

► Tragic accident unlikely to impact foundation, direction of bilateral ties: experts

Wang meets Iranian deputy FM, vowing support

By GT staff reporters

Following the tragic helicopter crash that killed Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and several other officials on Sunday, Chinese and Iranian officials have reiterated their resolution to continue to strengthen the strategic cooperation between the two countries, as experts noted that the passing of Raisi will not affect the overall direction and development of China-Iran relations, nor will it bring about fundamental changes in Iran's domestic politics.

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met

with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahdi Safari who represents Iran to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Astana. Wang once again expressed his condolences and sympathy for the unfortunate passing of Raisi and Abdollahian.

"Regardless of how the situation may change, China will continue to strengthen strategic cooperation with Iran, safeguard common interests and make efforts for regional and global peace," Wang said.

Safari thanked Chinese side for its steadfast support to Iran, and emphasized that Iran's domestic and foreign policies will

not change. "Iran attaches great importance to its relations with China and is committed to enhancing cooperation in various fields such as politics, economy, and culture," he said, stating that Iran is willing to continue the relevant processes and work toward improving relations with regional countries.

The foundation of the relationship will not be disrupted, as the overall framework of bilateral ties remains stable and solid, indicating that the incident will not significantly impact the relationships, said Zhu Yongbiao, director of School of Politics and International Relations of Lanzhou University.

What's more, Zhu pointed

out that Iran still sees strong anti-America sentiment in the country, under such a circumstance, there is a strong demand for pragmatic cooperation with China.

China and Iran also have multilateral platforms for communication and cooperation, such as the SCO, while China and Iran also have significant consensus on various regional issues.

Although the passing of Raisi may impact Iran's crisis handling in the short term, analysts believe that the overall direction of its domestic and external policies will not be fundamentally altered.

Raisi has made significant

achievements in improving relations with neighboring countries and expanding Iran's international relations during his tenure, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Liu pointed out that the next step in the domestic policy direction is worth watching out for, as it remains to be seen whether the current conservative political direction of the government will continue or if the upcoming election on June 28 will shift toward a moderate direction.

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► Midair turbulence



Ambulances wait to carry passengers from Singapore Airlines flight 321 that encountered severe turbulence and carried out an emergency landing at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand on May 21, 2024. Two people died and 30 others were injured from the incident, local media updated. Photo: VCG

China announces countermeasures against former US lawmaker

By GT staff reporters

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Tuesday that it will take countermeasures in accordance with the law against Mike Gallagher, a former US Representative from Wisconsin and former US congressman, for his frequent words and actions over the past years that have interfered in China's internal affairs, undermined China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and infringed on China's interests.

The countermeasures consist of freezing of Gallagher's movable, immovable and other types of assets in China, prohibiting organizations and individuals in China from engaging in relevant transactions and coopera-

tion with him, and denying visas and entry into China, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Gallagher, who previously served as chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on China, has pushed through a series of anti-China bills including one forcing Chinese tech company ByteDance to divest short-video app TikTok or see it banned in the US.

He also led a congressional delegation to visit China's Taiwan region in February and declared that no matter who wins the upcoming US election, support for Taiwan will not change.

Gallagher is the main initiator and advocator behind a series of recent US legislations targeting China, and it is reasonable for China to impose

certain sanctions on him, said Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Less than a month after leaving Congress, Gallagher has a new job at TitledownTech, a US venture capital firm.

These sanctions are more symbolic in nature as Gallagher is unlikely to have assets in China, so the move mainly is a political statement, sort of like declaring him persona non grata. This also closes off a path, making it impossible for Gallagher to engage in any business related to China, limiting his opportunities, Lü noted.

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US urged not to use Ukraine crisis to advance geopolitical strategies, provoke confrontation

By Xu Keyue and Sun Langchen

A Chinese envoy refuted the US representative's unreasonable accusations against China at a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Briefing on Ukraine on Monday, urging the US not to use the Ukraine crisis to advance geopolitical strategies, provoke camp confrontations, or serve its own agenda.

Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, made a speech at the UNSC meeting on Ukraine.

According to the meeting coverage published by the UN on Monday, the representative of the US at the UNSC briefing expressed the so-called concern over "China's support to rebuild Moscow's defense industrial base."

Shifting focus and passing the buck is not the correct way to solve the Ukraine crisis, Geng said.

The UNSC briefing came as the US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin committed on Monday to keeping the flow of US weapons moving to Ukraine. Austin and as many as 50 defense leaders from Europe and around the world met on Monday to coordinate over sending more military aid to Ukraine.

While the global mainstream view is to call for a cease-fire, the US and a few European leaders are reluctant to see a halt to the conflict, Chinese analysts commented.

The fact that the US has pushed for more aid to Ukraine and is now striving to garner as much support from allies as possible indicates that the Biden administration is determined to at least maintain the situation in Ukraine until the US presidential elections, Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Without help from other countries, the US will struggle handling assistance to Ukraine alone, the expert noted.

A failure in Ukraine would not only tarnish the Biden administration but also damage the overall image of the US, dealing a heavy blow to the superpower to maintaining its global prestige, Lü said.