



Lai's rhetoric 'poisons cross-Straits relations'

Taiwan regional leader Lai Ching-te's "Double Ten" speech employs "backdoor listing" tactics to advance the agenda of "Taiwan independence" **3**

China to strengthen futures market regulation

China issued a circular to tighten futures sector regulation and promote high-quality development, contributing to industrial security and the broader economy **5**

Chinese Ru Kiln heritage revitalized for modern life

No museum in the world would be complete without a Ru ware, a painting master said. This has become true especially after the world had a chance to appreciate the beauty of Ru Kiln in Paris **16**



The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) is held in Vientiane, Laos, on October 11, 2024, with focus on strengthening cooperation under the EAS framework to foster mutual understanding and mutual trust. Photo: AFP

► Signal of unity to 'inject more momentum' into regional development

EAS calls for co-op, mutual trust, defying US noises: expert

By GT staff reporters

The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS), one of a series of major ASEAN Summit-related meetings, was held in the Lao capital Vientiane on Friday, with the focus on strengthening cooperation under the EAS framework to foster mutual understanding and mutual trust.

While China and most regional countries are calling for tranquility, common

prosperity, openness and interconnectivity, US politicians have not stopped their threadbare tactic of sowing discord between China and the regional countries by hyping up the South China Sea issue, with an outdated confrontational mentality against China.

Chinese experts said the signal of unity and cooperation sent by China and ASEAN countries at a time of sluggish global economic growth and challenges to peace

and security could inject more momentum and certainty into regional and even global economy.

Common Aspiration

Addressing the EAS on Friday, Chinese Premier Li Qiang called on all parties to uphold peace and tranquility, pursue mutual benefit, and firmly promote opening up and cooperation.

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Israeli attack on UNIFIL sparks condemnation, grave concerns

By Zhang Yuying and Zhang Wanshi

China on Friday expressed grave concerns and strong condemnation over the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)'s attack on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) observation tower, which injured UNIFIL personnel.

"Any deliberate attack on UN peacekeepers is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and UNSC Resolution 1701. It is absolutely unacceptable and shall be put to an immediate stop," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Friday.

Many UN member states have voiced similar condemnation and concerns, which observers believe reflects a strong and common dissatisfaction and opposition from the international community regarding the impact and provocation against the authority of the UN, international law, and the international order.

UNIFIL said on Thursday that an Israeli tank fired on a watchtower in its headquarters in Naqoura, southern Lebanon, injuring two members.

According to China Central Television, China's 22nd batch of peacekeeping troops in Lebanon is safe and in good condition so far.

"We request investigation into the incident, effort to bring relevant people to account and measures to prevent such incident from happening again. Parties to the conflict must earnestly ensure the safety and security of all UN personnel and property, including the UNIFIL," Mao said.

"China urges

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ASEAN 'wary of' bloc confrontation, interference

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He also called for the speeding up of the building of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, advancing regional economic integration, and avoiding turning economic and trade issues into political and security issues.

Representing the host country, the Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation under the EAS framework to foster mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual confidence, which are key elements to the shared objectives of peace, stability and sustainable development.

He said that the ASEAN Summit and related summits this year have adopted and noted more than 90 outcome documents

According to Zhu Feng, director of the Institute of International Studies at Nanjing University, the overall tone of the ASEAN meetings is positive, with both China and the vast majority of Southeast Asian countries stressing the need to strengthen cooperation and connectivity. He noted that an open region has always been an important foundation for China and ASEAN countries to maintain regional peace and stability.

Song Qingrun, a senior research fellow from the School of Asian Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times that relevant remarks made during the summits fully reflect the basic consensus of the majority of Asia-Pacific countries in hoping to expand cooperation and jointly promote peace and development.

"The Asia-Pacific region is an important engine for global economic growth. If regional countries can further develop good relations and expand cooperation, it will inject more momentum and certainty into the regional and global economy," said Song.

At a time of sluggish global economic growth and peace and security being challenged, there is a great need for signals of unity and cooperation, which will boost confidence and drive more sustained and substantive cooperation, Song noted.

Unpopular outsider

Despite the calls and efforts for making enduring peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, in sharp contrast, US officials continuously made jarring remarks targeting China, which appeared at odds with the general atmosphere of the ASEAN events.

During his meeting with leaders of

ASEAN member countries on Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken hyped up hotspot issues, saying that the US is concerned about "China's increasingly dangerous and unlawful activities" in South China Sea, per an AP report.

