

## Li, envoy reaffirm China, Malaysia relations

By XU WEI

China is ready to seek better alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative with the development strategies of Malaysia and further cooperate on major projects, Premier Li Keqiang said on Wednesday in Beijing.

Li's remark came as he met Daim Zainuddin, special envoy for Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and also a member of the country's Council of Eminent Persons.

China is ready to meet Malaysia halfway, and maintain the momentum of sustained and sound development of bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect and equal treatment, Li said.

The nations' cooperation on major projects, such as industrial parks, coastal industrial zones and transportation infrastructure, should be moved forward, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges should be expanded to better benefit the two peoples, he said.

Good China-Malaysia relations will benefit not only the people of the countries, but also bolster regional peace, stability and development, he said.

**\$96 billion**

Estimated trade value between China and Malaysia last year

Li said ties between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are steadily improving and both parties are looking forward to further expansion of win-win cooperation. He added that he hopes Malaysia will continue to play a constructive role in promoting China-ASEAN relations and cooperation.

Zainuddin delivered a handwritten letter from Mahathir to Li. Mahathir wrote that the new Malaysian government will remain committed to friendly relations with China and is willing to strengthen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.

Chinese enterprises are welcome to invest and develop in Malaysia, Mahathir wrote, adding that he is optimistic over prospects for their relations.

Zainuddin said that the two countries are good friends and good partners. Mahathir considers relations with China to be highly important and is willing to seek closer cooperation with China and promote the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties, he said.

Malaysia is willing to work with China to jointly push forward the development of the two countries and other Asian countries and promote win-win cooperation between ASEAN and China, he said.

Xu Liping, a researcher in Southeast Asian affairs at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the visit has enhanced the confidence of Chinese enterprises to invest in Malaysia.

China has been the largest trading partner of Malaysia since 2009, with total trade between the two countries exceeding \$96 billion in 2017, according to government reports.



A media representative peruses photos at the BRICS Media Joint Photo Exhibition, part of the BRICS Media Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, which opened on Wednesday. The photos capture moments in BRICS countries' politics, economy, society, culture, scenery and people's lives. CHEN CHENG / XINHUA

## Role of BRICS media stressed in upholding cooperation, dialogue

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — A media forum on Wednesday called on news organizations to promote dialogue between people around the world.

Co-hosted by South Africa's Independent Media chain and China's Xinhua News Agency, the third BRICS Media Forum opened with the theme of BRICS Media Cooperation — Fostering an Inclusive, Just World Order, and included representatives from 48 BRICS media organizations.

The media's role was highlighted at a panel chaired by Japhet Ncube, editor of The Star, one of South Africa's largest English-language daily newspapers.

Fang Jiangshan, deputy editor-in-chief of People's Daily, stressed that the media has a prominent role in ensuring a paradigm shift because it is "the reporter of our time".

Fang said BRICS countries should "share information on economic growth" and that this should be underwritten by a "fight for multilateralism".

Media within BRICS countries should be positive and

inspiring in challenging negative narratives and "tell the good BRICS stories", Fang said.

Humberto Rezende, an online editor for Correio Braziliense, said there are common narratives within BRICS countries, but opportunities for partnerships are not fully understood. Rezende said cooperation is necessary to overcome poverty and find "a sustainable way to a just world order".

The need to take initiative and present a comprehensive narrative of the BRICS positions to build broad traction was also addressed by Sun Shangwu, deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily.

Sun said the true narrative that needs to emerge more clearly is that "BRICS countries now have more say in the world".

Addressing the changing media landscape, Mukund Padmanabhan, editor of The Hindu, said that "in talking about strengthening the BRICS narrative, we are talking about not merely the media's role but, critically, also its responsibilities".

"I think if we are collectively going to strengthen the BRICS narrative ... we must ask ourselves not merely how much more influence we can wield in this unequal world, but how much more responsible we can be in a world where the practice of journalism is undergoing profound changes with the advent of the digital age and the growing influence of social media," Padmanabhan said.

Wang Xiaohui, editor-in-chief of China.org.cn, touching on the development of the mobile internet, said that media in BRICS countries should make full use of new technologies and applications presented in the era of new media to tell the stories and convey the voices of BRICS to the world more effectively.

