



Art fusion

Huangmei Opera master puts modern twist on traditional tale CHINA, PAGE 7

China-Central Asia trade ties to enrich BRI

BUSINESS, PAGE 13



Key changes

Erdogan announces cabinet reshuffle after inauguration

WORLD, PAGE 11

MONDAY, June 5, 2023

中國日報

chinadaily.com.cn RMB ¥2

XI'S VISION | MODERN CHINESE CIVILIZATION

Nation urged to build strength from traditions

Analysts hail president's call for boosting unity, cultural confidence

By XU WEI
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The vision put forward on Friday by President Xi Jinping to build a modern Chinese civilization will empower the nation on its own pathway to modernization and build up national unity in the face of various risks and challenges, according to analysts.

During a symposium with officials and experts in Beijing, Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, expounded on the need to firm up confidence among the Chinese people in their history and culture, and to use Chinese wisdom to summarize Chinese experience and transform it into Chinese theory, in order to achieve "spiritual independence and autonomy".

Experts said that the building of a modern Chinese civilization and carrying forward China's fine traditional culture will help shore up Beijing's narrative against dominance by Western countries in social sciences and translate the traditional culture into strengths for the nation's future development.

He Yun'ao, a professor who researches history and traditional cultural heritage at Nanjing University, said that by emphasizing the building of a modern Chinese civilization, the Chinese president has reiterated the need to pool strength from China's traditional culture, which spans 5,000 years.

"For China to attain its great rejuvenation will require advancement both at the material and cultural-ethical level. The president has made it clear that to build China into a cultural powerhouse, the priority must be to further explore the strength of its traditional culture," he said.

Xi has characterized the key elements of fine Chinese traditional culture in five aspects, lauding Chinese civilization for its continuity, innovative nature, unity, inclusiveness and peaceful nature.

The peaceful nature of Chinese civilization determines that China will continue to build world peace, contribute to global development and safeguard the international order, and that it will continue to pursue exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations rather than cultural hegemony, he said.

Professor He said that by underscoring the inclusive and peaceful nature of Chinese civilization, Xi has conveyed the message to the international community that Beijing will remain committed to its national strategy of opening-up and championing global peace and development.

Meanwhile, by pointing out that Chinese civilization is characterized by its unity in nature, the Chinese president has reiterated the warning that since national unity will always be at the heart of China's core interests, separatist activities will not be tolerated, the professor said.

See *Vision*, page 3

Xi extends sympathy to Indian leaders over train crash

By MO JINGXI
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President Xi Jinping has sent separate messages of condolence to Indian President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over a deadly train derailment and collision in the eastern Indian state of Odisha that left at least 275 people dead and over 1,100 injured.

In his messages, sent on Saturday, Xi said he was shocked to learn of the accident, which caused major casualties.

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, Xi mourned the

dead and expressed sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and injured people. He wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Premier Li Qiang also sent a message of condolence to Modi on Saturday.

The horrific accident happened on Friday when the Coromandel Express, traveling from Shalimar toward Chennai, derailed.

It collided with a freight train on the adjacent track, causing the rear cars of the Coromandel Express to veer off onto the third track.

The Yeswantpur-Howrah Superfast Express, coming from the oppo-

site direction on another track, rammmed into the derailed cars.

Indian Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday that the tragic train accident in Odisha's Balasore district occurred due to a "change in electronic interlocking". An interlocking system refers to a safety mechanism that usually ensures the safe and efficient operation of train movements at railway junctions, stations and signaling points, the Hindustan Times reported.

Vaishnaw said restoration work was continuing at the site. "Our target is to finish the restoration work

by Wednesday morning so that trains can start running on this track," he said.

Modi met with survivors of the accident on Saturday and said the government will leave no stone unturned to offer help and treat injured passengers. He added that it was a serious incident and instructions have been issued to probe it from every angle. Those found culpable "will be punished stringently," he added.

Inside

See more, page 11

Mission declared a success



Shenzhou XV mission commander Major General Fei Junlong (left) and crew members Senior Colonel Deng Qingming (center) and Senior Colonel Zhang Lu wave on Sunday morning after completing their six-month space station mission and returning to Earth. The China Manned Space Agency declared the Shenzhou XV mission a success after the spacecraft's return capsule touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region at 6:33 am. PHOTOS BY GU JIANWEN / FOR CHINA DAILY See story, page 3

China's reunification is 'overriding historical trend'

By JIANG CHENGLONG
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The root causes of tensions across the Taiwan Strait lie with some external forces and "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, both of which are exploiting each other, State Councillor and Defense Minister Li Shangfu said on Sunday, as he warned that the Chinese military will not hesitate if anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China.

