



US urged to show sincerity in delegation's China visit

A US delegation formed by senior officials will visit China soon, a move which analysts said shows that the US is seeking stabilization of ties with China more desperately **3**

China urges US to abide by WTO ruling

China has urged the US to correct its wrongdoings, and work with China and other WTO members to jointly safeguard the multilateral trading system **8**

Xi's Saudi Arab visit a diplomatic victory in Mid East

President Xi Jinping's visit to Saudi Arabia has made "China" a word frequently mentioned in the Arab world. During his trip, the China-Arab friendship ingrained itself into the hearts of the local people **12-13**

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► Xi's unprecedented trip yields fruitful results, carry forward long-cherished friendship

China-Arab ties open a new chapter

By Yu Jincui, Xing Xiaojing in Riyadh and Chen Qingqing in Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday concluded his Saudi Arabia trip, his first to the Middle East region after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of Chi-

na, which was also an unprecedented diplomatic event with the Arab world. The trip has not only yielded fruitful results in economic and trade sense, but also demonstrated that in addition to continuing to play the role of a contributor to regional development, China will also increasingly contribute to

peace in the strategically important Middle East, experts noted.

Xi departed Riyadh Saturday after attending the first China-Arab States Summit and the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit and paying a state visit to Saudi Arabia from December 7 to 10.

During his stay in Saudi

Arabia, Xi also held bilateral meetings with nearly 20 Arab leaders, said Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister, deeming Xi's Mideast trip as China's largest and highest-level diplomatic action with the Arab world since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Calling Xi's attendance at the first China-Arab States Summit and the China-GCC Summit and his meetings with leaders of Saudi Arabia another great pioneering undertaking in China's diplomacy, Wang said it has demon-

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Solidarity
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Nation ramps up medical resources to better cope with COVID exit wave

By GT staff reporters

After China released 10 new measures aimed at further optimizing its COVID-19 response, top Chinese epidemiologists predicted this wave of infection will peak within a month. To cope with the possible surging number of caseloads, hospitals nationwide have upped the preparation of ICU beds and medical workers, as well as restructuring hospitals to make sure patients in need get timely treatment, as well as preventing the medical system from being overloaded.

Shoring up medical preparation, as well as ramping up vaccination and helping people form the right understanding of the nature of Omicron are some of the measures in the government's carefully arranged plan of gradually relaxing the COVID-19 restrictions, so it can weather the surging cases during exit in a relatively orderly manner compared to the West, epidemiologists said, brushing aside the Western media's hype over China's optimized COVID-19 response.

The official COVID-19 caseload in China has been decreasing for days since the end of last month, with 2,270 confirmed cases and 8,327 asymptomatic cases recorded on Saturday. The drop was propelled after China on December 7 further adjusted its COVID response by releasing 10 new measures.

Yet the number of outpa-

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Weakening



After the release of the "10 new measures," the passenger flow of inter-provincial travel has increased significantly. Passengers line up to board their trains in the departure area of Hongqiao Railway Station in Shanghai on December 11, 2022. Photo: VCG



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Charity rescue



Migrants during the disembarking operations from the ship Geo Barents on December 11, 2022 in Salerno, Italy. 248 migrants rescued by the Geo Barents ship of the NGO Doctors Without Borders landed in the port of Salerno in the southern Mediterranean Sea. Photo: VCG

Solidarity, cooperation to inject positive energy to world in flux

► China-Arab, from Page 1

strated the strategic choice of China and Arab countries to strengthen solidarity and coordination in the face of global challenges.

Chinese experts also said the deepening cooperation and solidarity between China and Arabic countries will inject positive energy to the world in turbulence.

Fruitful results

Following the first China-Arab States Summit on Friday, the leaders of China and the member states of the Arab League issued the Riyadh Declaration, agreeing to strengthen cooperation and enhance the China-Arab strategic partnership. China and Arab states are committed to deepening China-Arab cooperation in various fields through the mechanisms under the framework of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. The declaration stressed that the Arab states firmly adhere to the one-China principle, support China in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reaffirm that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China's territory.

China and states of the GCC also agreed on Friday to strengthen their strategic partnership, issuing a joint statement to stress the importance of taking their strategic partnership into a new era in such fields as politics, economy and culture.

China and Saudi Arabia released a joint statement on the same day affirming to continue making the China-Saudi relationship a priority in their respective foreign relations, and build a model of solidarity and cooperation for mutual benefits among

developing countries. The two countries also agreed to enhance the comprehensive strategic partnership to include a biannual meeting between the two heads of state, and upgrade regular high-level talks led by premier level.

