



Qingdao Multinationals Summit to be held

Representatives from multinational corporations from 43 countries and regions are to meet at the sixth Qingdao Multinationals Summit 5

Chancay brings brighter future for connectivity

Peruvian congressman Roberto Sánchez Palomino told the Global Times that the Chancay Port's activation is an "extraordinary prospect" for the LatAm countries 6

China can build a lot of J-35 fighters in future: top designer

Chief designer of multiple types of aircraft told GT the J-35 series is expected to be produced in large numbers in the future, with the aircraft playing the role of a "point guard" in systematic combat operations 3

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► Visit marks maturing mechanism, injects momentum into cooperation President Xi to attend second China-Central Asia Summit in Astana

By Hu Yuwei in Astana and Zhang Han in Beijing

At the invitation of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the second China-Central Asia Summit in Astana from June 16 to 18, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Friday.

Establishing the China-Central Asia mechanism was

a unanimous decision among China and the five Central Asian countries, which dovetails with the region's common desire to maintain stability and pursue high-quality development, spokesperson Lin Jian told a news briefing.

Noting that it is the first time that the China-Central Asia Summit will be held in a Central Asian country, Lin said President Xi will deliver a keynote speech at the summit.

XI'S MOMENTS

Together with leaders of the participating Central Asian countries, they will exchange views on the achievements of the China-Central Asia mechanism, mutually beneficial cooperation under the framework, and international and regional hotspot issues, and jointly attend relevant events,

the spokesperson said.

During the summit, President Xi will also meet with these leaders and lay out the top-level plan for China's relations with five Central Asian countries, said the spokesperson.

Bolat Nurgaliyev, chair of the Board of the Foreign Policy Research Institute under Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expects that this visit will also provide a strong

impetus to elevate the China-Central Asia partnership to new heights.

"We share a common destiny as neighbors, facing similar challenges in political, economic, environmental, climatic, technological, and humanitarian domains. We recognize that combining our efforts is the most effective way to address these issues," Nurgaliyev told the Global

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China



A building in Tehran burns after being hit in Israel's attack on Tehran. The Israeli Air Force conducted several raids over Iran on June 13, 2025, targeting nuclear facilities and high-ranking military leaders and atomic scientists. Photo: VCG

Iran-Israel tensions escalate after Israel hits nuclear sites, military leadership

By Wang Qi

The Middle East has once again become the focus of global attention, after Israel launched unprecedented strikes on Iran, targeting its nuclear facilities, and Tehran vowed to retaliate. In the face of the danger of escalating tensions, various parties, including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar on Friday strongly condemned Israeli airstrikes on Iranian targets earlier in the day, while world leaders urged restraint in Iran-Israel escalation.

Analysts said the military strike on Tehran, unlike the previous two conflicts between Israel and Iran, is far more serious in nature and larger in scale, significantly increasing the risk of renewed escalation or even a full-scale war.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said on Friday that Israel has launched a "pre-emptive strike" on various places across Iran. Explosions were reported in Tehran and the counties of Natanz, Khondab and Khor-

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Israeli

► Fish lantern parade



A performance by a fish-shaped lantern parade team attracts tourists and residents in Shexian county, Huangshan, East China's Anhui Province on June 12. Local villagers in Shexian have a tradition of making fish-shaped lanterns, an intangible cultural heritage, on festival days to pray for abundant harvests and good fortune. Photo: VCG

China, C.Asia share aspiration for regional stability, prosperity: experts

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Times on Friday.

Alibek Kuantyrov, Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, told the Global Times at a recent forum that he has high expectations for the upcoming China-Central Asia Summit.

"Central Asian countries are deeply engaged in cooperation with China, which is vital as we jointly implement several major initiatives," he said.

"We are focused on enhancing efficiency, particularly by leveraging Chinese technologies, and we anticipate significant outcomes." Kuantyrov emphasized the importance of maintaining a stable relationship with China, Kazakhstan's neighbor, to navigate external geopolitical risks and changes effectively.

The Central Asia-China relationship is reaching a new level, said State Counsellor of Kazakhstan Erlan Karim during the fifth Forum of Analytical Centers focused on new horizons of regional partnership on June 3 in Astana.

Maturing mechanism

The China-Central Asia Summit was initiated in 2023. On the morning of May 19, 2023, President Xi chaired the inaugural China-Central Asia Summit in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province and delivered a keynote speech entitled "Working Together for a China-Central Asia Community with a Shared Future Featuring Mutual Assistance, Common Development, Universal Security and Everlasting Friendship," according to a press release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry at the time.

