



### A day with a foreign legislative info collector

"Here in China, I can truly feel that the government is listening to the people's voices," said Pattarada, a foreign legislative information collector in Chongqing **8-9**

### Chinese NEVs reshape global auto landscape

China's NEV sector has achieved leapfrog growth in recent years, with some Western observers crediting the miracle to factors including long-term planning **12-13**

### Beijing introduces new Great Wall Protection Regulations

Sunday brought game-changing Great Wall protection laws – blending tech like electronic fences with dynamic access, transforming how Beijing guards its iconic world heritage site **16**



Mourners hold pictures of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at Enqelab Square in Tehran on March 1, 2026 after local media confirmed his death. Photo: VCG

### Philippine vessel makes risky bow-crossing near Huangyan Dao

By Feng Fan and Liang Rui

In the blue waters of the South China Sea, a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel was seen cruising at high speed when, from its port bow, a Philippine ship altered course to the right, cutting across the front of the Chinese vessel at close range, disregarding the risk of a potentially fatal collision. The scene comes from exclusive footage obtained by the Global Times on Sunday of the incident that occurred on Friday.

The Philippine vessel, hull number 3004, operated by the country's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), was navigating near China's Huangyan Dao when it dangerously crossed the bow of a CCG ship. The maneuver was widely viewed as provocative and posed serious risks to maritime navigation safety. The video once again shows the Philippine side interfering with the CCG's regular law-enforcement patrols in waters near Huangyan Dao, Chinese experts said.

The footage stands in contrast to earlier remarks by Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesperson Jay Tarriela, who claimed that PCG and BFAR vessels deployed in the area were there to "promote peace, stability and rule of law." Experts noted that the on-site situation documented in the video does not align with that characterization.

#### Dangerous provocation

Chen Xiangmiao, a research fellow at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, told the Global Times after reviewing the footage that the Philippine vessel's act of crossing in front of a CCG ship

► Strike could draw US into escalation beyond control: expert

# China condemns killing of Iran's Supreme Leader

By GT staff reporters

China on Sunday strongly condemned the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, calling the move "a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and security."

The US-Israeli strikes against Iran have drawn widespread attention and condemnation from international ob-

servers and media outlets, with Al Jazeera describing them as "the most aggressive escalation yet of US reliance on military force to pressure foreign governments."

Chinese experts warned that the operation represents a high-stakes gamble that could draw Washington into a prolonged and widening crisis it may struggle to control. They

also warned that the US' killing of another country's leader, if becoming a pattern of behavior, would further complicate the global security landscape and provoke even more extreme acts of retaliation.

A spokesperson with the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Sunday in a statement that the attack and killing of Iran's supreme leader is a grave viola-

tion of Iran's sovereignty and security. It tramples on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and basic norms in international relations.

"China firmly opposes and strongly condemns it. We urge for an immediate stop to the military operations, no further escalation of the tense situation and joint effort to main-

## Fresh semester



Students greet their teacher at the gate of an elementary school in Chaoyang district, Beijing on March 1, 2026, which marks the end of the winter holidays and the start of a new semester for some schools. Photo: Liu Yang/GT

## Chinese embassies in Middle East help Chinese in Iran evacuate

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tain peace and stability in the Middle East and the world at large," read the statement.

Iran confirmed early Sunday that its Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was killed in US-Israeli airstrikes the previous day, Xinhua said, citing local media reports.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Sunday. "It is unacceptable for the US and Israel to launch strikes on Iran during the Iran-US negotiations. It is also unacceptable for them to openly kill the leader of a sovereign state and encourage government transfer," Wang told Lavrov.

Wang outlined China's position on the situation: an immediate cessation of military operations, a prompt return to dialogue and negotiations, and a joint opposition to unilateral actions, per Xinhua.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), in a statement, offered its condolences and vowed that the Iranian nation would exact "a hard, decisive, and regret-inducing" punishment on the "murderers."

US President Donald Trump responded on his Truth Social platform that "they better not do that, however, because if they do, we will hit them with a force that has never been seen before!"

There has been Chinese nationals injured in the attacks, and some temporary travelers are stranded locally, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Sunday evening.

The ministry reminded that Chinese citizens should closely monitor developments in the situation and temporarily avoid traveling to countries and regions around Iran that have been affected by military actions.

