the Hamas attack.

The Western leaders' lip-deep acknowledgment of "the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people" came under fire for their double standards. Observers voiced concern that the US and certain Western leaders' biased support would worsen the conflict.

As long as Israel is seen as a member of their camp and Hamas as terrorists, the US and many European nations would want to offer Israel support in diplomacy and in rhetoric. However, if the conflict spreads, the scenario may get worse, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

In an attempt to provide symbolic support to Israel and intimidate Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah group, US made the one-sided decision to send weapons and warships to Israel.

However, since the US has been reducing its commitments in the region, it will not readily get back into the conflict, but to demonstrate its role, it may provide Israel with weaponry and intelligence, Liu said.

Concern over escalation

The international community is concerned about how the conflict will evolve. According to Liu, in order to reassure its citizens, the Israeli government would undoubtedly launch retribution on Hamas and undertake the heaviest strike it has ever launched. But it also faces another problem – Hamas is hard to eradicate from Gaza due to its close links to the local community, and if its use of force results in significant civilian casualties and humanitarian catastrophes in Gaza, it will come under greater moral pressure.

Liu noted that the risk of a sixth Middle East war still exists if Israel is engulfed by the desire for revenge and expands the war, or if Hamas finds itself fighting a last-ditch battle, or if more countries are dragged into the war.

"It would be a more pitiful situation if the war escalates with relevant parties losing their minds," said Liu.

There was no sign of cease fire on Tuesday. Hamas is ready to fight a long war with Israel, a senior member of the militant group was cited by the Associated Press as saying on Tuesday.

The situation in Gaza is being closely watched by the international community. Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University told the Global Times that the immediate priority is to stop additional parties from engaging in the Israel-Gaza conflict and from adding fuel to the fire. However, if Israel deploys significant ground forces into Gaza, the situation may become challenging with the possibility of an alarming humanitarian disaster.

The bloodshed and deaths in the Middle East once again bring to light the disastrous consequences of the US and Western countries' long-term marginalization of the Palestinian issue, analysts said. It also highlights that the US' strategy to promote normalization between Israel and the Arab states would be a castle in the air without resolving the Palestine issue.

The US should reflect its regional strategy and advocate for long-term solutions to Israel-Palestine conflict rather than stoking tensions, said Sun.

Founding anniversary



North Korea holds a national flag-hoisting ceremony at Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang as the country celebrates the 78th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10, 2023. Photo: VCG