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Several countries were "actively" engaged in talks with Pakistan for China-Pakistan co-developed JF-17 fighter jets, Pakistani media the Dawn reported 4

PBC's new policy to fuel further growth

The PBC unveiled a raft of support measures as it stepped up counter-cyclical and cross-cyclical adjustments to fuel a good start of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30) 11



CPC in global eyes: Enlightenment through service

At the Memorial Hall of the Second National Congress of the CPC, a unique team of international volunteers dedicates their leisure time to offering guided services and facilitating cultural exchange activities. 8-9

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► China willing to work with Canada to foster new growth drivers: premier

## Carney's trip signals 'a turning point' in bilateral relationship

By Liu Yang

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Canada in areas such as clean energy, digital technology, modern agriculture, aerospace, advanced manufacturing and finance, to foster more new drivers of economic growth, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said when holding talks with Canadian Prime

Minister Mark Carney in Beijing on Thursday.

Also on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand in Beijing, noting that China is willing to strengthen communication, enhance trust, eliminate interference, and deepen cooperation with Canada to bring bilateral relations forward on a

steady and sound track in solid strides under the new circumstances.

Carney's visit to China came amid its predicament of political and economic instability, as well as a strong need to diversify its trade and economic relations. Chinese experts said that this visit is expected to help further improve bilateral relations, and pragmatic trade

cooperation conducted on the basis of equality and consultation can also assist both sides in resolving trade differences, jointly addressing unilateralism, upholding free trade, and achieving mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

According to Xinhua, Li said that China welcomes more Canadian companies to

► 2  
Stronger

Chinese FM urges restraint in Iran situation amid lingering tensions

By Zhao Yusha

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday called for peace and restraint in Iran situation as tension between the US and Iran keeps simmering.

China opposes the use or threat of force in international relations, opposes imposing one's own will on others, and opposes a return of the world to the "law of the jungle," Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said during a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Thursday.

While the tension continues, there also seems to be mixed signals from the US on its threat of military action – Iran had briefly closed its airspace for nearly five hours and the US reportedly deployed three missile destroyers and at least one submarine to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Washington could be lowering rhetoric, as some media put that the US President reportedly informed Tehran that the US would not strike the country and asked the Islamic Republic to exercise restraint as well, Pakistani outlet Dawn reported on Thursday afternoon, citing Iran's envoy to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghadam. The Global Times noted it has not been confirmed by the US side as of press time.

Earlier, in what Al Jazeera described as signaled a softening of his tone toward Iran, President Donald Trump said that "important sources" in Tehran told the US government that the Iranian government has halted its crackdown on protesters, leaving open the question of whether he intends to order military strikes

► Blast off



A Long March-2C carrier rocket carrying an Algerian remote-sensing satellite blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China on January 15, 2026. The satellite will be primarily used for land planning and disaster prevention and mitigation.

Photo: VCG

► 2  
Scale

# Stronger economic ties meet business' expectations: analyst

► Carney's, from Page 1

invest in China and hopes that Canada will provide a fair and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises investing in the country.

Following the talks, Li and Carney witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents covering trade, customs, energy, construction, culture, and public security.

"Against the backdrop of increasing turbulence and uncertainty in the current global trade environment, the signing of multiple cooperation documents fully demonstrates the commitment of both sides to advancing pragmatic cooperation from the high levels down to specific sectors, providing enterprises in both countries with a clearer policy framework and greater certainty," said Zhou Mi, a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Liu Dan, a research fellow at the Center for Regional Country Studies at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, told the Global Times on Thursday that strengthening economic and trade exchanges between China and Canada is a win-win for both countries, and aligns with public opinion and the expectations of the business community.

"The Chinese market is important to Canadian trade, and the visit is an acknowledgement of Canada's need to diversify its markets and a recognition that, to work successfully with China, a recalibration of relations has to take place which will allow our two countries to get beyond the challenges of old issues and bring us to a level where our natural synergies find full-

er realization," Mark Ceolin, founder and chair of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview.

During a regular press conference of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) on Thursday, spokesperson He Yongqian said that China and Canada support economic globalization and trade liberalization, and share broad common interests and enormous potential for cooperation in economic and trade fields.

China is the second largest single-country trading partner to Canada, totaling \$118.7 billion in two-way merchandise trade in 2024, according to the latest data released on the official website of the Prime Minister of Canada's office.

