

TOP NEWS

Roundtable: RCEP open, inclusive trade pact, Li says

From page 1

Goods export growth rose to 11.4 percent year-on-year in October and China's shipments continued to lead the world trade recovery.

Li highlighted the resilience of China's market players, numbering over 100 million, as the strongest underpinning for the country to cope with difficulties and challenges.

The country's market players and the Chinese people have shown strong resilience in the face of the fallout from the pandemic, and have been the strongest support for the country's economic fundamentals, he said.

China added 10.09 million new jobs in urban areas in the first 10 months of this year — reaching its preset target for job creation for 2020 two months ahead of schedule — with the surveyed urban unemployment rate standing at 5.3 percent in October.

Li also highlighted the importance of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, saying that the signing of the world's largest trade pact will help promote economic globalization and trade liberalization.

The RCEP is an open and inclusive trade pact that not only belongs to its 15 participating countries but also welcomes more nations to join, he said, adding that the rules of the RCEP are in alignment with those of the World Trade Organization and serve to reinforce other regional



Premier Li Keqiang participates in the Fifth "1+6" Roundtable via video link in Beijing with the heads of six major economic organizations on Tuesday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

free-trade arrangements and the multilateral trade mechanism.

The virtual roundtable brought together leaders of major economic organizations including World Bank Group President David Malpass, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and World Trade Organization Deputy Director-General Alan Wolff.

Georgieva said China's fast economic recovery is based on resolute measures in combating COVID-19, mitigating its impact and supporting growth.

"With the right mix of supportive macroeconomic policies focused on strengthening social safety nets and further key reforms, China will secure its recovery and ensure balanced,

high-quality growth that benefits China and the world," she said.

Under the theme of "Promoting World Economic Recovery and Growth in the Post-COVID-19 Era," the participants had an in-depth exchange of views on topics including the world economic landscape, global economic governance beyond COVID-19, and China's economic situation and trends.

HK slams 'groundless accusations' made in report

By GANG WEN in Hong Kong
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The central government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government have slammed the "groundless accusations" made in the United Kingdom's latest report on the HKSAR.

Saying that the UK is the real culprit who undermined the "one country, two systems" principle, they urged British politicians "to wake up from colonial nostalgia" and stop interfering and applying double standards on China's internal affairs.

In the report released on Monday, British Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Dominic Raab claimed the implementation of the National Security Law in the HKSAR had violated the SAR's "one country, two systems" principle and also its high degree of autonomy.

At a news conference in Beijing on

Tuesday, Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned unfounded accusations included in the report, stressing that the UK has no right to interfere in Hong Kong affairs.

Zhao urged the British side to abandon its colonial thinking. The HKSAR belongs to China and the UK has no right or "moral duty" to exercise oversight, he said.

Earlier on Monday night, the ministry's commissioner's office in the HKSAR said the UK report's accusation of China undermining "one country, two systems" is completely misplaced.

"It is the UK that has breached its commitment, pushed forward a BNO — British Nationals (Overseas) — visa scheme, unilaterally suspended the fugitive surrender agreement with the HKSAR, chilled bilateral economic cooperation and trade, and meddled with the HKSAR's judicial and legal affairs with a threatening tone.

"It is crystal clear who is the real culprit for undercutting 'one country, two systems,'" the office said.

The office noted that the UK is running counter to the trend of the times by continuing to churn out irrelevant reports and passing judgment on Hong Kong. It urged the British side to wake up from its colonial nostalgia and stop all interference in Hong Kong affairs.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said in a social media post on Tuesday that the UK report has fully demonstrated the double standards of British politicians.

Noting that the UK has robust laws and intelligence organizations to protect national security, Lam said it's hard to imagine that the UK would leave such national security work to local governments and police.

She continued that the National Security Law has enabled the HKSAR to fulfill its obligation in safeguarding national security, which has exactly showed the cen-

tral government's respect for the "one country, two systems" principle and the HKSAR's high degree of autonomy.

In a statement on Tuesday, the HKSAR government strongly objected to the "sweeping attacks" and "groundless accusations" contained in the UK report.

The government urged the UK to respect law-abiding Hong Kong people's aspirations for stability and prosperity and appreciate the SAR's well-positioned status to flourish under "one country, two systems" with the full support of the central government.

