

TOP NEWS

Xi, world leaders reach Belt and Road pacts

Editor's Note: President Xi Jinping continued his schedule of bilateral meetings on Tuesday with leaders who attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The following are highlights of the talks as reported by China Daily.



Almazbek Atambayev,
Kyrgyzstan president

Kyrgyzstan

China and Kyrgyzstan are both important forces in safeguarding regional security and stability. President Xi Jinping said when meeting with Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atambayev on Tuesday in Beijing.

The two sides should strengthen cooperation in anti-terrorism and law enforcement security, and jointly safeguard the security and stability of the two countries and regions, Xi said.

China supports Kyrgyzstan in safeguarding its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and backs the development path chosen by Kyrgyzstan and its domestic and foreign policies, Xi said.

The two countries have carried out cooperation energetically in the past three years in building the Belt and Road.

Their achievements are remarkable and they should effectively implement key cooperation projects, the president said.

Atambayev said the Belt and Road Initiative will help strengthen international cooperation, enhance mutual understanding and mutual trust among various parties.

Kyrgyzstan appreciates the lasting and strong support as well as the help offered by China, and it will firmly support China's position on issues related to its core interests and major concerns, he said.

Kyrgyzstan is ready to strengthen cooperation with China in areas such as the economy, trade and security, and will actively promote construction of major infrastructure projects, he said.



Bounnhang Vorachith,
Laotian president

Laos

China and Laos should work together to safeguard the overall situation of China-ASEAN ties as well as regional peace and stability, President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday.

Xi, while meeting in Beijing with Laos President Bounnhang Vorachith on Tuesday, said China appreciates Laos' support and participation in building the Belt and Road and is willing to take this as a chance to deepen mutual cooperation, achieve win-win development and jointly shape a better future.

Cooperation between the two nations should be strengthened, and they should expand sharing experience related to governing their respective countries and parties, Xi said.

The two countries should further their cooperation on development strategies and closely work together on key projects to benefit the public, Xi said.

Bounnhang said Laos is satisfied with the progress of bilateral projects under the framework of building the Belt and Road.

"We hope to maintain close contact between the leaders of the two parties," he said, as well as strengthen sharing experience on governance and deepen cooperation in areas such as economy, trade, investment and infrastructure.

After the talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of cooperative documents regarding the Belt and Road, economy, education and electricity.



Alexander Lukashenko,
Belarus president

Belarus

China and Belarus should strengthen communication on policies, boost links between their development strategies and foster new highlights of growth, President Xi Jinping said when meeting with Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko on Tuesday.

In September, China and Belarus established a comprehensive strategic partnership of mutual trust and win-win cooperation, which ushered in a new stage of China-Belarus relations development, Xi said.

Both sides firmly support each other on issues regarding core interests and major concerns, and their pragmatic cooperation provides good momentum for every dimension and level, Xi said.

The two countries should deepen economic and trade cooperation and investment, promote the balanced and sustainable development of trade and advance the construction of a China-Belarus industrial park, Xi said.

China regards Belarus as an important partner for building the Belt and Road and is willing to tap into the full potential of its cooperation for win-win development, Xi said.

Lukashenko said China and Belarus are sincere partners and their mutual trust, friendship and cooperation have deepened since the establishment of diplomatic ties 25 years ago.

Belarus is willing to expand cooperation with China in areas such as economy and trade, investment, production capacity, science and technology, sports and tourism, he said.



Paolo Gentiloni,
Italian prime minister

Italy

China and Italy should expand two-way investment, promote construction of industrial parks and strengthen cooperation in e-commerce and innovation, President Xi Jinping said in a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni on Tuesday.

Xi noted that both China and Italy are important members of the international community and the two sides should maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges they've built up.

China welcomes the active participation of Italy in building the Belt and Road and supports companies of the two countries carrying out cooperation in ports, shipbuilding and shipping.

