



Trilateral cooperation needs enhancement

Trilateral consultations among China, Russia and India on strategic stability would not only contribute to world peace and security, but also build trust **6**

Chinese officials vow to step up EV sector support

Officials on Monday firmly pushed back against claims by some Western officials and media outlets of overcapacity in China's EV sector **11**

Craftsman keeps reviving ancient porcelain techniques

Jingdezhen has a ceramic history of over 2,000 years. On the outskirts of Jingdezhen, there is a traditional wood-fired kiln called Gong Hua Kiln, which has been used for over 20 years **16**

► China has assisted in rescue, ready to continue providing necessary support

Global community extends condolences over Raisi's death

By Zhao Yusha and Bai Yunyi

The international community has extended condolences on Monday to Iran following the tragic helicopter crash that claimed the life of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, along with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and several other officials.

President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a message of condolence to Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber following the unfortunate death of Raisi in the accident, saying Raisi's tragic death is a great loss to the Iranian people, and the Chinese people also lost a good friend.

The unexpected death of Raisi may cause temporary va-

cancy for the successor to Iran's Supreme Leader and cause ripples to the internal power structure, yet the country's political structure can still ensure the country's normal functioning despite the incident, preventing it from descending into chaos. Experts believe Iran's foreign and domestic policies won't undergo major changes. However, the incident may temporarily

stall negotiations between Iran and the US, bringing more uncertainty to the conflicts in the Middle East.

On behalf of the Chinese government and the people of China, Xi expressed deep condolences and extended sincere sympathies to Mokhber, the family of President Raisi, and the Iranian government **2**



Mainland slams Lai in sending 'dangerous signal' in speech

By Liu Xin and Ma Jingjing

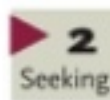
The Chinese mainland on Monday reiterated its firm opposition to "Taiwan independence" and emphasized its unwavering stance against any form of separatist activities, following Lai Ching-te's speech upon assuming the role of Taiwan region's new leader on Monday.

Analysts said that the pursuit of "Taiwan independence" is a futile endeavor that will lead to detrimental and calamitous consequences for Taiwan island. The US and certain external forces' attempts to manipulate the "Taiwan card" to contain China will only serve to destabilize the region further.

Lai and deputy regional leader Hsiao Bi-khim officially assumed office on Monday. During his "inauguration speech", Lai blatantly referred to the island as a "nation," talked about the island's political system and "freedom," and hyped so-called political and military "intimidation" from the mainland.

Lai's speech stubbornly followed the "Taiwan independence" stance, wantonly advocated separatism, incited cross-Straits confrontation and sought independence by relying on foreign support and by force, Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said in a statement on Monday.

The mainstream public aspiration on the island favors peace over war, development over regression, communication over separation, and cooperation over confrontation. However, Lai disregards this sentiment and goes against the tide, releasing dangerous signals of separatist provocation. This disrupts peace and **2**



People hold up posters of President Ebrahim Raisi during a mourning ceremony for him at Vali-e-Asr square in downtown Tehran on May 20, 2024. Photo: VCG

▶ Fukushima protest



South Koreans in Seoul gather on May 20, 2024 to protest against Japan after the Japanese government recently started the sixth round of release of nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean. Photo: VCG

‘Iran’s political structure can ensure normal functioning despite accident’

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and people.

Raisi also made positive efforts to consolidate and deepen the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership. The Chinese government and Chinese people cherish the traditional friendship between China and Iran, Xi said, noting that with the joint efforts of both sides, the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership will continue to consolidate and develop.

During a joint press briefing with Kazakhstan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu in Astana on Monday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian made significant contributions to the development of China-Iran relations and the promotion of regional friendly cooperation.

China has actively assisted in the search and rescue efforts following the accident and is ready to continue providing any necessary support to Iran, Wang said, adding that he believes that the Iranian government and people will get through this difficult time.

Raisi and the Iranian top diplomat were killed on Sunday in a helicopter crash resulting from a “technical failure,” Iranian state news media reported.

Raisi was traveling in Iran’s East Azerbaijan province. State TV said what it called a “hard landing” happened near Jolfa, a city on the border with the nation of Azerbaijan, some 600 kilometers (375 miles) northwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran, according to the Associated Press.

Iran has declared five days of na-

tional mourning, according to local media reports.

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Monday appointed the country’s First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber as interim president. Mokhber now leads a three-person council responsible for organizing a new presidential election within 50 days, media reported.

Many countries and organizations sent their condolences after the incident. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday conveyed condolences to Iran over the deaths of Raisi and other senior government officials in a tragic helicopter crash. Leaders from Qatar, India, Pakistan, Russia along with other countries also expressed their condolences.

