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# CHINADAILY



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## Xi's visit a milestone in UAE ties

### Trip sets stage for enhanced Belt, Road cooperation

By AN BAIJIE in Abu Dhabi and MO JINGXI in Beijing

President Xi Jinping arrived in the capital of the United Arab Emirates on Thursday, kicking off a two-day state visit.

This is the first visit to the Arab nation by a Chinese head of state in 29 years.

During the visit, Xi is scheduled to meet with Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice-president and prime minister of the UAE, and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

A series of important agreements in such cooperation areas as the Belt and Road Initiative, production capacity, energy, agriculture and finance are expected to be reached during the visit.

It will be a new milestone in the China-UAE relationship, said UAE Ambassador to China Ali Al Dhaheri.

"The visit is an important step as the UAE seeks to build long-term economic, cultural, trade and investment ties with China," he said.

Huang Yongzhang, president of the Chinese Business Council in the UAE, said Xi's visit will boost political and economic ties between the two countries.

The economic ties between the two countries reflect their keenness to promote investments and development projects, Huang told UAE state news agency WAM.

"The coming period will witness the establishment of new partnerships between Emirati



A sign reading "UAE Chinese Week" in Chinese and Arabic is projected onto the Burj Al Arab luxury hotel to celebrate UAE Chinese Week in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on Wednesday. KAMRAN JEBREILI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and Chinese companies in many key sectors, such as industry, manufacturing, finance, culture, education, energy and agriculture," Huang said.

The UAE ambassador also spoke highly of the strategic partnership between the two countries, which was established in 2012. The UAE is the first Arab country that entered into such a partnership with China.

He noted that the high-level exchanges between the two countries have played a vital role in promoting the China-UAE relationship to achieve new progress.

The China-UAE relationship is at the best period in history. The UAE is one of the Middle East countries that have the most in-depth cooperation with China in the broadest areas with most concrete achievements, Ni Jian, Chinese ambassador to the UAE, told Xinhua News Agency.

"It is an example of the pragmatic and win-win cooperation based on mutual respect between China and the Arab and Islamic countries," Ni said.

China has been the UAE's largest trading partner for several years while the UAE has become China's second-largest trading partner and largest

destination of exports in the West Asia and North Africa region.

In 2017, two-way trade volume reached \$40.98 billion, a year-on-year increase of 2.3 percent, the Foreign Ministry said.

Xi's first overseas trip of the year will also bring him to Senegal, Rwanda and South Africa. He will attend the 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg and visit Mauritius during a stop-over.

Xi is making the state visits at the invitation of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Senegalese President Macky Sall, Rwandan

President Paul Kagame and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

On Wednesday, Xi published a signed article titled Working Hand in Hand for a Better Future in two leading newspapers in the UAE. He noted that in the past year the number of Chinese tourists traveling to the UAE exceeded 1 million for the first time.

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## Partnership with Cambodia marked

By ZHOU JIN [zhoujin@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:zhoujin@chinadaily.com.cn)

President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages on Thursday with Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

In his message, Xi said that China and Cambodia have always supported and helped each other on issues related to their core interests, and have forged a profound friendship over the past 60 years.

The ties have made substantial achievements in the new era, political mutual trust has been enhanced and Belt and Road cooperation has seen remarkable outcomes, Xi said.

The constantly enriched China-Cambodia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

of Cooperation has benefited both peoples and has contributed to peace and development of the region and the world, Xi said.

He voiced hope that both sides will jointly deepen cooperation and pursue common development and prosperity.

Sihamoni said that Cambodia firmly upholds the one-China policy, and China is playing an increasingly important role in the world, tangibly benefiting Cambodia and other countries.

Also on Thursday, Premier Li Keqiang exchanged congratulatory messages with his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen. Li said China is ready to boost the traditional friendship and deepen pragmatic cooperation, and Hun Sen said marking the anniversary will enhance the fraternal bilateral friendship.

## China to tap market, speed up treaty talks

By JING SHUYU, REN XIAOJIN and ZHONG NAN

China is confident in how it deals with external challenges and is further tapping the domestic market potential while accelerating the pace of negotiations with the European Union to reach a quality bilateral investment treaty, the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

Gao Feng, the ministry's spokesman, said the United States is bullying the rest of the world with a big stick in the form of tariffs while claiming how innocent it is.

