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How was China 'land grabbing' fallacy created

Some US politicians defame Chinese investment with 'land grabbing' fallacy. How did this new round of cognitive war against China come into being? **8-9**

China still 'best place to invest' for global firms

The business performances of foreign companies in China are particularly impressive. More foreign companies are coming to invest in the Chinese market. **10**

'Pipa Goddess' shows elegance and fun of traditional music

Pipa Goddess Zhao Cong shared stories of her ties with this traditional stringed instrument and, as a music diplomat, how she uses it to convey the beauty of Chinese folk music to the world. **14-15**

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Safeguarding peace



Chinese warships arrive in waters near Chabahar, Iran, on March 11, 2024. The navies of China, Iran, and Russia are holding joint naval drills in the Gulf of Oman from March 11 to 15, the Ministry of National Defense of China announced on Monday (See stories on Pages 4 and 5). Photo: YCG

China calls for cease-fire as Gaza conflict defies Ramadan

By Yang Sheng and Du Qiongfang

A cease-fire in Gaza has not materialized despite the arrival of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, with international concerns over the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis ramping up. China on Tuesday called for an immediate cease-fire and ensuring access to humanitarian aid for the people in the region.

Chinese analysts said the conflict will likely continue, and even though both Israel and Hamas are tired, neither side can find an acceptable way out to end the war. The US-led mediation was unfair to the Palestinians because a "temporary cease-fire" based on prisoner swaps is unreliable and unsustainable. The US' unilateral approach and vetoes of a cease-fire, have derailed UN Security Council mechanisms, which means that the conflict will continue.

Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said at a routine press conference on Tuesday that "The current round of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has lasted for more than five months, exceeding the duration of all Middle East wars except the first one, resulting in a particularly high number of deaths, especially among civilians, surpassing all previous Middle East conflicts."

According to the latest data provided by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, since the beginning of the conflict on October 7, 2023, more than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed, and about 71,377 have been injured, mostly civilians.

▶ US 'outcompete' claims are a gamble even risking future of humanity: FM

Beijing denounces Washington's push for major-country contest

By Wang Cong and Zhang Weilan

China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday excoriated a series of US' latest maneuvers that Washington says aim to "out-compete China," warning that the US' engagement in malign competition puts the fundamental interests of the Chinese

and US peoples and even the future of mankind at stake and will only push the two countries toward confrontation and conflict.

US officials have in recent days stepped up efforts to crack down on and contain China on multiple fronts – from requesting additional funds to "out-compete China" and arm the is-

land of Taiwan to trying to lure Asian countries into its tech restrictions against China. All these moves are bad for China-US bilateral ties, the Asia-Pacific region and the entire world, Chinese experts warned.

Chinese officials and experts further pointed out that the US' focus on major-country contest, politicization of economic and

trade issues, and interference in other countries' internal affairs will not only fail to help address a litany of problems within the US but will actually backfire on the US itself.

Vicious competition

Commenting on the US' budget for the 2025 fiscal year,



'Zero-sum moves won't address US' issues, will backfire'

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which includes funds to "outcompete China" and arm China's Taiwan region on Tuesday. Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, reiterated that competition is not the true nature of China-US ties and major-country contest will not address problems faced by China and the US.

The US' attempt to "outcompete China" is not benign competition, but vicious competition, in which the US sets up traps for the competitor at every turn, Wang said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday.

"It is an unrestrained gamble that puts the fundamental interests of people of the two countries and even the future of humanity at stake, and it will only push China and the US toward confrontation and conflict," he said.

The US administration's budget request for the 2025 fiscal year includes \$4 billion over five years in mandatory funding so as to "employ all the tools at our disposal to outcompete China." The budget request also includes a "first-time funding request" of \$500 million to replenish weapons that would be provided to Taiwan, media reported.

Wang on Tuesday also stated China's firm opposition to military ties between the US and the island of Taiwan and the US' attempt to arm the island.

"We urge the US to abide by the one-China principle and stop interfering in China's internal affairs. China will take measures to firmly safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

In addition to its budget request, the US government has also stepped up efforts that are apparently aimed at further intensifying its technological crackdown campaign against China.

While leading a US business delegation to the Philippines, US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo signaled that the US "will do whatever it takes" to crack down on China's technological capabilities, Bloomberg reported on Monday.

In the Philippines, Raimondo announced that US companies are set to announce investments totaling more than \$1 billion in the Philippines, according to Reuters. The US Commerce Secretary said the US' commitment to expanding trade and investment in the Philippines also extends to "the larger Indo-Pacific region," even as she reiterated that the US is not seeking to decouple from China.

