



China solicits opinions on anti-fraud measures

China has started to solicit public opinions on punishment for telecom fraud perpetrators, a day after offering reward for info related to four fraud ringleaders **4**

Washington should value Beijing's strategic goodwill

Ultimately, enhancement of China's ability to shape and construct China-US ties is the critical anchor for the future development and stability of the relationship **7**

Music records half-century China-US cultural ties

Xi's reply letter to Philadelphia Orchestra praises the cultural envoy for connecting the two peoples of China and the US. The orchestra's historic China tour in 1973 marked a thaw in cultural exchanges **8-9**

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► Improving bilateral economic ties top agenda for high-stakes talks

Xi-Biden meet to inject stability into troubled world economy

By Wang Cong

When President Xi Jinping and the US President Joe Biden meet for the first time in a year in San Francisco later this week, there will be a complex, urgent set of bilateral and global issues for them to address, ranging from fraught bilateral ties to mounting global challenges. Still, one topic will gar-



ner much attention worldwide: how the world's two biggest economies plan to stabilize their economic ties and help lead the global economy out of its current predicament.

Since the two presidents last met in Bali, Indonesia, in

November 2022, both bilateral economic ties and the global economy have faced mounting risks and challenges. The US, despite repeated pledges of not seeking to decouple from or contain China, has continued to crack down on Chinese firms and products under the guise of national security. Meanwhile, the global economy is still struggling to shake off adverse

impact from the COVID-19 pandemic amid high inflation, aggressive monetary policies in countries like the US and geopolitical conflicts.

Amid such profound risks and challenges, the meeting between the Chinese and US leaders, a culmination of a flurry of official interac-

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Chinese FM urges immediate cease-fire amid dire Gaza situation

By Yang Sheng

China on Monday praised the contribution to calls for a cease-fire and humanitarian assistance for the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict made by the Saudi-African summit and Arab-Islamic summit, held in Saudi Arabia, saying that China will continue to work with the relevant parties to protect civilians, ease tensions, restart negotiations, and strive tirelessly for peace.

Chinese analysts said the international community has already sent enough messages on "the call for cease-fire", but in order to realize an immediate cease-fire when Israel ignores all calls and warnings to halt its military operations in Gaza, the world, or at least countries in the region that care about the humanitarian situation of Palestinians, also needs measures to impose concrete constraints.

However, it seems that Arab and Islamic countries do not have a consensus in transforming their call for peace into real actions to force Israel to stop the brutal war, so unfortunately the conflict will continue and the death toll will keep rising, while China will not give up and will keep making efforts to promote peace, analysts said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said at a routine press conference on Monday, "The current situation in the Gaza Strip is quite dire, and China supports all efforts aimed at de-escalating the conflict and restoring peace."

More than 11,000 Palestinians, two-thirds of them women and children, have been killed since the war began, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza. About 2,700 people have

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Reporters work at the media center for the APEC meetings on November 12, 2023 in San Francisco. The APEC Economic Leaders' Week runs from November 11 to 17. Photo: Xinhua



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▶ Cabinet reshuffle



Former UK prime minister David Cameron (left) leaves 10 Downing Street with Sir Philip Barton, the permanent under-secretary of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, after being appointed Foreign Secretary in a Cabinet reshuffle on November 13, 2023 in London. Photo: VCG

China to actively drive Asia-Pacific cooperation, reject 'decoupling'

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tions over the past several months and a crucial sign of joint efforts to manage differences and stabilize ties, will offer a much-needed sense of stability for the world economy, Chinese analysts said on Monday.

Moreover, at the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, a key platform for economic cooperation in the Asia Pacific, China will reiterate its vision for and efforts to build open, inclusive regional and global economies and reject decoupling and protectionism, which will further help boost confidence in the region and globally, analysts noted.

Rising expectations

After China and the US announced on Friday that the two presidents will meet on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' meeting in San Francisco, global expectations for a constructive dialogue have been rising, even though some analysts remained cautiously optimistic about any potential breakthroughs.

"The world's economy could surely benefit from a US-China détente," US news agency the Associated Press reported on Monday, noting that China and the US together produce more than 40 percent of the world's goods and services and such a rare high-level meeting can have global consequences.

Such expectations are justifiable considering the litany of troubles the world economy faces and the crucial role China and the US play.

"China and the US are the stabilizers and engines of the global economy. So the meeting of the leaders of the two countries will undoubtedly

inject positivity and stability into the global economy amid a period of profound downside risks," Liu Ying, a research fellow from the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Monday.