His comments came after some US officials recently blamed China for "negotiation failure".

Gao said such an accusation is not true and China has been serious in resolving the trade dispute via negotiation in the four rounds of talks since February.

The spokesman reiterated that China's stance on trade tensions with the US has always been the same.

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### Inside

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## ROBOT DRINKS STIR MAN VS MACHINE DEBATE

### Innovative Shanghai bistro poses questions on future of food and beverage sector

By ALYWIN CHEW in Shanghai [alywin@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:alywin@chinadaily.com.cn)



Located in the basement of the K11 Art Mall in downtown Shanghai is Ratio, a new pop-up store that operates as a cafe by day and cocktail bar by night.

Automation is the name of the game here. For instance, customers gain access to a digital menu after scanning QR codes found on the tables. Apart from a comprehensive selection of drinks, they can also customize their orders.

A regular latte at Ratio costs 28 yuan (\$4.20). Those who prefer a stronger cup of coffee can opt for a double or triple shot for just 1 yuan more — it is a practice that most coffee shops in Shanghai do not adopt.

"We see ourselves as the 'Tesla of Retail' — five-star service at three-star prices," Gavin Pathross, the founder of

its enclosure where different cups, espresso machines and liquors are located within its perfectly tuned grasp.

Meanwhile, Ratio's employees, all of whom are trained mixologists or baristas, perform a similar role to sommeliers, making recommendations to customers.

Most customers are fascinated as they watch the \$30,000 robot go about performing its tasks with precision. But while the guile of the robotic arm has left them mesmerized, it has also raised questions about the growing prevalence of automation in the workplace and how it will affect people.

In an interview with CNBC last year, Yum Brands CEO Greg Creed was quoted as saying that machines could replace people in the food and beverage sector by the mid-2020s.

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## Links rebuilt



Passengers aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight on Wednesday cheer for the resumed air travel to Eritrea. TIKSA NEGERI / REUTERS

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## Superfast Hyperloop to take shape in Guizhou

By OUYANG SHIJIA, ZHONG NAN in Beijing and YANG JUN in Guiyang

When the hyperloop frenzy started in 2013, it was just tech magnate Elon Musk's wild idea about the next-generation of travel.

Five years later, the superfast vacuum-tube transportation system is taking shape in Southwestern China's Guizhou province.

Hyperloop Transportation Technologies Inc, a company based in the United States working on the concept of an ultra-high-speed hyperloop, signed a deal on Thursday with State-owned Tongren Transport, Tourism and Investment Group, to build a

superfast track in Tongren, Guizhou province.

Dirk Ahlborn, Hyperloop's chief executive, said the company's cooperation with countries "has proved the hyperloop transportation system will be a workable plan".

The route will cover an initial distance of 10 kilometers from the city to Tongren Fanguang Airport, with an estimated investment of 2 billion yuan (\$295 million).

During the second phase, the project will extend 50 km from the city to Mount Fanjing in Tongren. And the investment in time will add up to more than 10 billion yuan.

Under the agreement, Hyperloop and the Tongren municipal government will

establish a joint venture to develop the hyperloop project.

Tongren has partnered with China Railway Fifth Survey and Design Institute Group Co and China Railway Maglev Transportation Investment & Construction Co, making 50 percent of the financial contribution to the venture. Hyperloop will fund the remaining 50 percent.

Hyperloop will be responsible for providing the technology and equipment. Tongren will help the joint venture to certify the tube, establish the project and make regulations for the new technology.

The hyperloop is a shuttle that runs on magnetic rails in a vacuum-tube, enabling a near supersonic speed with

little resistance.

The new train's body, track and suspension system will require fewer permanent magnets than those in other labs around the world, said Wang Mengshu, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Feng Hao, a researcher at the Institute of Comprehensive Transportation at the National Development and Reform Commission, said, "There are still a large number of technical issues that need to be tackled via research work and various tests in different stages, no matter the facility will be built under or above the ground."

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