



### China-Laos BRI ties a model for others

The BRI has made significant contributions to promoting the development of countries and regions participating in the BRI: Sonexay Siphandone **7**

EXCLUSIVE

### Long live the Pakistan-China friendship

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, emphasizes the strong China-Pakistan bond and the significance of the BRI in an exclusive piece on GT **8-9**

### Canton Fair 2023 autumn session opens, biggest ever

Many believe that the event is not only a selling platform but also a distribution and interaction center. Grand gathering for global trade shows world China's confidence and determination to open up **10**



A foreigner is interviewed by Chinese journalists in the media center for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The center started a trial run at the China National Convention Center on October 15, 2023. Photo: VCG

### China urges Israel to avoid total punishment in Gaza Strip

By Chen Qingqing and Zhao Yusha

The humanitarian crisis has been further aggravating in the Gaza Strip over the weekend. With Israel further pressing on Sunday with preparations for a ground offensive after having ordered more than 1 million residents to evacuate from northern Gaza, there have been growing calls for protecting civilians and acting in line with the international laws amid the escalating Israel-Palestine tensions. Among them, China said Israel's actions go beyond self-defense, urging it to avoid collective punishment of the Gaza people.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone conversation with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday. During the call Wang said the immediate priority is to de-escalate the situation and prevent a severe humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, which could result in more innocent civilian casualties and further damages to regional peace.

Wang also had a phone conversation about the Israel-Palestine conflicts with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Sunday night.

In his phone call with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Saturday, Wang said China opposes and condemns all acts that harm civilians, as they violate basic human conscience and the fundamental principles of international law.

Israel's actions go beyond the scope of self-defense. It should heed the calls of the international community and the UN Secretary-General

► Foreign leaders to discuss 'solutions for global challenges' in Beijing

## BRF to provide hopes 'for uncertain world in turbulence'

By Yang Sheng and Zhang Changyue

Amid turbulence as conflicts and bloodshed continue around the globe in countries like Palestine, Israel, Ukraine and Russia, members of the international community have never stopped seeking hope and solutions to make de-



velopment sustainable, and maintain or restore peace and stability, with leaders and representatives from more than 140 countries as well as 30 international organizations arriving in China to participate in the Belt

and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation to be held in Beijing from Tuesday to Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony of the forum where he will deliver a keynote speech, and later hold a welcome banquet and bilateral events for guests attend-

ing the forum, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The BRF this year will be held under the theme "High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Common Development and Prosperity."

Kenyan President William Ruto on Sunday arrived

► **2**  
US  
See also  
Pages 7, 8-9

► **2**  
Conflicts  
See also  
Page 5



# US-initiated plans to compete with BRI 'received little progress'

► BRF, from Page 1

in Beijing to attend the BRF, and Chilean President Gabriel Boric, who will also attend the forum, arrived in Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan Province, to start his trip in China, the Xinhua News Agency and CGTN reported.

China Central Television aired an interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday, with TASS reporting that this is an interview ahead of Putin's visit to Beijing. TASS said on Sunday that the Russian leader will visit China to attend the BRF as well as a China-Russia summit.

## Great significance

"In 2008-2011, the world had just experienced the global financial crisis, and the developed economies had stagnated," Huang Renwei, executive director-general of the Fudan Institute for Belt and Road and Global Governance, told the Global Times on Sunday. "The flow of funds in the global economy as well as the mainstream of globalization had changed, so China had to search for new markets to change its old system that was heavily reliant on developed Western markets. This was the background against which China proposed the BRI in the first place," Huang said.

Through the BRI, China used its investments, technologies and infrastructure projects to link more and more developing countries which had been marginalized in the West-dominated globalization, Huang noted. "The initiative [BRI] is not just about building bridges and roads, but inevitably a phenomenon based on the changing of the world's and

China's economic structure."

Huang said that "the BRI is a historically significant, innovative and far-sighted move proposed by China. If the BRI hadn't been proposed 10 years ago, the recession in the global economy and market would have been severer, the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic would have been heavier, and the US launched trade war against and 'decoupling' from China will be more destructive."

Chinese analysts said the BRF will provide a thorough summary of the achievements and lessons of the past decade, and will discuss and conclude with a consensus and a significant plan about how to keep pushing the construction of the Belt and Road in the future. It seeks to improve and reform globalization and global governance, especially when world peace is facing challenges and global post-pandemic recovery is fragile.