"This is another vivid manifestation of the US engaging in the so-called major-country contest," Diao Daming, a professor at the Renmin University of China in Beijing, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Diao said that while it is up to the US business community to decide on their own how it forms business strategies, it is clear that the US government is actually engaging in major-country contest out of political and strategic considerations and is pushing for a decouple under the guise of de-risking.

Danger for world

The US government's engagement in zero-sum major-country contest will not only risk confrontation between the world's two biggest economies, but also draw more countries in the region and around the world into bloc confrontation, at a time when the world needs cooperation the most, Chinese experts noted.

Further underscoring Washington's intensifying campaign to contain China in a major-country contest, the US government is also pushing its allies, including the Netherlands, Germany, South Korea and Japan, to tighten chip restrictions against China, and is considering adding another Chinese chipmaker, ChangXin Memory Technologies Inc, to its so-called entity list, Bloomberg said.

The latest moves by the US reflect "politicians' mentality in pushing for a decoupling from China," Li Yong, a senior research fellow from the China Association of International Trade, told

the Global Times on Tuesday, noting that US politicians' tactic of blatantly interfering in businesses is absurd and will not serve their own political purposes. "Using a politicized means to promote business competition is not competition at all."

US politicians' intensifying crackdown and containment campaign against China reflect mounting domestic woes within the US, including its evaporating economic and technological dominance globally, that the country cannot address in any effective manner due to partisan divisions and dysfunctions of the government, according to Chinese analysts.

"The Biden administration seeks to bolster the US' competitiveness by cracking down on China and rectifying its domestic development woes by hyping the so-called external threats. Such a tactic may gain consensus in certain areas in the short term, but it cannot solve the root causes," Diao said, stressing that the US approach of "treating its internal wounds externally" will not work.

More importantly, such an attempt will not contain China's economic and technological rise, as businesses, including US companies, driven by market forces not politics, will continue to invest and operate in the Chinese market, experts said.

Greater intl pressure needed as US' repeated vetoes derail UNSC mechanism

► China, from Page 1

More than 1,200 Israelis were killed, and about 5,432 injured. The UN estimates that about 17 million people are displaced in Gaza.

"The killing of Gaza civilians must stop, the injustice toward the Palestinian people must be corrected, and the double standards in dealing with human rights and international humanitarian law must be abandoned," Wang said.

The international community must act urgently to set the immediate cease-fire as an overwhelming priority and the humanitarian aid in Gaza as a pressing moral responsibility, the spokesperson urged.

Hard to find way out

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that "Even though Ramadan has begun, the killing, bombing and bloodshed continue in Gaza... My strongest appeal today is to honor the spirit of Ramadan by silencing the guns and removing all obstacles to ensure the delivery of lifesaving aid at the speed and massive scale required."

All remaining Israeli hostages or prisoners taken by Hamas must be released immediately too, the UN chief said, noting that the "catastrophic Israeli



Delegates to the Security Council gather at the United Nations Headquarters on March 11, 2024 in New York City, to discuss the situation in the Middle East including steps needed for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. Photo: VCG

onslaught in Gaza" is now in its sixth month.

Egypt, Qatar and the US had sought to broker a truce between Israel and Hamas before the start of Ramadan on Monday, and there had been optimism for a last-minute deal that would allow for the release of some Israeli hostages held in Gaza and Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. The New York Times reported on Sunday.

But weeks of indirect nego-

tiations have stalled, and a top Hamas political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, said in a televised speech on Sunday that Hamas wanted an agreement that would end the war, guarantee the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, return displaced Palestinians to their homes and provide for the humanitarian needs of Gazans.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he intends to press ahead with an

invasion of the city of Rafah on the southern border of the Gaza Strip in defiance of US President Joe Biden, who has warned such an offensive would be a "red line." Netanyahu blames Hamas for not releasing Israeli hostages, Politico reported on Sunday.

As to why the US-proposed deal has failed to reach a halt in hostilities, Mei Hualong, an assistant professor at Peking University on Middle East studies,

said the deal was unfair for the Palestinians so Hamas believes they would rather continue the fight to let Israel keep suffering from the pressure.

"If Gaza's border remained blockaded by Israel during the pause while Israeli forces receive further supplies from the US that will enable them to restart the conflict and cause more bloodshed, it would not be a fair deal for Hamas and the people in Gaza, and this is why the US was unable to broker a deal," Mei noted.

Unfortunately, during this process, the UN Security Council cannot play an effective role as long as the US continues with its stance and approach for mediation, said Liu Zhongrui, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

While on the surface the issue of a Gaza cease-fire is causing tensions between Biden and Netanyahu, the US has also repeatedly vetoed resolutions for immediate cease-fire proposed by many countries in the UN Security Council, giving Israel the green light to continue its deadly operations in Gaza, Liu noted.