Xi said he hopes Italy continues playing a positive role in the European Union and maintains good momentum to strengthen China-Europe ties.

Gentiloni said the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation has sent a positive signal to the world on promoting an open international economy and trade, which Italy is ready to take part in.

Over recent years, the Italy-China relationship has developed well, he said, adding Italy adheres to the one-China policy, and it attaches great importance to developing relations with China, Gentiloni said.

Italy hopes to maintain high-level exchanges with China and strengthen cooperation in areas such as economy, technology, agriculture, health, education, culture, tourism and small and medium-sized enterprises, he said.



Ranil Wickremesinghe,
Sri Lankan prime minister

Sri Lanka

It's a long-term and strategic choice for China to maintain friendly relations with Sri Lanka, President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday, while calling for joint efforts to push forward with major projects.

Xi met on Tuesday with Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on Sunday and Monday.

Noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of China-Sri Lanka diplomatic relations, Xi said China attaches great importance to the development of ties with Sri Lanka. China supports Sri Lanka's efforts to safeguard national unity, peace and ethnic reconciliation, Xi said.

The two countries should push forward with cooperation on infrastructure construction, shipping and aviation to boost interconnectivity, Xi said.

China would like to enhance exchanges with Sri Lanka in areas including young people, think tanks, colleges, media, tourism and local-level governments, Xi said.

The Sri Lankan prime minister congratulated Xi on the success of the Belt and Road Forum. Sri Lanka welcomes China to join its process of industrialization, especially in infrastructure construction, he said.

Sri Lanka is willing to make joint efforts with China to push forward the Hambantota harbor and Colombo Port City projects smoothly, he said.



Voreqe Bainimarama,
Fijian prime minister

Fiji

China encourages more domestic companies to invest in Fiji and more tourists to travel to the Pacific island nation for sightseeing, President Xi Jinping told Fiji Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama on Tuesday.

China would like to enhance cooperation with Fiji in areas like trade, investment, agriculture technology and green development, Xi said.

Noting that Fiji is the first Pacific island country to establish diplomatic ties with China, Xi said it has brought China-Fiji relations to a higher level since the two countries established their strategic partnership in 2014 on the basis of mutual respect and joint development.

The two countries have boosted political trust continuously, expanded pragmatic cooperation and more recently strengthened people-to-people exchanges, Xi said, adding that the two sides should make efforts to benefit both peoples.

Xi called on the two countries to continue to support each other on issues related to their core interests and major concerns. Both also should expand exchanges in education and culture, Xi said.

China would like to maintain close communication and coordination on issues such as climate change under the United Nations framework, he added.

Bainimarama congratulated Xi on the success of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Fiji supports the Belt and Road and expects to cooperate with China on the initiative, he said.



Aleksandar Vucic,
Serbian prime minister

Serbia

China and Serbia should speed up implementing their memorandum of understanding on jointly building the Belt and Road and advance cooperation on key areas such as infrastructure construction and energy, President Xi Jinping said while meeting with Serbia Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic.

Xi congratulated Vucic on winning Serbia's election.

China is willing to make joint efforts with Serbia strengthening their friendship, deepening cooperation in all areas and pushing forward the development of their comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said.

The president encouraged speeding up their joint development strategy under the new arrangement. Both countries also should learn each other's major concerns and enhance communication in international and regional affairs, he said.

The two nations also should deepen cooperation and work together on key projects, Xi said. Serbia should take the lead to establish the China-Central and Eastern European transportation infrastructure cooperation center, Xi added.

Calling China a firm friend and reliable partner, Vucic said Serbia has benefited from his attendance at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, adding building the Belt and Road will bond Serbia more tightly with China.

Serbia upholds the one-China policy, Vucic said.

The countries should deepen cooperation on the economy, trade, minerals, finance, aviation and tourism, he said.