Citing positive outcomes of recent interactions between Chinese and US senior officials, Liu said that there could be "certain consensus" reached at the leaders' meeting in the economic and financial areas.

Ahead of the upcoming leaders' meeting, Chinese and US officials have held multiple rounds of meetings. In the latest development, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met in San Francisco last week and had what both sides describe as candid and productive talks, which were aimed at, among other things, preparing for economic outcomes of the leaders' meeting.

"Solid conditions have been formed for the leaders' meeting to achieve some positive outcomes," Mei Xinyu, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, told the Global Times on Monday, "such positive outcome will offer stable expectations for the world economy."

Still, major differences remain, as the US continues to emphasize "competition" with China, repeats long-standing grievances and vows to protect its "national security" – euphemism for its crackdown measures against China, just to name a few.

Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that major-country contest runs against the trend of the times,

and will not resolve the US' own problems and global challenges.

Defending free trade

Beyond the bilateral meeting with Biden, the Chinese president will also deliver an important speech at the meeting to fully elaborate on China's major propositions on deepening Asia-Pacific cooperation and driving regional and global growth, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The APEC has become a crucial platform for economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. While the APEC region is expected to see a growth of 3.3 percent this year, up from 2.6 percent in 2022, "the legacy of the pandemic, inflation, higher debt, climate change, trade protectionism, geopolitical tensions, and economic fragmentation continue to overshadow outlook," the APEC Policy Support Unit said in a report on Sunday.

Against such backdrop, at the APEC meeting, China will likely reiterate its staunch support for openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation both in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and firmly reject trade protectionism, according to Liu. "In fact, China has been actively advancing regional cooperation through agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership," she said.

Mei also said that the US' approach of unilateral sanctions and protectionism will only further hurt other countries and itself. "In the Asia-Pacific, China and the US should both play their own roles and leverage their advantages to promote free trade. Relentlessly sanctioning others and building fences and yards will only cause damages," he said.

Concrete measures needed as intl pressure 'insufficient to bring end to conflict'

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been reported missing and are thought to be trapped or dead under the rubble, Al Jazeera reported on Monday.

The Saudi-African Summit and the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which were recently held in Riyadh, "have sent a clear message of promoting a cease-fire, protecting civilians, increasing humanitarian assistance, and implementing the 'two-state solution,' and we welcome these efforts," Mao said.

Mao noted that since the Palestinian-Israeli conflict broke out, China has been in close communication with relevant parties to call for cease-fire and restoration of peace. On halting the current conflict, China's position is very much similar to that of the vast Arab, Islamic and African developing countries.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Monday that "the most feasible way for the international community to force Israel to stop is to pass resolutions in the UN Security Council and to impose concrete constraints on Israel, so that the pressure will be meaningful, otherwise condemnation and words are definitely not enough."

However, with the US' absolute support, Israel doesn't care about the UN Security Council, and the latest summit in Riyadh shows that Arab and Islamic countries failed to reach agreement on taking concrete actions, all of which sent a clear message to Israel: international pressure is limited, said Ma Xiaolin, dean of the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean Rim at Zhejiang International Studies University.

Washington wants to avoid being criticized by the international community and is also afraid of offending Israel, so it is now calling on it not to target facilities like hospitals and avoid collateral damage on civilians, but has staunchly refused to call for a cease-fire, Ma told the Global Times. "However, this cannot be done, because as long as Israel continues its operation, the civilian death toll will definitely rise."

Mao said at the press conference that "The humanitarian situation in the region has been extremely dire for over a month. The struggling Dar Al-Shifa Hospital is an epitome of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

Israeli forces reached the gates of Gaza City's main hospital on Monday, the primary target in their battle to seize control of the northern half of the Gaza Strip, where medics said patients including newborn babies were dying for lack of fuel, Reuters reported on Monday.

China urges all parties involved to immediately cease fire, protect civilians, increase humanitarian assistance, and alleviate the humanitarian crisis, Mao said.

There was also fresh concern that the war could spread beyond Gaza, with an upsurge of clashes on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, and the US launching air strikes on Iran-linked militia targets in neighboring Syria.

Chinese analysts said the conflict will continue, and if Hamas receives no meaningful support from outside or no new conflict breaks out in other areas that could effectively trouble Israel, it will be just a matter of time before it realizes its military occupation of Gaza and Hamas will lose control in the region. But after about 11,000 people having been killed, maybe more in the future, how Israel will be able to handle a Gaza Strip full of hatred and tears will raise a new question.

