



Victoria premier's visit deepens education ties

Premier Jacinta Allan of the Australian state of Victoria recently concluded a five-day visit to China, stressing the value of international education in fostering trust **3**

22nd CAEXPO concludes with fruitful results

The 22nd China-ASEAN Expo concluded on Sunday, reaping fruitful achievements including reaching investment projects and forming AI results **10**

Galaxy Awards place China's sci-fi, global reach in spotlight

At the 2025 Galaxy Science Fiction Convention held in Chengdu, Galaxy Awards spotlight China's next-generation sci-fi, where online literature fuels fresh creativity and global reach **16**

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VOLUME 17 • NO. 4728 • MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 • PRICE 2 YUAN

人民日报社主管 《环球时报》社有限公司主办、出版



Palestinian families are forced to flee from Nasr due to the ongoing Israeli attacks in Gaza City, Gaza on September 21, 2025. Photo: VCG

► Support underscores strengthening of Palestine's intl legitimacy: expert

More US allies announce recognition of State of Palestine

By Zhao Yusha and Zhao Jingru

Recognition for Palestine is gaining momentum as several Western countries, including the UK, Canada and Australia, announced on Sunday the recognition of the State of Palestine ahead of the general debate of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

UK prime minister Keir Starmer on Sunday announced the UK's recognition of a Palestinian state. "Today, to revive the hope of peace for the Palestinians and Israelis, and a two state solution, the United Kingdom formally recognizes the State of Palestine," he says, according to BBC.

Australia's Albanese government on Sunday formally recognized Palestine as an inde-

pendent state. Australian Prime Minister Anothony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong in a statement said that Sunday's recognition, "alongside Canada and the UK, is part of a coordinated international effort to build new momentum for a two-state solution," according to a statement Albanese posted on X.

Canada issued a declaration Sunday officially recognizing

the state of Palestine, a significant shift in this country's foreign policy that previously said such recognition would only come after a negotiated peace agreement between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, according to Canadian media the Globe and Mail.

In a statement, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada believes

2 Coordinated

US' \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas raises widespread concerns

By Xu Keyue and Zhang Han

The White House stunned skilled foreign workers and US tech companies with a new policy that will impose a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visas, effective this Sunday, according to media reports. The news has sent particular shockwaves through applicants from India, with the Indian government warning of "humanitarian consequences," according to Indian media outlets.

The fee policy that goes into effect on Sunday will be levied per petition and will not be applied to existing holders of valid visas re-entering the country, the White House said on Saturday, Reuters reported Sunday.

"This is not an annual fee. It's a one-time fee that applies only to the petition," White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said in a post on X on Sunday.

Leavitt also said that current H-1B visa holders who are currently outside of the country right now will not be charged \$100,000 to re-enter the US.

Leavitt's latest clarification came after the H-1B announcement, which was issued by the White House on Friday, immediately spurred chaos, with companies and immigration lawyers warning travelers to return to the US before 12:01 am Sunday, when the new policy is scheduled to kick in, according to Politico, which published an article titled "White House tries to tamp down corporate panic for high-skill visa holders after last-minute overhaul."

Some companies including Microsoft, JPMorgan and Amazon had responded to the Friday announcement by ad-

2 Move

'Coordinated intl effort to build momentum for two-state solution'

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it can no longer wait because the viability of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is eroding.

In a statement on Friday, the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Portugal's recognition of State of Palestine will take place on Sunday, a day before a high-level conference on Palestinian statehood at the UNGA, according to Al Jazeera.

Earlier on Friday, an adviser to French President Emmanuel Macron said that Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta and San Marino plan to recognize the State of Palestine alongside France at the high-level meeting it is co-organizing with Saudi Arabia in New York on Monday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday expounded China's views on the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict during talks with Foreign Minister of Morocco Nasser Bourita in Beijing on Friday, Xinhua reported.

Noting that the international community should unite in the face of the current emergency situation, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said it is necessary to promote a comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza with the greatest sense of urgency to alleviate the current humanitarian disaster. Countries that have a special influence on Israel should take their responsibilities earnestly, and the United Nations Security Council and humanitarian agencies should also fulfill their duties.

Wang stressed the necessity to firmly adhere to the two-state solu-

tion, pool more international consensus and form a more unified position. He called for supporting Palestine's full membership in the UN on the basis of recognizing the State of Palestine, seeking feasible paths to advancing the two-state solution, and rejecting any unilateral actions that erode the two-state solution.