Li, Cambodian PM witness signing of 13 agreements

By AN BAIJIE and ZHANG YUE

China signed 13 cooperation documents with Cambodia on Tuesday in areas such as infrastructure, finance, maritime research and tourism as the two countries moved forward to build the Belt and Road.

Witnessed by Premier Li Keqiang and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, the plans, agreements and memorandums of understanding were signed in Beijing. Hun Sen is on a five-day official visit to China, during which he attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

During the talks, Li highlighted the China-Cambodia friendship cultivated over time by leaders of both nations. President Xi Jinping's state visit to Cambodia last year helped develop the two countries' friendship under the new global politics and economic status, Li said.

Noting that China is dedicated to upgrading the level of cooperation with Cambodia, Li expressed a willingness to connect development strategies and improve the quality and quantity of trade between the two countries.

China would like to cooperate with Cambodia on key projects related to production capacity, investment and agriculture, which would help Cambodia develop its econo-

Premier Li Keqiang said China would like to cooperate with Cambodia on key projects related to production capacity, investment and agriculture.

my and improve the people's livelihoods, Li said.

The premier also proposed enhancing defense and law-enforcement cooperation and strengthening exchanges in areas including education, tourism, protection of historical relics, medicine and health.

China supports Cambodia playing a positive role through regional and subregional platforms to establish a stable, peaceful and prosperous communities of shared destiny, Li said.

Next year marks the 15th anniversary of China-ASEAN strategic partnership, and Cambodia will host the second meeting of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation initiative.

Calling Hun Sen "an old friend of the Chinese people", Li said Hun Sen's official visit is expected to inject new impetus to China-Cambodia relations.

Cambodia cherishes the traditional friendship with China, Hun Sen said, adding that Cambodia would like to implement all the agreements reached by the leaders of the both sides.

The two countries should keep high-level exchanges and enhance cooperation in areas including trade, investment, infrastructure, agriculture, water projects, science and technology, tourism, law enforcement and security, Hun Sen said.

The Cambodian prime minister offered congratulations on the success of the Belt and Road Forum.

Cambodia is willing to push forward the development of China-ASEAN relations and enhance the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation initiative, Hun Sen said.

Liu Zhenmin, vice-foreign minister, said the Cambodian prime minister's visit is "fruitful and of great significance" as the two side reached wide consensus on jointly building the Belt and Road, infrastructure, maritime cooperation, tourism and trade.

Mentioning that the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone in Cambodia, constructed by China, is developing well, Liu said that Chinese companies will expand investment in Cambodia.

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Paying respects to victims of massacre



President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic visits the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders on Tuesday in Nanjing. Jiangsu province, paying tribute and bowing to the victims. Thousands of victims were buried near the memorial. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Talks set with Philippines on South China Sea

By MO JINGXI mojingxi@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese and Philippine officials will meet in the southwestern city of Guiyang on Friday to consult for the first time on South China Sea disputes.

Delegations led by Vice-Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and Philippine Ambassador Jose Santiago Santa Romana will engage in a "friendly dialogue and consultations" on topics related to the South China Sea in the city in Guizhou province,

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Tuesday.

"The meeting aims to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries in October and establish an institutional dialogue platform," she said at a daily news conference in Beijing.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte made his first state visit to China in October, a move that helped repair ties that had been damaged by the previous administration in Manila.

According to Hua, China

expects and believes the meeting will help the two countries manage differences, promote maritime cooperation and lead to resolving related disputes and creating a good atmosphere to enhance ties and cooperation in various areas.

Hua said the two leaders again reached consensus on resolving the South China Sea issue through dialogue and negotiations on Monday when President Xi Jinping met with Duterte, who attended the Belt and Road Forum for Interna-

tional Cooperation in Beijing. "China appreciates President Duterte for conducting active dialogue and cooperation with China on the issue and jointly safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea," she said.

Before Friday's bilateral meeting, the 14th meeting of senior officials from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regarding the implementation of a code of conduct in the South China Sea will be held in Guiyang on Thursday.