Rejecting the partial representation of the international community's stance made in the report about the National Security Law for Hong Kong, the SAR government took note of the fact that over 70 countries supported China's decision to enact the law at the 44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Center launched

By HOU LIQIANG
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The country's top environmental authority launched the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Center on Tuesday in Beijing, seeking to increase China's collaboration with African nations on environmental issues.

"Chinese and African people share a common wish to enjoy a beautiful environment and prosperous life. The environmental sector is a key cooperation field for China and Africa," said Huang Runqiu, minister of ecology and environment, at a launch ceremony for the center in Beijing.

He said that China has so far

signed agreements with five African countries, including South Africa and Ethiopia, and since 2015 it has helped train over 900 Africans through workshops on urban environmental management and water pollution control.

China has also signed 14 deals on tackling climate change with 13 African nations since 2011, and has donated a large amount of equipment to help countries in the continent cope with climate change, including more than 10,000 sets of solar photovoltaic power generation equipment and launching a small satellite.

A concrete action implementing President Xi Jinping's call for setting up a China-Africa environmental

cooperation center at the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the establishment of the center will be a key platform and a new starting point to help deepen and enrich cooperation between China and the continent on environmental issues, Huang said.

Huang also suggested strengthening policy exchanges between the two sides by organizing a China-Africa environmental cooperation dialogue and implementing the China-Africa Green Envoys Program, which aims to enhance Africa's capability for environmental management, pollution prevention and control, and green development.

He said China will also make efforts to promote a China-Africa

innovation program to boost the two sides' cooperation on environmental technologies.

Deng Li, assistant minister of foreign affairs, said the establishment of the center will offer a new platform to ramp up China and Africa's exchange of information on industries and technologies around the environment and roll out joint research on environmental issues.

"Sustaining close communication and coordination with the African side and making intensified efforts to pursue greater cooperation on policies, China, together with African nations, will endeavor to contribute its wisdom and solutions to the global response to climate change," he said.

Beijing, Tokyo plan 'fast lane' travel corridor

Foreign ministers agree on bolstering bilateral cooperation in multiple fields

By ZHOU JIN
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China and Japan have agreed to establish a fast lane travel corridor for essential personnel exchanges by the end of November to facilitate bilateral cooperation on the resumption of business activities, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday.

At a joint news conference with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Wang said that the fast lane will be launched under strict pandemic prevention and control measures.

Wang's visit to Japan marks the first face-to-face meeting between foreign ministers of the two countries since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that China and Japan agreed to continue jointly fighting the coronavirus and share information in a timely manner, and they will also carry out cooperation on medical treatment and drugs.

Wang said that China and Japan are determined to establish a consultation mechanism on food and agricultural and aquatic products among multiple departments, and will speed up coordination to promote bilateral cooperation in these areas.

The two countries also agreed to cooperate to boost economic recovery and will host a new round of high-level economic dialogue next year, Wang said. He added that they will continue to

strengthen cooperation in key areas such as technological innovation, energy conservation and environmental protection, medical care, e-commerce and third-party markets.

China and Japan are among 15 nations that signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement earlier this month. Wang said the two sides will work together to ensure the agreement takes effect as soon as possible, promote the negotiation of the China-Japan-Republic of Korea free trade agreement, and boost regional cooperation to maintain and strengthen the rules-based multilateral trade system.

Wang said that China and Japan will hold a new round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs next month to deepen communication between their departments of foreign affairs and maritime law enforcement.

He added that Beijing and Tokyo will strive to open a direct telephone line under the air and maritime contact mechanism within this year to manage risks and enhance mutual trust.

The two countries also decided to establish a consultation mechanism on climate change policies, he said.

The year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, Wang said, adding that the two countries will make preparations for commemorative events.

Transition: Biden set to pick veteran policymakers

From page 1

Also on Monday, US President Donald Trump said on social media that he was recommending that the GSA "do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols", and that he had directed his team to facilitate Biden's transition, although he still didn't concede defeat.

"Our case strongly continues, we will keep up the good fight, and I believe we will prevail!" Trump said on social media, referring to a series of legal actions his campaign launched in multiple states aimed at overturning the election results.

