

► Move to quell mounting domestic, intl pressure

Biden's cease-fire proposal for Gaza for political need: experts

By GT staff reporters

The US' new three-phase cease-fire proposal for Israel and Hamas marks the Biden administration's latest effort to quell the mounting domestic and international pressure on the US government's biased position toward Israel in the conflict, and is vying to increase its influence in the Middle East, said Chinese experts.

Biden on Friday laid out a three-phase cease-fire proposal to end the war in Gaza that has killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis, Reuters reported.

The offer calls for a cease-fire, the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the reconstruction of Gaza.

Hamas said it views the proposal "positively." Israel has said there will be no formal end to the war as long as Hamas retains power, raising questions of timing and interpretation

over the truce offer, media reported.

Biden has released a cease-fire proposal at this juncture mainly in answer to the mounting domestic and international pressure piling on both Israel and US as Israel's attack in Gaza has sparked outrage, and after some European countries recognized a Palestinian state, causing a rift between Europe and the US, said Niu Xinchun, executive director of the China-Arab Research Institute of Ningxia University.

At the end of May, Spain, Ireland and Norway formally recognized the Palestinian state, in what they say is an attempt to refocus attention on efforts to find a political solution to the war in the Middle East.

As the US presidential election approaches, domestic forces are exploiting the Palestine-Israel conflict for political benefits.

Apart from answering domestic and international pressure, Biden's

new cease-fire proposal also serves to vie for influence in the Middle East. "Now Washington has realized that it stands against international society, it worries more than anything that its influence in the region is waning. Thus it came up with the idea of a cease-fire proposal and wants regional countries to follow orders," said Zhu Weilie, the director of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University.

China and Arab states' joint statement on the Palestinian issue was released on May 31. The text noted that the two sides will work together to promote an immediate cease-fire and strive for a comprehensive, just, and lasting resolution of the Palestinian issue as soon as possible.

China's approach to the Israeli-Palestinian issue is to address both the symptoms and root causes, while the US only focuses on the symptoms, experts said.

Polls show Modi likely to win a third term

By Zhang Yuying

As exit polls suggest that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to win a third consecutive term in office, Chinese experts noted that Modi's overall domestic and foreign policies will maintain continuity, as he is expected to persist in his efforts to bolster the country's economic growth.

Analysts emphasized the importance of India collaborating with China to uphold open communication to address differences in order to steer the bilateral relationship back on the track of healthy and stable development.

As the marathon general election that started on April 19 concluded on Saturday, a big win for India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance has been predicted by 12 exit polls, NDTV reported on Sunday.

Although the Indian news outlet cautioned that exit polls "are not always accurate," it said that Modi, 73, and his party, the BJP, are widely expected to retain power for a third straight term. The real electoral scenario will become clear on Tuesday.

Modi will continue to pursue the domestic and foreign policy objectives he has set for India, with a strong focus on propelling the country toward becoming the world's third-largest economy after the US and China within a few years, Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Additionally, Modi's strategic approach includes a continuous pursuit of enhancing India's global influence through diplomatic channels, Qian said, given the prime minister's vision for India to become a leading power.

Regarding China-India relations, experts said that despite the setbacks during Modi's second term, the possibility of a strengthened confrontation between China and India is unlikely if he continues in office.

"The relationship between China and a number of countries, including US allies like Japan and Australia, is now improving. In light of this, India may question why there is no sign of easing and an improvement in China-India relations so far," Lin Minwang, deputy director at the Center for South Asian Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times on Sunday.

In an exclusive interview with US magazine Newsweek in April, Modi stated that for India, the relationship with China is important and significant.

Modi also noted that stable and peaceful relations between India and China are important for not just the two countries but the entire region and world.

► Extreme heat stress



A man carries a child whose head is covered with a towel to protect it from the heat in Jammu, India, on June 2, 2024. India has been experiencing a blisteringly hot summer and a part of capital New Delhi recorded the country's highest ever temperature at 52.9 C, Reuters reported. The heatwave has claimed over 45 lives in the past 36 hours, Business Standard reported Saturday. Photo: VCG

Zelensky attends Shangri-La Dialogue; Asian states should 'avoid similar confrontation trap'

By GT staff reporters

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's attendance of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore should remind Asian countries to not fall for a similar trap that the Ukraine had fallen into as the instigation of the US for bloc confrontation in Asia is dangerous, experts said.

The Ukrainian President's participation in the Shangri-La Dialogue is the first in the history of the dialogue, Lieutenant General He Lei, former vice president of the Academy

of Military Sciences of the PLA, told the Global Times on Saturday at the venue of the Dialogue. "During the intense conflict between Russia and Ukraine, President Zelensky's personal participation in the Shangri-La Dialogue is of significance," he said.

"China does not want to see war between these two countries," he said.

He noted that since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, China has consistently adhered to the policy of "urging peace and promoting dialogue,"

hoping that the conflicting parties will reach a cease-fire as soon as possible.

He pointed out that "urging peace and promoting dialogue" is the most feasible way to resolve the conflict, rather than, like some countries did, harboring sinister motives, exacerbating the situation, and stoking chaos in the world and engaging in "proxy wars."

This will only make it difficult for the conflicting parties to stop and talk, which is a scenario and outcome that we do not want to see, he said.

On Sunday, Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun emphasized at the Dialogue that China maintains a responsible and impartial stance in the conflicts in Ukraine and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, is committed to promoting peace and dialogue, and strictly controls the export of military-civilian dual-use goods.

Zelensky's participation in the Dialogue seems more like a Western attempt to involve Asian countries in the Ukrainian crisis, observers said. Asian countries should see Ukraine

as a cautionary tale, they said.

"The Shangri-La Dialogue is supposed to be a conference where China and the US, as well as other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, seek consensus among their militaries to avoid conflicts in the region," Cui Heng, a scholar from the Shanghai-based China National Institute for SCO International Exchange and Judicial Cooperation, told Global Times.