In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday that China and parties to the South China Sea have every capability and wisdom to properly address disputes through dialogue and consultation, and jointly get the situation at sea under control.

"The US and individual countries outside the region are upgrading deployment of weapons and military activities in the South China Sea to incite confrontation and create tensions. They are the biggest source of instability in the South China Sea," Mao said.

Blinken also noted on Friday that the US "will continue to support freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight in the Indo-Pacific," and hopes to work with ASEAN leaders to "protect stability across the Taiwan Straits."

Blinken's remarks suggest that the Joe Biden administration is looking to leave a legacy in terms of Asia-Pacific policy through further containment and suppression of China, but the ASEAN Summits and its related meetings

reflect the stark fact that the narrow-minded US hegemony is unpopular in the Asia Pacific and its related policy will not receive substantial support in the region, experts said.

The vast majority of regional countries are fully aware that the bloc confrontation that the US is inciting in the region poses a great threat to Asia-Pacific integration and prosperity, and thus they are unwilling to become victims, Zhu said.

Despite US efforts to woo ASEAN, the bloc's members are quite rational about their proper position in the China-US competition, which is in line with their own interests, Zhu said. "More importantly, a peaceful rising China is an inseparable cooperative partner of ASEAN's development."

China has been ASEAN's top trading partner for 15 consecutive years, and ASEAN has been China's largest trading partner for four years in a row.

The close economic and trade cooperation between ASEAN and China has become an important driving force for regional economic growth, Song said, noting that amid the world's turmoil, maintaining cooperation and peaceful development serves the greatest common interests and aspirations of all parties.

Intl reaction shows dissatisfaction over provocation against authority of UN, intl law: expert

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parties concerned, Israel in particular, to take immediate measures to deescalate tensions, ensure the safety of UN peacekeeping personnel, and prevent the conflict from further expanding or even spiraling out of control," Mao said.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday condemned Israeli forces attack in south Lebanon that injured two Indonesian military personnel who are members of the UNIFIL. "I condemn the fact that there was a shooting against a UN premise, wounding two peacekeepers, which is a violation of international humanitarian law," the UN secretary general said.

At the UN Security Council Briefing on the Lebanese-Israeli Situation on Thursday local time, China's permanent representative to the UN, Fu Cong, also said that China expresses grave concerns and strong condemnation regarding the IDF's attack, which resulted in injuries to UNIFIL personnel.

Since the latest round of Palestinian-Israeli conflict broke out last year, Israel has increasingly expressed dissatisfaction with the UN mechanism, often labeling the UN as "anti-Israel," and the relation-



Vehicles of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrol in Marjeyoun in southern Lebanon on October 11, 2024, amid the ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. Photo: AFP

ship between Israel and the UN has also become increasingly tense, observers said.

Italy officially protested with Israel on Thursday for targeting UNIFIL deployed in south Lebanon, which hosts UNIFIL headquarters and two Italian bases. Italy's Defense Minister Guido Crosetto contacted his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant to complain, describing the events as "unacceptable to the Italian government."

Russian Ambassador to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said Moscow fully supports the security of peacekeepers, who are being subjected to "unpredictable risks" due to Israel's presence on the Blue Line. "We all understand that this is a war crime. It deserves the most decisive reaction from all of us," Nebenzya reportedly told a UN Security Council meeting on Thursday.

France's Ministry for

Europe and Foreign Affairs condemned the attack and said it was waiting for an explanation from Israel as to why it took place. "France expresses its deep concern following the Israeli shots that hit [UNIFIL] and condemns any attack on the security of UNIFIL," the ministry said in a statement.

Israel's attack on UNIFIL has been met with strong condemnation from the international community, includ-

ing some Western countries, indicating a strong common opposition to such disregard for international law and order. Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

According to Niu Xinchun, executive director of the China-Arab Research Institute of Ningxia University, Israel's attack, which also undermines the authority of the UN and the safety of UN peacekeeping personnel, has further intensified the dissatisfaction of the international community.

Notably, among the global reactions, the White House said the US was deeply concerned by reports that Israeli forces fired on UN positions and was pressing Israel for details, according to Reuters.

Observers believe that the statements from the US may reflect a sense of helplessness, which also highlights the duality in its policy toward Israel—supporting and indulging it on one hand, while on the other having disagreements on many issues and not wanting to be drawn into the conflict. "Therefore, the US stance is kind of weak and may lack significant practical meaning," Liu said.