There has been speculation that Trump intends to run for the White House in 2024. On Monday, a new Hill-HarrisX poll found 47 percent of registered voters in the Nov 17-19 survey said they support the idea of another presidential run by Trump. By contrast, 53 percent of respondents oppose the notion.

On Monday, Biden tapped Obama-era officials for top

national security and economic roles, signaling a stark shift from the Trump administration's "America First" policies that favored deregulation and tax cuts.

The picks include former US secretary of state John Kerry to take the lead on combating climate change. Biden is also expected to choose Janet Yellen, who was nominated by former president Barack Obama to lead the Federal Reserve, as the first woman to become treasury secretary.

Biden will nominate longtime adviser Antony Blinken to be secretary of state and lawyer Alejandro Mayorkas to be homeland security secretary.

Biden's emerging Cabinet marks a return to a more traditional approach to governing, relying on veteran policymakers with deep expertise and strong relationships in Washington and global capitals.

Agencies and Ai Heping in New York contributed to this story.

Award: Workers' interests, rights should be safeguarded

From page 1

Xi called on Party committees and governments at all levels to respect and care for model workers, and improve their policies concerning them so that there will be more model workers and exemplary individuals in the future.

He urged the working class and working people to always follow the Party and make achievements in the new era.

The working class should enhance its own solidarity, strengthen unity with other working people, proceed with confidence in overcoming difficulties of various kinds and always be the force that the CPC can firmly rely on, he said.

Xi called for building a high-quality workforce to adapt to the needs of the new round of scientific and techno-

logical revolution. Efforts should be made to improve the mechanism for cultivating and assessing skilled workers in order to develop more highly skilled personnel and craftsmen, he said.

The president also said that the legitimate rights and interests of working people should be well safeguarded, requiring efforts to provide them with stable employment, increased incomes, and safe and sanitary working conditions. A working mechanism that supports people in difficulties should be established, he added.

China's achievements in reform and development should be built and enjoyed by all workers, Xi said.

The gathering, chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, honored a total of 1,689 people as national role model workers and 804 as exemplary individuals.

What they say

Editor's note: Five newly awarded national model workers and outstanding workers for this year were invited by the State Council Information Office to share their experiences and stories about their work.



Over 40 of the world's top 100 bridges have used the steel cables we produced. I still remember when the Baling River Bridge was successfully installed in Guizhou in 2007, my colleagues and I were invited to visit the bridge, which was recognized as Asia's highest at the time. I was excited and proud that the steel cables used in the bridge were made by us.
Zhou Jiarong, a senior technician at Guizhou Steel Rope Co



I've been dedicated to poverty alleviation work for over nine years. I was disheartened by the tough living conditions in the village at the very beginning because I had never lived in rural areas before. However, my mother told me that I should try to improve the lives of the villagers to help them shake off poverty. She said that I'd have no regrets when I finished my work in the countryside.
Liu Shuangyan, an official at the Bozhou Taxation Bureau, Anhui province. She has volunteered as an anti-poverty official in a village for nine years.

My father used to be an oil worker, and my husband and I are the second generation working at Daqing Oil Field. We admire our predecessors' spirit of hard work, but we both feel



guilty that we can't spend as much time as we'd like with our daughter because of work. I once told my daughter that I hope to become the mother she is proud of. I also hope she grows up to be the one who I am proud of.
Liu Li, a senior technician at Daqing Oil Field Co, Heilongjiang province



My father was the person who inspired me in my youth. Though he was just an ordinary teacher, he stayed in rural areas for 38 years to help children there, giving up several opportunities to work in cities. He taught me to be down-to-earth

and love my work. His words always guide me.

Pan Congming, a senior technician at Jinchuan Copper Co, Gansu province



As a native of Wuhan, I'm still touched when I recall my experience at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak. We worked 24/7 to ensure

there were no power outages during that time. My colleagues and I worked three days and nights to power the Leishenshan Hospital, five days and nights for the Huoshenshan Hospital and 37 hours for the largest makeshift hospital in Wuhan at the time. We safeguarded light and also hope for the people.

Hu Hongwei, a senior technician at Hubei Electric Power Company of the State Grid Corporation