Short-term impact

Raisi, the 63-year-old political heavyweight, had long been regarded as the natural successor to Supreme Leader Khamenei, the highest authority in Iran, Al Jazeera reported.

The biggest impact brought by Raisi’s death would be the temporary vacancy of the successor to Iran’s Supreme Leader, Wang Jin, an associate professor at the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at Northwest University in Xi’an, told the Global Times. Wang noted that Raisi had deep connection and abundant experience in the judiciary and religious arena; moreover, his background and personal style are in line with the expectations for successor of Iran’s Supreme Leader.

Death of Raisi is expected to have a significant impact on the internal power structure in Iran. Raisi was considered a key figure in Iran’s conservative camp, and his passing may

trigger large-scale personnel reshuffle within the conservative faction, or exacerbate internal power struggles, Wen Shaobiao, an expert from the Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

However, Chinese experts believe that overall, Iran’s normal operation won’t be rattled by Raisi’s death, and the country’s policies on major issues will remain the same.

Iran’s political system, with Ali Khamenei leading the political landscape and with the constitutional procedures in place in the event of absence of the president, ensures that Iran is unlikely to experience the kind of political instability seen in some developing countries where the political system is not robust. The likelihood of the country descending into political turmoil due to the incident is relatively small, Liu Zhongmin, a professor from the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

The accident also occurred when Iran was placed in crucial foreign environment. Its conflict with Israel escalated when Iran launched missile attacks on Israel following Israel’s bombing of the Iranian embassy building in April.

Both Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian are crucial figures in Iran’s diplomatic circles, thus it takes time for their successors to familiarize and adjust. During this time, Iran may reduce its involvement in foreign affairs, as it needs to focus on electing a new president, said Wen, noting that Teheran’s talks with Washington are likely to come to a halt, which brings more uncertainty for de-escalating conflicts in the Middle East.

Seeking ‘independence’ by relying on external forces doomed to fail: experts

▶ Mainland, from Page 1

stability in the Taiwan Straits and fully exposes his nature of being “a worker for Taiwan independence,” Chen said.

“We will never tolerate or condone any form of separatist activities that seek ‘Taiwan independence,’” Chen said, stressing that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and that “Taiwan independence” and peace across the Straits are incompatible as fire and water.

“Our determination to resolve the Taiwan question and realize national reunification is as solid as a rock, our ability to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity is unshakable, and our actions to fight against ‘Taiwan independence’ separatist activities and external interference are resolute and powerful,” said Chen.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin also stressed at a press conference on Monday that “‘Taiwan independence’ is a dead end. Regardless of what pretext or banner the separatists use, ‘Taiwan independence’ is doomed to failure.”

Lai’s speech, which omitted mention of the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, once again revealed his diehard stance of relying on the US and external forces to seek “Taiwan independence.” Despite Lai’s rhetoric of “pursuing peace,” which aimed to deceive both the people of Taiwan island and the international community, his secessionism stance and actions would ultimately lead the island to instability, analysts said.

Despite Lai’s deliberate use of straightforward language to connect with his audience, his speech was riddled with alarming historical inaccuracies and misrepresented constitutional and legal concepts. The absence of any sentiment toward the Chinese nation indicated that the speech essentially endorsed the separatist perspective of the so-called “one China, one Taiwan” rhetoric, revealing Lai’s “Taiwan independence” stance without much disguise, Wang Wu-lang, secretary-general of the Cross-Straits Peace Forum, told the Global Times on Monday.

The DPP is poised to increasingly rely on the involvement of the US and some other Western powers. By adopting the strategy of “internationalizing the Taiwan question,” they will continue the path of rejecting reunification and resisting the mainland and seeking independence through reliance on the US, said Wang Wu-lang.

On Monday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken congratulated Lai and said he looked forward to working with him, Reuters reported.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin also said that the one-China principle is a widely recognized consensus in the international community and a fundamental norm in international relations. The vast majority of countries and international organizations stand firmly with the Chinese government and people in supporting China’s just cause against separatism and for reunification.

Now in office, Lai will possibly closely align himself with the US, willingly assuming the role of a US puppet and serving American interests. His cross-Straits policies dictated by American preferences will escalate tensions across the Taiwan Straits and harm the interests of people across the Straits, said Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University.

Li noted that by embracing his role as a US puppet, Lai forfeits the ability to lead the island of Taiwan to peace, prosperity, and stability. Instead, the island risks descending into a situation of crisis, confusion, and instability.