XINHUA

# Xi urges maximum disaster relief effort

President says planning, warnings crucial during typhoon, flood season

By XU WEI  
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President Xi Jinping has called for all-out efforts in disaster relief to minimize casualties and damage during a season of typhoons and frequent floods.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said in an instruction that Party committees and governments in related areas should firmly adopt the people-centered approach, step up emergency responses, perform their job responsibilities, make more detailed contingency plans and ensure disasters can be handled in a timely way.

Monitoring and early warnings in meteorology, flooding and geological disasters should be reinforced, and disaster prevention at key hazard areas must be prioritized, he said.

He also urged screening for dangers across the board and strict prevention of disasters and secondary effects.

Government departments such as the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Emergency Response should coordinate forces and resources and guide the relief efforts of local areas to ensure the safety of the people's lives and property and social stability, he said.

Floods triggered by torren-

**205.3 million**

Number of people affected by floods this year

**\$7.6 billion**

Direct economic loss caused by the floods as of Wednesday

tial rainstorms this year had hit more than 27 provincial areas, leaving 54 people dead and another eight missing as of Wednesday. They also have affected 205.3 million people and resulted in direct economic losses of 51.6 billion yuan (\$7.6 billion), according to Xinhua News Agency.

### Bijie pilot area

In another instruction, Xi urged intensified and more targeted efforts to ensure the Bijie pilot area in Guizhou province will win the battle against poverty by 2020.

Xi said it is also important to take on a long-term perspective and plan ahead to secure the alignment of the area's development with the rural vitalization strategy after 2020, when the country is expected to finish the building of a moderately prosperous society.

It is also important to pro-

mote green development, development of human resources and innovation in systems and mechanisms to build the pilot area into a demonstration area for implementing the new development philosophy, he said.

Bijie, once the poorest region in Guizhou, was named a pilot area for poverty alleviation and ecological development by the State Council in 1988.

Over the past 30 years and under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, the Bijie pilot area has seen great changes with arduous efforts from officials and the people as well as support from society, Xi said.

The pilot area has become a vivid example of poor areas shaking off poverty, and members from the united front have taken part extensively, offered help in their capacities and made important contributions, he said.

The united front involves joint efforts with other parties, led by the CPC. Members from the united front should continue to support the reform and development of the pilot area and stick to and expand advantages of the system of Party-led multiparty cooperation in the practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics, he said.

How Liqiang contributed to this story.

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## Cui labels US trade war tack 'unjustified'

By ZHAO HUANXIN  
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China's top envoy in Washington warned the Trump administration on Wednesday that trade "bullying" will backfire and argued that the United States' justification for a trade war is flawed.

"Does the US government genuinely believe that China would possibly yield to such unreasonable policy?" Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai wrote in an op-ed column published in USA Today, referring to the trade war initiated by the US.

The world's top two economies are embroiled in a dispute intensified by a fresh round of tariff threats from the US, following 25 percent duties it imposed on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports on July 6.

"Anyone familiar with Chinese history knows that 'maximum pressure' doesn't work for our nation. Trade bullying will only backfire. There is no winner in a trade war," Cui wrote. "The US will only end up hurting itself and the world."

The ambassador said the underlying arguments of the US in waging trade war are "unjustified".

Cui said as for the trade deficit, which is the main US criticism, "China has never deliberately sought a trade surplus, as the flow of trade is determined by the market. Having a deficit does not mean the US is 'losing'."

In refuting China's "forced transfer of technology" as alleged in the US trade representative's statement on July 10,

Cui said, "Let's be clear: The Chinese government has never made any such request to foreign companies. When it comes to technology or any other cooperation between Chinese and foreign companies, it is purely a matter of voluntary contracts."

As to the alleged theft of intellectual property, Cui said China's economic success has never been achieved by stealing from anyone and never will be. He added that improving IPR is crucial to China's own development.

Since entering the World Trade Organization in 2001, intellectual property royalties paid by China to foreign rights holders have seen annual growth of 17 percent, reaching \$28.6 billion in 2017, at least 25 percent of which went to the US, according to Cui.

Cui said that there is room for China to improve its trade policy and address structural economic issues, and Beijing is open to addressing "reasonable" American concerns through dialogue and consultation.

At a hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, Representative Dave Reichert, chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, said, "I've heard heart-wrenching stories, in some cases of farmers and families already scrambling to make ends meet, who are forced to make difficult decisions to cope with the uncertainty caused by tariffs."

Kevin Paap, a corn and soybean farmer and president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, said the retaliatory tariffs and trade uncertainties are hitting US agriculture from all sides, causing farmers to lose markets.

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