"Who is undermining stability across the Taiwan Strait? The answer is known to all," Li said at a plenary session of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, attended by delegations from more than 40 countries.

People around the world can see clearly that the root causes of tensions across the Strait are the island's Democratic Progressive Party authorities soliciting foreign support for "independence", and some foreign forces' attempting to use Taiwan to contain China and interfering in China's internal affairs, Li said.

He said that DPP authorities deny the 1992 Consensus and have continuously pushed for incremental "Taiwan independence", adding that they have tried hard to erase the Chinese identity of Taiwan, and manipulated and hijacked public opinion.

Meanwhile, "some big power" has repeatedly sold arms to Taiwan, provided military training



State Councillor and Minister of National Defense Li Shangfu delivers a speech on Sunday at the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

VINCENT THIAN / AP

assistance and upgraded official exchanges, said the defense chief, noting that such moves greatly violate its own promises.

On Saturday, United States Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in his speech at the forum that the US opposes unilateral changes to the status quo of the Taiwan Strait.

On the same day, the US destroyer USS *Chung-Hoon* and the Royal Canadian Navy frigate HMCS *Montreal* passed through the Taiwan Strait. They were followed and monitored by the Chinese military, which responded in accordance with the law and regulations, according to a military spokesman.

Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesman for the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theater Command, in a statement criticized the two

countries for "deliberately stirring up trouble and risks" in the Taiwan Strait, maliciously undermining regional peace and stability, and sending wrong signals to "Taiwan independence" forces.

Defense Minister Li said in his speech delivered to the forum that the Taiwan question is the "core of China's core interests", and the country's reunification is an overriding historical trend and an unstoppable course.

Any act to obscure or hollow out the one-China principle is "both absurd and dangerous", Li said, stressing that over 180 countries have established diplomatic ties with China with the political commitment of abiding by the one-China principle, which has become a universally

recognized basic norm governing international relations.

"The more rampant the separatist activities for 'Taiwan independence' are, the more resolute our countermeasures will be. All foreign interference is doomed to end up in failure," the defense minister said.

Li said that China will strive for peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity and the greatest efforts, but will make no promise to renounce the use of force.

"If anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will not hesitate for a second," he said, underlining that the PLA will fear no opponents and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity regardless of the cost.

Sino-US ties

Li also elaborated on China's attitude toward Sino-US relations, which he said has a bearing on global strategic stability.

"A severe conflict or confrontation between China and the US will be an unbearable disaster for the world," he said.

The minister pointed to the "right way" for China and the US to get along by following the three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

A day earlier, US Defense Secretary Austin said in his speech to the forum that he was deeply concerned by the lack of military communication with China.

See *Ties*, page 3

SURVEILLANCE STILL A CONCERN 10 YEARS AFTER SNOWDEN LEAKS

Revelations have deep impact on businesses, govts, tech industry

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco
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Ten years ago this month, Edward Snowden disclosed to the media United States government intelligence programs that used extensive internet and phone surveillance to collect data.

The former contractor with the US National Security Agency leaked thousands of highly classified documents, revealing the extent of Washington's mass surveillance efforts.

Snowden's disclosures rocked governments, global businesses and the technology world. They also sparked debate on government surveillance, privacy violations and data security.

In the past decade, the "Snowden effect" has had a profound impact on society and the technology industry, with more public attention paid to the US government's abuse of surveillance tools and encryption services.



In a recent report examining Snowden's legacy, the privacy advocacy organization Electronic Frontier Foundation said, "Snowden's revelations acted like a floodlight, allowing everyone to better see and understand what happens inside the black box of government surveillance of millions of innocent people in the US and around the world."

Some observers, including the EFF, are disappointed by how little progress has been made. The programs Snowden pointed out in 2013 are still in operation, and the US government continues to conduct surveillance on foreigners and US citizens under the same legal framework.

See *Snowden*, page 2

国内统一编号: CN11-0091 国际标准编号: ISSN0253-9543 邮发代号: 1-3



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