"We will continue to work very closely with each other to not just serve the interests of our country, but to serve the interests of world peace and global cooperation," Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, said responding to a question raised by Global Times reporter during a press conference in Riyadh on Friday evening.

China does not engage in advocating for geopolitical small clique and does not make calculation for geopolitical interests, and it treats Arab countries with sincerity, which is widely welcomed by countries in the region, Wang noted.

Many leaders of the regional countries said that there is no upper limit for the friendly cooperation with China, experts told the Global Times.

"In my opinion, this visit is a milestone in the history of China-Arab relations, marking the continuous development of China-Arab friendship and ushering in a new era of cooperation and coordination," Firas Fadel Hassan, editor of the Emirates News Agency, told the Global Times.

It has provided an opportunity for leap-forward development of China-Arab relations. The summits emphasized the importance and necessity of strengthening and deepening strategic exchanges and coordination among friendly countries, and are committed to promoting world peace and global development, and safeguard the interests of the Gulf

and Arab countries, Hassan told the Global Times.

Role of China

The West has been closely watching this unprecedented interaction between China and the Middle East region in the past few days as there is inevitable comparison between Xi's visit and the visit of US President Joe Biden in July when he told Arab leaders that the US won't walk away from the Middle East.

Following Xi's visit, Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua would be visiting the United Arab Emirates and Iran in a four-day trip starting on Saturday, according to Xinhua News Agency.

Some Chinese experts believe that besides continuing pushing forward Middle East's development, China will also continue serving as a guardian of peace in the region, especially after the Chinese top leader elaborated on regional security issues ranging from Palestine to Yemen to Libya in the latest joint statements with Arab countries and GCC.

For instance, in the joint statement between China and Saudi Arabia, the two sides agreed on the need to strengthen joint cooperation to ensure the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. The two sides also called on Iran to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, maintain the non-proliferation regime, and emphasize respect for the principles of good-neighborliness and non-interference in internal affairs of states.

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Weakening virus virulence, better preparation to ensure hospital system will not be overwhelmed: expert

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tients displaying symptoms including fever has increased in hospitals nationwide. Long lines were observed in some hospitals in Beijing over the past few days, media reported on Saturday, noting that more than 100 people were lining up waiting to be treated at one fever clinic at a hospital. Some patients told media that they visited doctor to get medicine for fever as many drug stores have sold out related medicine. The National Health Commission (NHC) also said on Friday that all hospitals should receive patients with positive COVID-19 test results, instead of instructing patients to attend designated hospitals.

A doctor who works in a respiratory department at a hospital in Beijing, who requested anonymity, told the Global Times on Sunday that the biggest problems they are facing now is the increasing number of patients waiting to be admitted into emergency and fever clinics.

Beijing government has encouraged COVID-19 patients with mild or no symptoms to self-quarantine at home, to conserve medical resources for those who really need them.

Fan Qing, an official from Beijing's Shijitan Hospital predicted to media that the capital will see COVID-19 ballooning fast in the coming one or two weeks, but this will probably be the most severe situation the city will face.

Chen Xiaoyou, an official from Beijing's Ditan Hospital, a hospital designated to treat COVID-19 patients with severe cases, also told media that currently the overwhelming of medical system can be avoided after this short period of "difficulty," when the caseload is surging.

Later, after people form a better understanding of COVID, people with no or mild symptoms will choose home quarantine, or to go to makeshift hospitals if they suffer severe symptoms, instead of everyone rushing to designated hospitals once infected, Chen said.

Officials from the NHC also said on Friday that the country could redirect 106,000 doctors and 177,700 nurses to intensive care units.

Smear dismissed

Ever since China further adjusted its COVID-19 responses, Western media started another round of smearing, claiming that China's relaxation of COVID-19 strictions was abrupt, that it "didn't prepare sufficiently," and would come with millions of deaths.

Yet Wang Guangfa, a respiratory disease expert from Peking University First Hospital, told the Global Times that China has been tweaking and improving its COVID-19 response for the past few years and striving to seek a balance between virus control and guaranteeing normal life. "Relaxing now is not abrupt. Those media failed to notice our gradual changes and that our policies changed when the pathogenicity of the virus decreased geometrically."

Wang said that relaxation does not equal to lying flat, as the government now shifted its focus on medical resources, which aims not to let the peak number overwhelm the medical system when the exit wave emerges. Such strategy, and the fact that China waited until Omicron had become far less lethal, guarantees that China will exit from the pandemic in a more orderly fashion than what happened in the West, Wang said.

The NHC has instructed local governments to strengthen construction of medical resources, including improvements to fever clinics, more medical resources in designated hospitals, upgrading makeshift hospitals according to the size of the city's population and expansion of resources for treatment of critical cases.