



US defames China with Volt Typhoon falsehood

Labeling Volt Typhoon as a China-sponsored actor has been found to be an underhanded campaign by the US to hype the "China threat" rhetoric: report **3**

China, Germany to boost green cooperation

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's high-profile visit to three Chinese cities sends a strong signal of the restoration of China-Germany relations **10**

Paris Book Festival gateway for Chinese culture to go global

Salons and promotional activities were held by Chinese publishers during the Paris Book Festival, the latest event marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France **14**



Israel's response may trigger cycle of retaliatory strikes with Iran

By GT staff reporters

The eyes of the world are fixed on Israel as it contemplates its response to Iran's retaliatory attacks following Israel's bombing of the Iranian embassy buildings.

Chinese experts warn that Israel's response could trigger a dangerous cycle of retaliatory strikes between the two countries, destabilizing the Gulf region and worsening the overall security situation in the Middle East. However, a full-scale war between Israel and Iran is not imminent, they predicted.

The current conflict between Iran and Israel has also exposed growing divergencies between Israel and the US, said Chinese experts. Israel's self-willed behavior has clearly disrupted the Biden administration's international and Middle East strategies, as well as the domestic arrangements for the presidential election, and their disagreement will widen as conflicts in the Middle East drag on.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday warned members not to further escalate tensions with reprisals against Iran.

"The Middle East is on the brink. The people of the region are confronting a real danger of a devastating full-scale conflict. Now is the time to defuse and de-escalate," Guterres told a meeting of the UN Security Council, held after Iran launched military strike against Israeli territory.

Dai Bing, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN, called on relevant parties at the meeting to exercise maximum calm and restraint. "If the flames of the Gaza conflict are allowed to con-

Purchasers and exhibitors crowd the exhibition venue of the 135th session of the Canton Fair in Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province, on April 15, 2024. Over 60,000 global purchasers showed up on the first day of the fair. Photo: VCG

China shares its opening-up dividend with the world

Canton Fair to meet global demand, bring opportunities

By Chi Jingyi in Guangzhou

Purchasers were seen carrying luggage, exchanging name cards when passing by each other, and rushing through the exhibition halls of the Canton Fair on Monday morning, the first day of the 135th session of China's landmark trade fair, which will run until May 5.

GTECONOMIC OUTLOOK

On the first day of the 135th session of the China Import and Export Fair, commonly known as the Canton Fair, over 60,000 global purchasers visited the physical exhibition halls. By Sunday, more than

149,000 purchasers from 215 countries and regions had registered to visit the 135th session of Canton Fair, up 17.4 percent from the 134th session held in October and November 2023, the Global Times learned from the fair organizer.

With an exhibition area of 1.55 million square meters, the fair accommodates 28,600 en-

terprises attending the export exhibition and 680 firms attending the import exhibition.

One buyer from Brazil bringing a huge suitcase with him, was rushing to the exhibition hall for the new-energy vehicles (NEVs).

"The suitcase is used to hold exhibi-

2 Greener See also Page 5

2 US See also Page 6

Greener, smarter goods mirror country's industrial upgrading

► Canton, from Page 1

tors' brochures and business cards. I'm planning to take about 80 booklets today, which is a heavy burden if I carry them by hand," the buyer, who was in too much of a hurry to share his name, told the Global Times on Monday.

While experienced purchasers from all over the world attending the Canton Fair are trying to improve their efficiency, David Beschäftigt, a first-time Canton Fair participant from Germany, and his peers, were dazzled by the millions of products on display.

"We're looking for products that are great for selling to customers in Germany," said Beschäftigt, a representative of an e-commerce platform. "It's very big here. We first look with our eyes, touch the things and check the quality. And then we can do some research if the products are interesting to sell and whether we can make profit," Beschäftigt said.

They are among the global purchasers at the Canton Fair hoping to explore the latest high-quality products for global customers.

Helpful, open to all

Exhibitors said that attending the 135th Canton Fair helps enterprises grab global orders, expand the market and help consolidate China's foreign trade and foreign investment.

"We export about \$30-50 million worth of electric bicycles to the world every year, mainly to Europe and North America," Eddie Xu, sales manager at Jinhua-based Yongkang Lohas Vehicle Co, told the Global Times on Monday at the Canton Fair.

Xu said the company attends many exhibitions domestically and

overseas, but the Canton Fair is the most effective one as it targets the largest customer group.

Lu Aohua, sales manager at Ji'nan-based Gweike Tech Co, echoed Xu by saying that the exhibition halls of some expos overseas are relatively small, as are the number of visitors.

"But the Canton Fair is different. It is large, and the categories of products on display are comprehensive. It's easy to set up contacts with upstream and downstream enterprises, which makes potential customer exploration easier," Lu told the Global Times on Monday at the fair.

Gweike, a manufacturer of laser cutting machines, exports about 1.2 billion yuan (\$166 million) worth of products annually, mainly to the US, Turkey, Russia, Italy and some South American countries, according to Lu.