The third BRF is the most important diplomatic event hosted by China this year, and the most significant celebration for the 10th anniversary of the proposal of BRI, said Chinese Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu on Friday.

Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Sunday that the joint construction of the Belt and Road is a key part of China's idea of building a global community of shared future, and in the future, China will keep invest in and promote the BRI to make it a better public good for the world, so that more countries are able to benefit from it.

## 'Don't be jealous'

Some Western media and politi-

cians have always tried to badmouth and stigmatize the BRI, and very recently they said the forum has not seen participation by Western developed countries. Chinese experts said the arrogance of the West makes them fail to understand the BRI and fail to provide any meaningful alternative to compete with the BRI.

The China-proposed initiative has changed the world significantly, and compared to 10 years ago, more countries have participated in this initiative, so the BRI is successful and will keep being successful with or without the participations or the compliments from the US and its allies, analysts noted.

Huang said the US-led West's attitude toward the BRI was different according to the phase of the initiative: In the first two to three years after the BRI was proposed, the West downplayed and looked down on it as they did not believe China could afford to or effectively promote such a huge plan with so many uncertainties and risks.

From 2018 to 2019, the West realized the influence and achievements of the BRI, so they started to badmouth and stigmatize the BRI, with the rumors like it being a "debt trap" and a manifestation of "China's neo-colonialism."

"Since 2021, in order to compete with the unstoppable BRI, the US, the EU, Japan and India proposed global infrastructure initiatives as well. It's just like plagiarism. These attempts are mainly lip-services. They lack funds and they don't have enough investments. In some cases they have political conditions for their partners, or their infrastructure projects get delayed again and again," noted Huang.

# Conflicts come to key point as pressure mounts on Israel

► China, from Page 1

and avoid collective punishment of the people of Gaza, Wang said.

The death toll in the Gaza Strip climbed, with 2,329 Palestinians dead and 9,714 injured on Sunday morning, according to Gaza's health ministry, making it the deadliest Gaza war for Palestinians to date, France 24 reported.

Some Chinese experts believe that the Israel-Palestine conflicts is now at a critical point. If Israel continues with its planned ground offensive when Gaza has already been facing a growing humanitarian crisis, such actions clearly go against the international law and will draw much diplomatic and public opinion pressure on Israel. Meanwhile, a prolonged war would also negatively impact the process of Israel's normalizing relations with Arab countries.

## Growing concerns

According to the latest satellite images the Global Times obtained from the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Center) on Saturday, the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas in the world, is almost completely plunged into darkness at night due to Israel's power supply cutoff.

After a conflict occurs, China's consistent stance is to call for a ceasefire and engage in a dialogue to resolve the issue, rather than escalating the conflict, experts said.

In the long run, continued conflict won't do good for Israel, as it would result in more civilian casualties and humanitarian crises, leading to increased huge pressure from the international community. Many countries may change their perspectives on the issue, Li Weijian, vice president of the Chinese Association of Middle East Studies, told the Global Times on Sunday.

While US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was busy meeting the leaders in the Middle East in the past few days, the US was planning to send a second aircraft carrier strike group to the eastern Mediterranean, the US defense secretary confirmed on Saturday.

In his phone call with Blinken on Saturday, Wang Yi said major powers should adhere to objectivity and impartiality, maintain calm and restraint and take the lead in abiding by international law.

"Now it has been enhancing its military pressure, which, on one hand, aims to make deterrence to anti-Israel and anti-US forces such as Hezbollah in Lebanon but on the other hand, it may further provoke those forces," Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Zhai Jun, special envoy of the Chinese government on the Middle East issue, said he will travel to the relevant countries in the Middle East next week, further strengthen coordination with all parties, aiming to cease fire, protect civilians, ease the situation and promote peace talks, China Central Television reported on Sunday.

Both China and the US are influential major powers, and both have the potential to influence other countries' positions.

"For example, the US may exert influence on many European countries. If the US changes its stance, those countries may follow suit," Li said.

He noted that the US can also work on Israel because Israel does not want to remain trapped in the conflict indefinitely.

## Olympic message



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach speaks on the first day of the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai, India, on October 15, 2023. IOC members voted Sunday to allow a double allocation of two successive Winter Games in 2030 and 2034. IOC chiefs had previously hoped to award the 2030 Winter Olympics during a Mumbai session starting on Sunday. Photo: AFP