## 'A turning point'

During the meeting with Anand, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that the trip [of Carney] marks a milestone in bilateral ties and signals a turning point in the relationship, adding that the leaders of the two countries will hold meetings and talks, which are expected to open up new prospects for bilateral relations, Xinhua reported.

Anand said the new Canadian government attaches great importance to relations with China. She also added that Prime Minister Mark Carney looks forward to engaging in in-depth exchanges with Chinese leaders during the visit to set the course for the development of bilateral relations, resume dialogue in various fields, pursue more mutually beneficial outcomes, enhance coordination and cooperation in multilateral affairs, and further advance the strategic partner-

ship between the two countries.

When asked about Wang Yi's remarks during his meeting with Anand - where Wang said China is willing to work with Canada to eliminate interference - how much of that interference is created by the US administration, past and present, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday that "I believe that, rather than focusing on and where the interference comes from, it is more important to focus on the fact that both China and Canada are committed to promoting the steady, solid and sound development of bilateral relations under the new circumstances, and providing positive expectations and greater confidence for the development of bilateral relations."

"Carney's visit to China fully demonstrates the urgent need of the new Canadian government to recalibrate and improve China-Canada relations," Liu said, adding that in addition to strengthening economic and trade cooperation, this visit will also inject mutual trust and stability into bilateral relations.

Canada has come to a profound realization that excessive dependence on a single market or a single ally is not a sustainable long-term strategy, and therefore hopes to seize this opportunity to strengthen cooperation with China to jointly address unilateralism, Zhou noted.

"Through this visit, the Canadian side should translate its correct understanding of China into concrete actions and provide a fair environment for cooperation with China. This is also what the business communities of both countries and global stability hope to see," Zhou said.

**Scale of US intervention in Iran has a direct bearing on regional security: expert**

► Chinese, from Page 1

against Iran after repeated warnings, media reported on Thursday.

The Washington Post reported on Wednesday local time that during a White House signing ceremony, Trump said Iran had notified Washington it would no longer carry out hangings of protesters. When asked by a reporter if that meant a US military response was now off the table, he said only, "We're going to watch and see."

Since the unrest erupted in Iran, the US has pursued a hybrid pressure campaign, pairing increasingly belligerent rhetoric with an escalation of military intimidation against Tehran, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

Liu noted that at the same time, Washington appears to be still evaluating its options. Although Trump has sent a series of hard-line signals, the US remains reluctant to become drawn into a prolonged conflict in the Middle East.

That tension, Liu said, helps explain the administration's mixed messaging. Even if the US ultimately decides to strike Iran, it would most likely opt for a limited, short-term and controllable action rather than a full-scale war.

Trump has told his national security team that he would want any US military action in Iran to deliver a swift and decisive blow to the regime and not spark a sustained war that can drag on for weeks or months, according to a US official, two people familiar with the discussions and a person close to the White House, NBC reported.

## Simmering tension

Amid the tense and fluctuating situation, Iran reopened its airspace after a near-five-hour closure amid concerns about possible military action between the US and Iran that forced airlines to cancel, reroute or delay some flights, Reuters reported on Thursday.

Trump has reportedly deployed three missile destroyers and at least one submarine to the Middle East, reported The New York Times and other US media.

The destroyers are equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles, bringing them within striking range. Meanwhile, some personnel are being urgently evacuated from Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military base in the region.

The UN Security Council will meet Thursday on the situation in Iran, said a spokeswoman for the Somali Permanent Mission to the United Nations, whose country holds the rotating council presidency for the month of January, according to Xinhua News Agency.

Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times that while the possibility of a US military action against Iran cannot be ruled out, Washington currently lacks sufficient justification, conditions and capacity for a large-scale strike.

Historical experience suggests that when the US intervenes militarily against Iran, Tehran often strikes back by targeting US-linked countries in the Middle East, Niu Xinchun, executive director of the China-Arab Research Institute at Ningxia University, told the Global Times, noting that the scale of US intervention in Iran has a direct bearing on regional security. Should Washington choose large-scale military action, the entire Middle East would face severe and widespread security risks, the expert warned.

► Dressed up



Tourists dress up in costumes and pose for photos on the Harbin Architecture Square in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on January 15, 2026. Photo: VCG