A growing majority of UN member states now recognize the State of Palestine, and the number continues to rise, underscoring the steady strengthening of its international legitimacy, Wang Jin, an associate professor at the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at Northwest University in Xi'an, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Wang Jin noted that while resolutions passed by the UNGA lack the binding legal force of Security Council decisions, they nonetheless embody legitimacy and reasonableness, laying an important legal foundation for resolving the Palestinian question in the future.

Continued indulgence

However, on the other hand, Israel's ongoing occupation of Gaza and expansion of settlements in the West Bank continue to threaten the exercise of Palestinian sovereignty, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday said the world should not be "intimidated" by Israel as it continues its offensive in Gaza, adding that the international community should try to "put pressure" on Israel to keep it from annexing the

West Bank, according to AFP.

At least 55 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza since dawn, according to sources in the territory's hospitals who spoke to Al Jazeera on Sunday. At least 37 of the victims were in Gaza City, sources said.

"There will be no Palestinian state," Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, told settlers in the West Bank last week. "This place is ours. We will see to our heritage, our land and our security," the BBC reported.

The US has also strongly criticized countries moving to recognize Palestine, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio describing France's announcement of recognizing the State of Palestine as a "reckless decision" that "only serves Hamas propaganda," Al Jazeera reported.

The US vetoed on Thursday a draft UN Security Council resolution that would have demanded an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and that Israel lift all restrictions on aid deliveries to the Palestinian enclave, per Reuters.

Washington's continued indulgence of Israel is leaving both increasingly isolated within the international community, Zhu Weilie, distinguished professor of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

With world leaders realizing they cannot rely on the US for leadership on issues like Gaza and Ukraine, this week's UNGA becomes a rare platform to try to up the international ante on Israel, Australia's ABC reported.

Move to deal a blow to US high-tech companies, limit US attractiveness to skilled students, workers: analysts

► US', from Page 1

vising employees holding H-1B visas to remain in the US, according to internal emails reviewed by Reuters. A Goldman Sachs internal memo seen by Reuters on Saturday urged employees with such visas to exercise caution on international travel, Reuters reported.

Indian applicants likely to be hit most

According to BBC on Saturday, the Indian government has said a new \$100,000 fee for applicants seeking US skilled worker visas will have "humanitarian consequences".

India was the largest beneficiary of H-1B visas last year, accounting for 71 percent of approved beneficiaries, while China was a distant second at 11.7 percent, according to government data, Reuters reported Sunday.

The report said that a statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday stated that the fee would have humanitarian consequences "by way of the disruption caused for families," and the Indian government "hopes that these disruptions can be addressed suitably by the US authorities."

The India Today reported that many Indians in the US on H-1B visas scrapped travel plans to India within hours of the White House order.

Also, a Chinese national who works in Seattle on H-1B status told the Global Times on Sunday that the policy raised concerns that H-1B approval and renewal would be more difficult.

"I am also worried about my status although it is not an immediate problem; I am not sure whether my employer would help with that and how much it can help, but a lot of my colleagues are working here on H-1B status," she said.

Commenting on the new visa fee, Lü Xiang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said that the policy may deal a heavy blow to the American technology industry which relies heavily on foreign talent.

The policy will undoubtedly affect a significant portion of Indian people working and intending to work in the US, Lü said. The expert also noted that the policy would affect some H-1B visa Chinese applicants. More talented Chinese individuals may choose to return home after graduation in the US, where there is strong demand for their skills, Lü said.

"Even if the US government gains fiscally and creates more job opportunities for some Americans—assuming those goals are partly achieved—the damage to American businesses would far outweigh any benefits," Lü said.

The real loss will be for US tech companies—both giants and startups—which rely heavily on foreign talent, especially in their early stages when they can't afford higher-cost domestic hires, the expert said.

Senator Mark Warner told Bloomberg on Friday after initial reports of the administration's move that while it's likely that "many companies will pay" to secure employees' visas, the decision would further limit the US' ability to attract foreign skilled students and workers. "We still need to attract world-class talent in America," the senator emphasized.

Citing a series of the US government's policies, he said that "we are not getting the same caliber of folks coming to our graduate programs, universities, and frankly even in trying to come and work in America." "And that's long-term going to hurt our economy," the senator said.

Out on the tiles



A mahjong park event is held in Los Angeles, US on September 20, 2025, attracting local residents to experience the fun of the traditional Chinese game, with a joyful atmosphere at the scene. Photo: VCG

