

XI, TRUMP STRIKE NEW TONE IN US-CHINA RELATIONS

BY AGENCIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump had a private meeting on Friday in Beijing.

The meeting came a day after Xi held talks with Trump.

Noting that Trump's visit was a historic and landmark one, Xi said the two sides had set a new vision of building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability.

"We had reached important common understandings on maintaining stable economic and trade ties, expanding practical co-operation in various fields, and properly addressing each other's concerns," Xi said.

The two sides also agreed to strengthen communication and co-ordination on international and regional issues, according to Xi.

The visit is conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, deepening mutual trust and improving the well-being of the two peoples, Xi said.

This once again demonstrates that it is a shared aspiration of both peoples and the expectation

for China and the US to find a right path to get along with each other and to achieve peaceful coexistence and win-win co-operation on the basis of mutual respect, Xi added.

"While President Trump hopes to make America great again, I am dedicated to leading the Chinese people toward national rejuvenation," he said, stressing that the two countries can advance their respective development and revitalisation by strengthening co-operation.

China and the US should implement the important common understandings that have been reached, cherish the hard-won positive momentum, keep to the right direction, steer clear of disruptions, and promote the steady development of bilateral relations, Xi said.

'FANTASTIC DEALS'

Trump said he had made "fantastic trade deals" with China's Xi, as the pair met on Friday at final talks of a superpower summit that according to the US leader has also reaped a Chinese offer to help open the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump had arrived in



US President Donald Trump (right) walks with China's President Xi Jinping as he leaves after a visit to Zhongnanhai Garden in Beijing on Friday

WE'VE SETTLED A LOT OF DIFFERENT PROBLEMS THAT OTHER PEOPLE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE.

deals in sectors, including agriculture, aviation and artificial intelligence, as well as to contain differences between the two sides in several tense geostrategic

areas — not least the Middle East war.

Trump's overtures to Xi, whom he described as a "great leader" and "friend", have so far been met with

more muted tones by the Chinese leader. But the US leader said "a lot of good" has come out of the visit.

"We've made some fantastic trade deals, great for both countries," he said after a walk with Xi among the rosebushes in the gardens of Zhongnanhai, a central leadership compound next to Beijing's Forbidden City.

"We've settled a lot of different problems that other people wouldn't have been

able to solve," he added, without providing details.

Xi promised to send Trump seeds for the White House Rose Garden.

'HELP ON HORMUZ'

In an interview with *Fox News* after the first day of the summit wrapped, Trump said Xi had agreed to several US wishlist points.

On the topic of the war in Iran, the US president said Xi had effectively assured his counterpart that China was not preparing to militarily aid Tehran, which has essentially closed the Strait of Hormuz.

"He said he's not going to give military equipment... he said that strongly," Trump told *Fox*.

"He'd like to see the Hormuz Strait open, and said 'if I can be of any help whatsoever, I would like to help,'" Trump added.

Asked whether the two leaders had discussed Iran, the Chinese foreign ministry on Friday released a statement calling for "a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire".

"Shipping lanes should be reopened as soon as possible in response to the calls of the international community," it added.