



Canada 'thief crying stop thief': embassy

The Chinese Embassy in Canada said on Monday that media reports of the rift between 'two Michaels' fully exposed Canada's hypocrisy **3**

The beginning of a shift toward more win-wins

The Xi-Biden meeting is a great start. It was the beginning of a shift in the tone of the dialogue, and away from the negativity that has dominated the airwaves so far **7**

Fashion designers innovate on traditional aesthetics

Traditional culture can be an infinite source of inspiration. During the China-France Fashion Week, a fashion extravaganza saw a seamless fusion of Chinese and French design sensibilities **14-15**



Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and members of a delegation of foreign ministers from Arab and Islamic countries have a group photo in Beijing on November 20, 2023. Photo: AFP

▶ Arab, Islamic diplomats' first stop underscores trust, China's constructive role

Beijing hosts delegation, urges immediate cease-fire in Gaza

By Chen Qingqing

China urged an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, expressed opposition to any forced displacement and relocation of Palestinian civilians and emphasized that any arrangement concerning the future and destiny of the Palestinian people must have their consent, Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi told visiting Arab and Islamic foreign ministers on Monday.

Apart from talks with Arab and Islamic countries, China

is also keeping communication with other permanent members of the UN Security Council on the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday that it is imperative to avoid further deterioration of the Palestinian-Israeli situation, especially the emergence of a more serious humanitarian crisis.

The two heads of state, in a telephone conversation on Monday, agreed that the two-state solution is the fundamental way to solve the cycle of Pal-

estinian-Israeli conflicts.

At the invitation of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, President Xi Jinping will attend the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestinian-Israeli issue and deliver important remarks in Beijing on the evening of November 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying announced on Monday night.

China will continue to work with Arab and Islamic countries to promote the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations

General Assembly and the Security Council on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng said on Monday while meeting the delegation of Arab and Islamic foreign ministers in Beijing.

China highly appreciates the peace efforts and the call for justice at the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit and supports the joint ministerial follow-up committee to play a greater role, Han said.

As the rotating president of the Security Council,

China, Uruguay eye deepening ties as Lacalle starts China visit

By Deng Xiaoci

President Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay arrived in Beijing Capital International Airport on Monday morning, kick-starting his state visit to China from Monday to Friday.

Taking place in a year that marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the Latin American country and China, Lacalle Pou's trip is significant in further bolstering ties with its paramount trading partner, with discussions likely covering negotiation of a free trade agreement, consolidating trade of goods such as milk and dairy products, and expanding cooperation in the domains including green and digital development high on agenda, Chinese observers said.

This will be President Lacalle Pou's first visit to China. President Xi Jinping will host a welcome ceremony and a welcome banquet for President Lacalle. The two heads of state will hold talks to jointly blueprint the future growth of bilateral relations and have in-depth exchange of views on issues of mutual interest. They will also jointly attend a signing ceremony of cooperation documents, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a routine press conference on Monday.

Uruguay is an important country in South America, and China and Uruguay enjoy a profound traditional friendship. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Uruguay. Over the past 35 years, especially since the establishment of strategic partnership in 2016, bilateral rela-

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Early

▶ **2**
Practical



Early convening of intl peace conference with road map urged

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China will continue to strengthen coordination with Arab and Islamic countries, build consensus and push the Security Council to take further meaningful actions on the situation in Gaza, Wang said.

The delegation, which is set to meet officials representing each of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, is also piling pressure on the West to reject Israel's justification of its actions against Palestinians as self-defense, and Beijing is the first leg of their tour, Reuters reported on Monday.

Taking China as the first stop of its international mediation efforts shows a high degree of trust in China and reflects the fine tradition of mutual understanding and mutual support between the two sides. China is a good friend and a good brother of Arab and Islamic countries, Wang told Arab and Islamic diplomats.

China has always firmly upheld the legitimate rights and interests of Arab and Islamic countries and firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate national rights and interests, Wang said.

In regard to this conflict, China has firmly stood on the side of justice and fairness, has been working hard to de-escalate the conflict, protect civilians,

expand humanitarian aid, and prevent humanitarian disasters, and has been calling for a return to the two-state solution and the early settlement of the Palestinian question, Wang said.

The visit also came after the UN Security Council adopted its first resolution on Wednesday since the Israeli-Palestinian conflict broke out under China's active rotating presidency role. The council had failed to adopt four draft resolutions on the situation in a row.

China's position on the Palestinian question aligns with that of the Arab and Islamic world and its proposition on the issue is also in line with the status of the issue itself, helping China gain the trust of the Arab and Islamic countries, some experts said. Under China's mediation, Saudi Arabia and Iran have agreed to restore diplomatic relations in March, highlighting China's constructive role in the Middle East.

