



CHINA DAILY

GLOBAL EDITION 中国日报 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Leaders of Ukraine, US focus on reducing tension

By REN QI in Moscow
renqi@chinadaily.com.cn

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Joe Biden discussed ways of reducing the tensions centered on Ukraine during a telephone call on Sunday, according to Ukraine's presidential press service.

The two leaders also talked about increasing Ukraine's financial and energy stability amid its tensions with Russia, a statement on the Ukrainian presidential website said.

Zelensky said that Kyiv understands all current risks and is ready for "any developments".

The Ukrainian leader thanked Washington for its support, saying the country has contributed to strengthening the capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces.

Zelensky invited Biden to visit Ukraine "in the coming days". However, there was no positive response from Biden. A US official said a trip by Biden to Ukraine is extremely unlikely.

The official, who had been briefed on the conversation, said that Zelensky used the call to suggest what the official described as "concrete ideas to diminish the Russian threat to Ukraine", such as providing Ukraine with greater military support, including more advanced weaponry.

Many analysts believe that the US has hyped up tensions between Russia and Ukraine and stoked fears of a Russian "invasion".

Biden made clear in the phone discussion that the US would "respond swiftly" to any further "Russian aggression", the White House said.

Biden and Zelensky last spoke in January, and it "did not go well", a senior Ukrainian official said at the time, amid disagreements over the "risk levels" of a Russian invasion.

Their latest call came a day after Biden spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a call in which he said the US and its allies will respond "decisively and impose swift

and severe costs" on Russia, should the decision be made to invade Ukraine. Putin responded by accusing the US of carrying out a disinformation campaign.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz flew to Kyiv on Monday to meet with Zelensky. On Tuesday, he is to go to Moscow to meet with Putin.

The chancellor, who took office in December, has ratcheted up his engagement in the Ukraine crisis recently, after critics accused him of a lack of leadership in one of Europe's worst security crises in decades.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will make a fresh diplomatic push in the coming week as part of efforts to defuse the Ukraine crisis, his office said on Sunday.

According to a statement on Sunday by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, the US believes Russia "could launch an invasion of Ukraine this week".

Russia has repeatedly denied that it will do so, saying it has the right to mobilize troops within its borders to defend its territory.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Monday that China has been closely following the situation in Ukraine, and the Chinese embassy there is operating as usual.

"The embassy has issued a notice reminding Chinese citizens and organizations in Ukraine to closely monitor the situation there," Wang said, noting that the ministry and embassy will provide consular protection and assistance to them in a timely manner.

The spokesman said the parties should return to the starting point of the Minsk II agreement, which was signed in 2015 and endorsed by the United Nations Security Council.

"We call on all sides to stay cool-headed and avoid doing things that will escalate the tensions or hype up the crisis," he added.

Mo Jingxi in Beijing contributed to this story.



Travelers wait at check-in counters ahead of their flights at Boryspil International Airport near Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sunday.
SERGEI SUPINSKY / AFP

INNOVATIVE ENSEMBLES ADAPT TO LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Classical works woo subway passengers and zoo visitors

By CHEN NAN
chennan@chinadaily.com.cn



Commuters waiting for a train at one of the largest subway stations in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, a week before Spring Festival listened as a brass quintet played live.

On Jan 24, passengers at Panyu Square Station on Metro Line 18 stopped to take photos of the ensemble, of musicians from the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, and also learned that classical music would be played in the station from that day onward.

The orchestra and the Metro announced that the city's first subway train themed on classical music would operate from Jan 24 to the end of next month.

Decorated with cartoon images of composers and the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, the train offers passengers a range of classical repertoire.

Chen Qing, the orchestra's president, said, "All passengers need to do is scan a code with their phone to enjoy classical music pieces and learn about the composers, musicians and conductors."

He added that it took several months to launch the special train, and that the recordings are all performed by the orchestra.

See Music, page 2



Friendly rivalry

China's Xu Mengtao (right) embraces Ashley Caldwell of the United States after winning the final of the women's freestyle skiing aericals at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Zhangjiakou, Hebei province, on Monday. WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

Mascot highlights IPR efforts

Difficulty in finding official merchandise reflects commitment to stop counterfeits

By CAO YIN
caoyin@chinadaily.com.cn

The overwhelming demand for Bing Dwen Dwen merchandise has demonstrated China's determination to protect Olympic symbols, officials and legal professional said.