Ding Xiaoxing, director of the Institute of Eurasia Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times that under the guidance of heads of state, the mechanism not only established a permanent secretariat to ensure the implementation of meeting outcomes, but also built multi-level, multi-facet systems covering education, transportation, cultural tourism and other sectors to promote practical cooperation.

In the two years since the Xi'an Summit in 2023 to the Astana Summit this year, the China-Central Asia cooperation mechanism has continued to improve and expand, fully reflecting the recognition by Central Asian countries of China's development path, Ding said.

Deepening cooperation

China and Central Asia countries have seen deepening cooperation – from major infrastructure projects to deepening trade ties – signaling a shared commitment to building a more interconnected and prosperous region, observers said.

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project, which was officially launched in December 2024, will start construction in July 2025 and last for six years, Xinhua reported.

As a flagship project under the BRI, the railway, once completed, will become a strategic corridor benefiting all three countries and their peoples, contributing to regional economic and social development and playing a significant role in promoting infrastructure connectivity, economic and trade exchanges, and high-quality development of the Belt and Road.

A tourism train connecting China's Xi'an with Kazakhstan's Almaty made its maiden trip on May 29, making it the first China-Central Asia International Cultural Exchange Train to go into operation. It is a substantial result of the first China-Central Asia Summit in 2023 and an epitome of the "soft interconnectivity" between China and Central Asia, according to media reports.

Trade between China and the five Central Asian countries has also continued to grow in recent years. The latest data released on Monday by the General Administration of Customs shows that China's exports to the five Central Asian countries increased by 8.8 percent in May this year.

Li Yongquan, director of the Eurasian Social Development Research at the Development Research Center of the State Council, said that Central Asian countries have been seeking independent development paths and pursuing their respective reform agendas, giving rise to shared enthusiasm for regional integration.

In the face of geopolitical changes and challenges from tariffs and protectionism, China is also a crucial partner for Central Asia to be more resilient to the external environment, the expert said.

Central Asian countries increasingly recognize that China is pursuing stability and development for Central Asia, rather than playing a geopolitical game, and that there is a window of strategic opportunity for the development of China-Central Asia relations, Ding Xiaoxing said.

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Israeli attack sparks condemnation, calls for de-escalation worldwide

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ramabad, Iranian state TV reported. Iran's Fars News Agency said 78 people were killed and 329 were injured in the attacks on residential neighborhoods in the capital Tehran.

Multiple senior military commanders, including Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Hossein Salami, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri and Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Gholam Ali Rashid, were assassinated as a result of the airstrikes, state media reported. The Israeli airstrikes also killed at least six nuclear scientists, Iran's Tasnim news agency said.

Israel's primary objective is to dismantle Iran's nuclear capabilities, thereby preserving its nuclear monopoly in the Middle East and neutralizing Iran's perceived "security deterrence" against Israel, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said on Friday that Israel will receive harsh punishment following its airstrikes on Iranian targets earlier in the day. Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Friday that Tehran has a "legal and legitimate" right to respond to Israeli attacks under the UN Charter. It said in a statement that as the main supporter of Israel, the US "will also be responsible for the dangerous effects and consequences" of Israel's attacks, Al Jazeera reported.

Call for de-escalation

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said Friday that China is closely following Israel's attacks on Iran and is deeply concerned about the potential grave consequences of the operations. China opposes actions that violate Iran's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, and opposes moves that escalate tensions and enlarge conflicts. The abrupt heating up of the region serves no one's interests, Lin said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned "any military escalation in the Middle East," said Farhan Haq, his deputy spokesperson, in a statement on Israel's strikes against Iran. Noting that UN member states are obligated to act in accordance with the UN Charter and international law, the secretary-general urged both sides to show maximum restraint and avoid descent into deeper conflict – a situation that the region can hardly afford, the statement added.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that "Russia is concerned about the developments and condemns this sharp escalation," according to a Tass report.

A majority of Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Jordan have expressed concern and condemned Israel's attack on Iran.

In a statement, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio denied any US assistance or involvement in the "unilateral" attack, adding that Israel had informed Washington that it believed the strikes were necessary for its self-defense, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

After the strikes, US President Donald Trump warned Iran in a Truth Social post to agree to a nuclear deal "before there is nothing left," suggesting that subsequent Israeli attacks on the country will be "even more brutal," CNN reported.

An analyst said that the US was very likely maintaining high-level strategic communication with Israel before the strikes, and "whether intentionally or not, US' recent nuclear talks with Iran have provided cover for Israel's attack operations to some extent."