Major push for peace

In the meeting with Arab and Islamic officials, the Chinese Foreign Minister said the pressing task now is to fully implement relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly and achieve an immediate cease-fire and cessation of hostilities. A cease-fire should not be a diplomatic rhetoric. It is a matter of life and death

for the people in Gaza.

A cease-fire should be achieved as a top priority. This is the pressing need of the people in Gaza, the wish of the overwhelming majority of countries, and the unanimous voice of all peace-loving people around the world, Wang said.

"A cease-fire and humanitarian pauses are two different things. While Arab and Islamic countries and China are demanding a cease-fire, the US-led West is asking for humanitarian pauses," Niu Xinchun, a research fellow at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times on Monday. "There's still a huge gap between humanitarian pauses and a cease-fire."

The latest resolution adopted by the UN Security Council called for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip", with three abstentions. Some experts saw the resolution as being a product of compromise.

Countries like Jordan and Egypt play an important role on the Palestinian question. For example, as one of the surrounding countries to the Gaza Strip, Egypt could play a bigger role in terms of humanitarian aid, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University. "Also, countries like Saudi

Arabia and Egypt could play an important role in the future resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which the discussion between those countries and China could focus on some practical issues," Liu said.

The fundamental reason for the cycle of conflict between Palestine and Israel is that the Palestinian people's right to statehood and survival and their right of return to their homes have been ignored for a long time, Wang said. The way out is to implement the two-state solution and establish an independent Palestinian state. China calls for an early convening of an international peace conference with greater scale, scope and effectiveness, and a timetable and roadmap for this purpose, Wang said.

In a recent joint Islamic-Arab summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries called for an immediate end to military operations in Gaza, rejecting Israel's justification of its actions against Palestinians as "self-defense." The development was seen as a historic moment of the Arab-Islamic world moving toward unity while Israel intensifies its attacks on the Gaza Strip.

However, the absence of Turkey and Iran from the delegation showed that divisions on the issue still exist among Arab and Islamic countries, experts noted.

Practical cooperation shows exemplary effect in L.America, free from third party's coercion: expert

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tions have made good progress and delivered tangible benefits to both peoples, Mao said.

China believes that this visit will further consolidate the traditional friendship between China and Uruguay, deepen political mutual trust, enhance practical cooperation to a higher level, and bring China-Uruguay relations to new heights, the spokesperson noted.

Pan Deng, director of the Latin American and Caribbean Region Law Center of China University of Political Science and Law, said beef and dairy products from the Latin American country with outstanding quality have increasingly been recognized in the Chinese market. It is reasonable to expect that President Lacalle Pou would increase the trade volume of such products and hope to expand that during the state visit.

Pan, who is Secretary-General of Latin American Branch of Western Returned Scholars Association told the Global Times on Monday that as Uruguay has enjoyed a rather rare and stable political environment in the region with a rather stable perception of China, President Lacalle Pou would also tap into cooperation potential in the fields of green trade and digital



The flags of China and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay hang at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing on November 20, 2023, welcoming the state visit of Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Pou.

Photo: VCG

development with China during the trip, as he aspires to turn the country into one of the pioneers of regional frontier economies.

Negotiation of a free trade agreement (FTA) would also be a pivotal topic during the Uruguayan leader's China visit, according to the expert, primary studies on the feasibility of the China-Uruguay FTA were initiated as early as 2016, and he

has participated in the relevant works. The two countries completed the joint feasibility studies for the FTA in 2022.

Uruguayan Minister of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries, Fernando Mattos, who is set to accompany President Lacalle on the visit to China, expressed in a recent exclusive interview with the Xinhua News Agency that Uruguay hopes to deepen cooperation with China in the fields of agriculture and

livestock, aspiring to become a "trusted and reliable food supplier" for China.

Citing official Uruguayan data, the minister said that Uruguay is an important global food producer and a significant trade partner of China. In recent years, China has become Uruguay's largest trading partner.

In 2022, exports to China accounted for about 30 percent of Uruguay's total exports, reach-

ing a historic high with Uruguay's exports to China with a significant proportion being agricultural and livestock products.

According to the General Administration of Customs of China (GAC), bilateral trade reached \$7.44 billion in 2022, up 14.9 percent on a yearly basis.

Mattos, who has visited a dozen provinces and cities in China recently, deeply felt the immense potential for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, especially in agricultural and livestock science and technology.

He said that he looks forward to this visit elevating Uruguay-China agricultural and livestock cooperation to a higher level. "Uruguay is a reliable partner of China," the Uruguayan minister said, according to Xinhua.

Mattos also spoke highly of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

He stated that the initiative has promoted trade growth, improved infrastructure, and shortened the distance between Uruguay and China, Xinhua reported.