

Philippines' hypes on PLA drills a political stunt: expert FM warns Manila not to 'play with fire' on Taiwan question

By Liu Xin and Yu Xi

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun on Wednesday urged certain people in the Philippines to refrain from making provocations and playing with fire on the Taiwan question, stressing that resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese people that no one can interfere.

The remark came after Philippine Armed Forces chief General Romeo Brawner Jr. on Tuesday told troops at the Northern Luzon Command to "prepare for any eventuality" such as the "invasion" of Taiwan. He also claimed that "if something happens to Taiwan, inevitably we will be involved," according to Philippine Daily Inquirer on Wednesday.

Guo urged certain people in the Philippines to refrain from making provocations and playing with fire on the Taiwan question. "Those who play with fire will perish by it. We also oppose relevant personnel calling

white black and making groundless accusations," said Guo.

Chinese experts also slammed the Philippine military chief's hypes of reflecting Manila's self-serving motives to draw greater attention in the South China Sea and seek more backing from Washington.

The PLA Eastern Theater Command on Tuesday started joint exercises around Taiwan island. The drills serve as a stern warning and forceful deterrent against "Taiwan independence" separatist forces and are a legitimate and necessary action to safeguard China's sovereignty and unity, Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesperson for the theater command, said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Philippines is using the so-called "emergency" in the Taiwan Straits to stoke regional tensions and create a pretext for interfering in China's internal affairs, Ge Hongliang, vice dean of the ASEAN College at Guangxi Minzu University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

While the Philippine military chief claimed he was not being "alarmist," such remarks are, in essence, alarmist and politically motivated, aimed at portraying the Taiwan question as a regional flashpoint to justify any external interventions, Ge said.

Analysts also noted that the Philippines is using this narrative to draw greater attention and support from the US. Despite recent visits by the US defense secretary, Manila remains unsatisfied with Washington's stance and aims to seek more military support and security assurances.

Xu Liping, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Wednesday that Brawner's remarks are little more than political stunt intended to attract public attention.

By hyping up the so-called "protection" of Filipino citizens in Taiwan island, Manila is seeking to appeal to certain voter groups and rally public support, said Xu.

US imposes Iran-related sanctions on China, UAE-based entities; move 'to worsen' nuke issue

By Chen Qingqing and Yu Xi

The US on Tuesday local time imposed sanctions on six entities and two individuals in Iran, the United Arab Emirates and China whom it accused of being part of an Iranian weapons procurement network, as the US government seeks to ramp up pressure on Iran, Reuters reported.

A Chinese expert warned that sanctions are not a solution to the Iran nuclear issue; on the contrary, they will further deteriorate the situation and fuel anti-American sentiment in the region. The expert stressed that China has been consistently voicing opposition toward the US unilateral sanctions on Iran and dialogue remains the only viable solution.

US Treasury Secretary imposed the sanctions on those entities and individuals, accusing them of responsibility for procurement of unmanned aerial vehicle components on behalf of a leading manufacturer for Iran's drone program, according to a statement published on its official website on Tuesday.

China-based motor manufacturer Zibo Shenbo Machineelectronics Co Ltd was listed among the sanctioned entities.

"If sanctions are used as a means to resolve the Iran nuclear issue, it will only lead to an escalation of tensions," Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The US has imposed sanctions, including secondary sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, on Iran for many years. However, the results have been far from effective – in fact, the Iran nuclear issue has only intensified, Sun said, noting that dialogue remains the only viable solution.

The latest sanctions were imposed amid escalating tensions between Washington and Teheran, as the US President Donald Trump threatened Iran on Sunday with bombing and secondary tariffs if Tehran did not come to an agreement with Washington over its nuclear program.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei warned on Monday that any "wicked" action by the US or Israel against Tehran would be met with a forceful retaliation, according to the Xinhua News Agency report.

Both the US and Iran have a need to reach an agreement, but they remain deeply divided on core demands. The latest sanctions will undoubtedly further deepen strategic mistrust between the two countries regarding the Iran nuclear issue, Liu Zhongmin, a professor from the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Border book ban



A "Do not enter" sign is displayed on April 1, 2025, outside of the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, which is built on the border between the US and Canada. Since its founding, library card holders from Canada have been able to use the library's front door in the US without passing through an official international border crossing. The Trump administration, however, announced that this policy is set to change on October 1, 2025. Photo: VCG

China dispatches largest rescue team, saves nine survivors in Myanmar earthquake

By GT staff reporters

As of Wednesday, China has rescued nine survivors from the deadly earthquake in Myanmar and has sent the largest number of rescue teams and personnel to assist in local disaster relief efforts, according to data released by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) on Wednesday.

China will also dispatch two expert teams for post-disaster

epidemic prevention and loss assessment, a spokesperson from the agency said.

The Chinese rescue team successfully extricated a male survivor at a hotel on Wednesday afternoon in Mandalay, marking the ninth survivor saved by China, the Xinhua News Agency reported. The man, an employee of the E-outfitting Golden Country Hotel, had been trapped for over 120 hours and was in stable condition when rescued.

Li Ming, spokesperson for the CIDCA, told a press conference on Wednesday that under joint efforts, China was the first country to announce emergency assistance to Myanmar, the first to dispatch rescue teams, and the first to rescue earthquake survivors.

Southwest China's Yunnan Province, which neighbors the Southeast Asian country, sent medical teams to Myanmar just 18 hours after the earthquake. With over 500 rescuers, China

is the country with the largest number of teams and personnel dispatched to Myanmar, Li said.

In addition, the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), in collaboration with Nay Pu Town and Aung Thuka Temple in Mandalay, has built a temporary settlement community.

This is the first temporary settlement community funded by a Chinese social organization following the earthquake,

the Global Times learned.

In a video recorded by a Global Times reporter on site, two little girls are playing, hopping and laughing in the tent hand in hand. In another video, a local resident clasped her hands to the camera, while expressing gratitude for letting her family have a proper place to stay.