Since the Beijing Winter Olympics kicked off on Feb 4, the cuddly Games mascot — a panda enveloped in an ice crystal shell — has become a favorite with competitors, sports fans and the media.

Athletes in the Olympic Villages — in the Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou zones — have been sharing their moments with the panda in photos and videos, while Bing Dwen Dwen fans outside the Games' bubble have patiently waited to buy products from licensed stores and through official online channels.

The enthusiasm for the mascot merchandise has led to a shortage of products, with many netizens complaining that it's too difficult



A synthetic diamond-studded Bing Dwen Dwen, the Beijing Winter Olympics mascot, is displayed on Monday at a licensed store in Zhengzhou, Henan province. LU JIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

to get a Bing Dwen Dwen doll.

Zhang Zhicheng, a spokesman for the National Intellectual Property Administration, said the difficulty buyers face in getting merchandise demonstrates the country's stronger and more comprehensive protection of Olympic symbols.

"As the mascot has Olympic symbol protection, it also receives patent, trademark and copyright protection," he said at a news conference organized by the 2022 Beijing Media Center on Monday.

Comprehensive intellectual property protection guarantees the

rights and interests of IPR owners, and also promotes the dissemination of Olympic culture, he said.

"Comprehensive IPR protection is our way of keeping Olympic rules and of implementing the Olympic Charter. It's also symbolic of our respect for every athlete, and encouragement for technological innovators at this sports event," he said.

Sun Lei, an IPR lawyer at Yuanhe Partners in Beijing, said that difficulty in buying a Bing Dwen Dwen doll reflects enhanced awareness of the importance of protecting Olympic symbols, adding that thanks should go to the country's early warnings on the issue and other measures.

After Bing Dwen Dwen and Shuey Rhon Rhon, the baby red lantern mascot for the Winter Paralympics, were unveiled in 2019, the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games issued a notice on the comprehensive

See IPR, page 3

MORE GAMES COVERAGE ON PAGES 4-5, 11, 13 AND ON CHINADAILY.COM.CN



www.chinadailyglobal.com
© 2022 China Daily Global. All Rights Reserved
Vol. 4 - No. 743
A member of ANN
CHID 150222
07
ASIA NEWS NETWORK 9 772398 697029
Newsstand prices: US \$1, Canada C\$1, UK £1, EU €16, Kenya 50 Kenya Shilling
Asia Pacific: Thailand 120 thb, Philippines 120 php, Myanmar 2000 kyat, Japan 210 yen, Dubai 10 dirham, Pakistan 300 rupee

China, Belgium to continue expanding mutual openness

Belgium and China celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2021. Belgium was one of the first Western countries to cooperate with China, and Belgian companies have been contributing to China's development in their own ways, helping it develop from being a largely agricultural society into the second-largest economy in the world, with a huge consumer market.

In this context, Xi'an Janssen Pharmaceutical, one of the top 10 joint ventures in China, and Solvay Chemicals, which has 17 production facilities in China, immediately come to mind, to name just two.

As a result of these invest-

ments and joint cooperation, trade relations between Belgium and China have grown tremendously as well, and China is currently Belgium's sixth-largest trading partner, making up about 4.1 percent of Belgium's trade. Belgium is China's sixth-largest trading partner in the European Union, and trade between Belgium and China has grown 16.4 percent over the past 10 years.

In a world that is more and more interconnected and interdependent, companies of all countries need to know each other better and develop deeper cooperation. Belgium and China have established a good relation-



ship since the formal establishment of their diplomatic relations in 1971.

Moreover, economic, diplomatic and intercultural exchanges between these two countries have also developed strongly. The two countries have regular contact at the highest political level and frequent high-level mutual visits, as well as warm people-to-people contacts. Aside from that, the two governments have signed dozens of bilateral partnership agreements in such fields as aerospace, customs, science and technology, nuclear fuel and education.

Many Belgian provinces have also established partnerships with sister regions in China, with an emphasis on long-term economic cooperation. These long-standing

See Relations, page 3