The Chinese Embassy in Israel on Sunday also issued a notice regarding the registration for relocation and evacuation of Chinese nationals in Israel after the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran. Multiple embassies in the Middle East, including those in Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Iraq, have issued notices for Chinese nationals who seek to evacuate from Iran to these countries.

### Obvious motive

Global Times reporters noticed on Sunday afternoon that the Iranian national flag was flown at half-mast at the Iranian Embassy in China. Just 200 meters from the embassy, a 73-year-old man surnamed Luo told the Global Times that the strike on Iran is just the US trying to control the Middle East. "For its own national interests, it [US] supports Israel. If Iran is brought down, then Israel would have no real rival in the region. That is what serves America's interests in the Middle East," Luo said.

The Kremlin on Sunday published on its website a condolence message written by Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Iranian President. Putin expressed "deepest condolences" to Masoud Pezeshkian, condemning the "cynical violation of all norms of human morality and international law" in the killing of Ali Khamenei and members of his family.

The Trump administration and Israel conducted their strikes as part of their efforts to push Iranians to overthrow their country's system, according to US media Politico.

Strategically, Trump may seek to deliver maximum pressure and damage against Iran while avoiding entanglement in a prolonged conflict or ground war, attempting instead to manage the confrontation through what could be described as "controlled escalation." However, whether the US can truly keep the pace and scope of escalation under control remains highly uncertain, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

The US move represents a blatant display of hegemonism, Tian Wenlin, a professor at the School of International Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times.

Wang Yi, during his phone conversation with Lavrov, urged that the international community should send a clear and unequivocal message against the world regressing to the law of the jungle.

Should this "law of the jungle" harden into precedent, the basic machinery of the international order would begin to erode, Tian said, noting that the current situation only further underscores the importance of China-proposed Global Security Initiative, which emphasizes abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and calls for peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation.

## Move reflects rising maritime provocations from Manila: expert

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violated relevant international maritime rules and navigation regulations. He described it as an irregular and dangerous maneuver highly likely to trigger accidents such as collisions.

"On one hand, such behavior appears to be predicated on the assumption that the Chinese side would not ram their vessel, which constitutes a provocation. On the other hand, if a collision were to occur, the Philippine side could seize the opportunity to hype up so-called 'China threat' narratives in the region," Chen said.

The Friday incident coincided with Tarriela's social media posts. He claimed that multiple PCG and BFAR vessels had headed to Huangyan Dao and Xianbin Jiao to distribute fuel, ice and food packs to fishing boats, asserting that the operation was meant to assert the nation's rights "without provocation." However, experts said the footage suggests otherwise.

According to Yang Xiao, a maritime affairs expert at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, the Philippine side deliberately dispatched BFAR and PCG vessels to circle Huangyan Dao, while coordinating with the countries' fishing vessels to draw international attention and stage a provocation.

"Faced with such provocations, China has sufficient capability to exercise control in waters near Huangyan Dao. At the same time, despite holding an absolute advantage, the Chinese side has maintained professionalism and restraint, operating strictly in accordance with procedures and preserving evidence," Yang said.

### 'Joint patrols'

The US, Japan, and the Philippines held a so-called joint military exercise from February 20 to 26 in the South China Sea, the Philippines' armed forces claimed in a statement on Friday.

On Saturday, naval and air units of the PLA Southern Theater Command conducted readiness patrols in the territorial sea and airspace of China's Huangyan Dao and its surrounding areas. The Chinese patrols were said to "respond to the so-called joint patrols by relevant countries," according to a statement from the PLA Southern Theater Command.

The Philippines has repeatedly conducted so-called multilateral training exercises with the US, Japan and other countries in the South China Sea, partly in response to domestic dissatisfaction over China's effective control of Huangyan Dao and its adjacent waters, Chen noted.

Following China's establishment of the Huangyan Dao national nature reserve in 2025 and a series of measures to strengthen controls in the region, China has further reinforced its governance and control over Huangyan Dao and the broader South China Sea, Chen said.

A statement released on Saturday by the official WeChat account of the PLA Southern Theater Command reiterated that Huangyan Dao is an inalienable part of China's territory. Since February, naval and air units of the Southern Theater Command have enhanced readiness patrols in the territorial sea and airspace of Huangyan Dao and surrounding areas.

Such patrols serve as effective countermeasures against various rights violations and provocative acts, including the so-called joint patrols by relevant countries, and are aimed at resolutely safeguarding China's territorial sovereignty and upholding peace and stability in the South China Sea.

