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Xi stresses common prosperity

By CAO DESHENG
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President Xi Jinping has underscored the need to promote the common prosperity of all the people through high-quality development and called for coordinated efforts to prevent and defuse the major financial risks the nation might face.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks on Tuesday while presiding over the 10th meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs. He is also head of the committee.

Xi said that realizing common prosperity is the essential requirement of socialism and it is also an important feature of China's modernization.

He underlined the need to uphold the people-centered development philosophy to promote common prosperity while pursuing high-quality growth.

Noting that the financial sector is a critical component of the modern economy that matters to both development and security, Xi called for efforts to ensure the country's financial stability based on market-oriented and law-based principles.

Participants at the meeting heard reports from ministries and commissions under the State Council that are involved in efforts to promote common prosperity as well as preventing and defusing financial risks, according to a statement released after the meeting.

Promoting common prosperity must be the Party's priority to seek happiness for the people in order to meet their ever-growing demand for a better life and consolidate the foundation of the Party's long-term

rule, the meeting's participants said.

They stressed that common prosperity is the prosperity of all the people, both materially and spiritually. It is neither for a small minority, nor is it the pursuit of absolute egalitarianism, they added.

While underlining the need to promote common prosperity in phases, the meeting's participants called for creating conditions and opportunities for more people to develop and become prosperous.

They also highlighted the role of income distribution in dealing with the relationship between efficiency and equity, saying that efforts should be made to expand middle-income groups, increase the incomes of lower-income groups and rationally adjust higher incomes in order to enhance social fairness and justice and promote people's all-round development. The purpose is to ensure all people will march toward common prosperity, they added.

The meeting's participants stressed the importance of protecting people's property rights and their intellectual property rights, and underscored the need to ensure the healthy development of all kinds of capital.

Ensuring overall financial stability is critically important, the meeting's participants said, adding that a systematic approach and the worst-case scenario must be taken into account in preventing and defusing financial risks.

They also called for efforts to stabilize growth while mitigating against financial risks and building up the momentum for the country's economic recovery.



Monks attend a debate activity, part of the award ceremony of the degree of Geshe Lharampa held in the Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, Tibet autonomous region, on April 5. Geshe Lharampa, which means "intellectual" in the Tibetan language, is the highest academic degree for the Gelugpa School — also known as the Yellow Sect — of Tibetan Buddhism. The history of Geshe Lharampa goes back 400 years.

TSERING PHUNTSOK / FOR CHINA DAILY

Religious believers equally protected, respected in Tibet

By LIU WELLING, DAQIONG, and PALDEN NYIMA in Lhasa

Monasteries, monks and nuns in the Tibet autonomous region are protected not only in the exercise of their religion, but are now also eligible for social security benefits provided by the government, Wu Yingjie, the region's Party secretary, said in a recent interview.

Tibet has worked hard to guarantee that all religions, as well as all practitioners, both clergy and laypeople, are equally protected and respected, Wu said, adding that the goal has been to foster healthy religious development.

"All these protections, including



Wu Yingjie

the normalization of religious activities, the restoration of monasteries and temples and providing convenience for monks and nuns, aim to help religions

prosper — to guide them to adapt to socialist society," he said. "All residents, including Tibetans and others, have the right to engage in religious activities according to their own traditions."

Registered monks and nuns are now covered under the social secu-

urity system, Wu said, noting that "they are entitled to basic medical insurance, free annual health checkups and insurance covering workplace accidents".

Tibet has 1,787 religious sites, four mosques, one Catholic church, 46,000 monks and nuns, 358 living Buddhas, more than 12,000 Muslims, and more than 700 Catholics, according to the government.

There are enough religious sites to meet people's demand for religious activities and enough monks and nuns to serve residents' various spiritual needs, he added.

To safeguard monastic culture, the central government has invest-

ed more than 1.4 billion yuan (\$218 million) over the past four decades to preserve Tibetan relics and the region's key monasteries, Wu said.

Local financial departments have also funded restoration projects at small and medium-scaled religious sites, such as the traditional scripture printing houses of monasteries.