Lu also said that he feels a larger crowd of overseas purchasers have come to this edition of the Canton Fair than at the 134th session held in October and November in 2023.

Many other exhibitors shared the same feeling. One salesperson at Supcon Chemical Industry Indonesia told the Global Times that she is already exhausted from having received some 60 batches of customers by 2 pm on Monday.

The fair is now open to all, so global exporters and importers can enjoy the dividends of China's opening-up.

Transformation and upgrading

The Canton Fair used to mainly showcase consumer goods, but in recent years, the proportion of intermediate and capital goods on display has increased to 12 percent. In the machinery exhibition area where capital goods are concentrated, the number of booths has increased by more than

50 percent in the past five years.

Capital goods and intermediate goods are becoming more and more important in the Canton Fair, through which China provides the world with a large number of high-quality products with strong competitiveness and stable supply. This has helped all countries and regions, especially developing countries, achieve industrialization and enhanced the resilience and stability of industrial and supply chains in the world.

The Canton Fair released on Friday a survey of exhibitors, which showed that more than 80 percent of them know more suppliers through the Canton Fair, 64 percent of exhibitors found more suitable supporting services providers, and 62 percent of exhibitors obtained more efficient production alternatives.

Consumer goods displayed at the Canton Fair are also smarter and greener, showcasing the country's advanced manufacturing level.

There are more than 90,000 intelligent products such as brain-computer interface bionic hands, automatic navigation and transportation equipment, and artificial intelligence (AI) translation machines. More than 50 percent of exhibitors are actively applying digital technologies such as AI and big data analysis to transform production and operation.

Over 1 million new products are expected to be showcased at the first phase of the 135th session of Canton Fair, from Monday to Friday, themed "advanced manufacturing." Of these, 450,000 are green and low-carbon items and more than 250,000 are products with independent intellectual properties, the Global Times learned from the Canton Fair organizer.

US, Israel divergencies grow as Middle East conflicts drag on: experts

► Israel's, from Page 1

tinue raging, then the adverse spillover is set to spread still further, making the region even more unstable," said Dai.

"We have also noted that Iran stated that its military action was in response to Israel's aggression against its diplomatic premises and the matter can be deemed concluded," Dai said.

Zhai Jun, special envoy of the Chinese government on Middle East issues, met with Ambassador of Israel to China Irit Ben-Abba Vitale on Monday. Zhai said China believes that the shedding of blood in the conflict does not serve the interests of any party. All relevant parties should maintain maximum calm and restraint.

The immediate priority is to achieve an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip, ensure humanitarian assistance, release all detained individuals as soon as possible, and achieve a political solution to the Palestinian issue based on the "two-state solution," allowing Israel and Palestine to peacefully coexist, said Zhai.

Iran reportedly launched over 300 drones and missiles at Israel on Saturday night, after Teheran vowed earlier to retaliate for an Israeli strike on its Damascus consulate on April 1 that killed seven Revolutionary Guards officers including two senior commanders, Reuters reported.

Israel's five-person war cabinet failed to reach a decision after over three hours of deliberations on Sunday afternoon as to how the country would respond to Iran's retaliatory attack, according to The Times of Israel.

However, the Israeli media reported that an Israeli official said "there will be a response," while the NBC network quoted an official source in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office as saying that while a decision has yet to be made, "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will need to present options" and that "it is clear that Israel will respond."

Iran's attack can be seen as the first time when Israel has been hit by such long-range attacks since its founding, which has strongly stimulated Israel. Therefore, when Israel says it will respond, it is not just talk, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University. Liu said he believes that even if the two countries won't go so far as to all-front war, it is difficult to avoid this cycle of retaliatory strikes between the two.

However, Liu said that the possibility of a full-scale war breaking out between the two sides or triggering another Middle East war is still relatively low. However, the dilemma of US Middle East policy will indeed be further exacerbated by the escalation of the Iran-Israel conflict, said Liu.

Leaders of the G7 countries condemned Iran's attack on Israel and said on Sunday they would try to prevent an "uncontrollable regional escalation" in the Middle East.

The G7 leaders, who spoke for just under an hour on a video conference, called for Iran to exercise restraint. They said, "in this spirit, we demand that Iran and its proxies cease their attacks, and we stand ready to take further measures now and in response to further destabilizing initiatives," the Reuters reported.

US President Joe Biden has warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the US will not take part in a counter-offensive against Iran if Israel decides to retaliate.

The reactions from both the US and Iran indicate that Israel has failed to escalate tensions between the US and Iran in order to tie Washington tight to the Middle East, experts said.

► The trial

Former US president Donald Trump (left) arrives at Manhattan criminal court with his legal team on April 15, 2024, in New York. The hush money trial of Trump begins Monday with jury selection. It's a singular moment for American history as the first criminal trial of a former US commander in chief. Photo: VCG