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ALIBABA SCANDAL SPARKS WIDESPREAD PUBLIC DEBATE

Sexual assault case shines spotlight on business drinking culture

By YANG WANLI
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A recent sexual assault scandal involving internet giant Alibaba has sparked a new round of public debate.

Discussion centers not only on removing the stigma often attached to women, but also on the deeply entrenched drinking culture among the business community.

A few days ago, a female Alibaba employee accused her manager and one of the company's clients of sexual assault.

The employee released details of the alleged incidents in an internal post, stating that she was forced to drink too much alcohol at a business dinner and was later assaulted by the pair.

She said she complained to Alibaba's human resources department, but was ignored. The employee then distributed letters in the canteen at

Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang province, describing the alleged assault. The letters triggered widespread public attention.

In an 11-page post uploaded on Aug 7 to the internal message board at Alibaba, the employee recalled details of the dinner, which began like many others with copious amounts of alcohol.

"When I arrived for the meal, my manager told the client: 'Look how good I am to you. I brought you a beautiful girl!'" she wrote. "I was forced to drink too much alcohol, and the last thing I remembered that night was crying while my manager lay on top of me."

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By ZHANG YUNBI
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Beijing had discussions with Washington and Moscow over Afghanistan on Monday and urged the building of an "open and inclusive" political architecture in the war-torn nation, facilitation of reconstruction and preventing the growth of terrorism.

In separate phone calls with United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the Afghanistan situation shows that military intervention and power politics are doomed to fail.

Drastic changes have taken place in the Central Asian nation in recent days as the Taliban took control of the country after seizing the capital Kabul on Sunday.

Officials and experts said the developments in Afghanistan are the fallout from Washington's Afghan policy failure and its hasty military withdrawal, which show that double standards over counter-terrorism stoke chaos and dampen hopes of eradicating terror.

"Lessons should be learned," said Wang, noting that a regime will not last long without the support of its people. He added that power politics and military operations trigger problems rather than resolving them.

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department of American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said, "Behind the developments in Afghanistan is the US' deep-seated security and foreign policy mistake, which is its long-standing



Afghans visit a market at the Kote Sangi area of Kabul on Tuesday, after Taliban seized control of the capital following the collapse of the Afghan government. AFP

preference to impose its will and intervene in other nations."

During the talks, Beijing asked Washington to rethink what it has done in Afghanistan, not shirk its responsibility or shift blame to others, Su said.

In an interview with China Central Television on Monday, China's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Wang Yu, urged Chinese nationals remaining in Afghanistan to beef up security precautions and leave the country when conditions permit.

As an advocate of political settlement in the country, China has consistently respected the will of and kept contact with all parties in Afghanistan, including the Taliban, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Tuesday.

Yue Xiaoyong, the Chinese government's special envoy on Afghanistan, is playing a mediating role, visiting a number of countries including Qatar, Russia,

Turkey and Iran to discuss the situation, Hua said.

Over the past 40 years, Afghanistan has suffered great damage, including from the armed intervention by the US, and "its future government is faced with the arduous task of reconstruction of the war-torn land", said Xu Yicong, a researcher at the China Foundation for International Studies and a former ambassador to Cuba.

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China holds drill near Taiwan after provocations

By MO JINGXI and ZHANG ZHIHAO

The People's Liberation Army Eastern Theater Command conducted a coordinated joint assault drill on Tuesday in the airspace and southwestern and southeastern waters off the island of Taiwan, in a solemn response to foreign interference and provocations from Taiwan separatist forces.

Senior Colonel Shi Yi, the spokesman for the command, said the drill involved warships, anti-submarine aircraft, fighter jets and other military units, with a goal to test the command's coordinated combat capability.

Shi said recent collusion and provocations by the United States and Taiwan separatists have seriously undermined China's sovereignty, as well as peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits.

"It has become the biggest source of trouble" in the region, he added. Therefore, the drill was a necessary action in light of these developments.

Shi said the command will continue to enhance combat training and preparation. It has the determination and capability to thwart any secession attempts and safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

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