



## Canada's finance chief reportedly to visit China

This visit builds on Canadian PM Carney's visit to China in January. Experts say this follow-up trip highlights financial ties, boosting trade cooperation **3**

## March factory PMI rise indicates momentum

China's manufacturing PMI rose to 50.4 in March, indicating improving economic activity, which was attributed to factors such as fast expansion in high-tech industries **10**

## Is Hainan's customs closure taking others' slice of the pie?

Facts show that Hainan's customs closure is not taking anyone's share, but rather creating incremental growth for the regional economy and expanding the size of the "pie" **5**

### Mega excavator



The mega-diameter shield tunneling machine "Fenji" was launched in the Tongzhou Bay Demonstration Zone, Nantong, East China's Jiangsu Province on March 31, 2026. With a total length of 145 meters and a weight of about 3,800 tons, the machine boasts a cutterhead diameter of 14.33 meters and is equipped with multiple intelligent systems, according to media reports. Photo: cnsphoto

## ▶ Timely strategic communication 'embodies essence of ties' China, Pakistan issue proposals on Gulf, Middle East situation

By Shen Sheng

China and Pakistan put forward five proposals on restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East during talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Beijing on Tuesday.

The proposals are immediately ceasing hostilities, initiating peace talks as soon as possible, ensuring the safety of non-military targets, ensuring the safety of navigation, and safeguarding the primacy of the UN Charter, according to

the Xinhua.

During the meeting, Wang said that after hosting a quadrilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad, the Pakistani side came straight to Beijing without pause to jointly discuss how to ease tensions in the Middle East, which China welcomes.

"Pakistan's efforts to shuttle between parties to promote peace and end the fighting demonstrate its firm commitment to safeguarding regional and global peace. The timely strategic communication between China and Pakistan on major international and

## Japan's missile deployment 'eyes China,' violates defense principle

By Zhang Wanshi, Liu Xuanzun and Xing Xiaojing

Standing behind temporary barricades outside the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's (JGSDF) Camp Kengun in Kumamoto on Tuesday, a group of Japanese protesters hoisted placards bearing a simple yet firm message: "We don't need missiles."

The demonstration marks a flashpoint in a fiercely debated pivot in Japan, as Tokyo is deploying long-range missiles under Japan's so-called enemy base strike capabilities—a controversial expansion of military power that stretches the historical limits of its pacifist constitution.

According to the Asahi Shimbun, the newly deployed arsenal includes the upgraded Type 12 surface-to-ship missile, a weapon boasting a 1,000-kilometer range that is capable of reaching China's coastal areas and waters around the Taiwan island, and the Hyper Velocity Gliding Projectile for island defense at Camp Fuji in Shizuoka.

According to a post by JGSDF on Tuesday, both weapons were given new official names, the Type-25 Surface-to-Ship guided Missile (25SSM) and Type-25 Hyper velocity Gliding Projectile (25HGP).

Japan has acquired such enemy base attack capability for the first time, Kyodo News reported on Tuesday, adding that the move aims "to strengthen the so-called deterrence against China."

This also marks a major turning point in Japan's defense policy, which has long been based on Japan's "exclusively defense-oriented policy," Asahi Shimbun claimed.

## ▶ Cherry delight



Tourists enjoy cherry blossoms in a cherry garden in Jianhu County, Yancheng City, East China's Jiangsu Province, on March 31, 2026. Photo: VCG

## Proposals provide roadmap for resolving crisis: expert

▶ China, from Page 1

regional issues and the deepening of strategic coordination embody the essence of the China-Pakistan community with a shared future. China supports and looks forward to Pakistan playing a unique and important role in de-escalating tensions and restoring peace talks. This process will not be easy, but Pakistan's mediation efforts are in line with the common interests of all parties," Wang said.

### Calls for cease-fire

China and Pakistan are calling for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the fighting, and for all-out efforts to prevent further escalation and spill-over of the conflict, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

The two sides also noted that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and security of Iran and Gulf countries should be respected. Dialogue and diplomacy are the only viable way to resolve conflicts.

In addition, China and Pakistan called on all parties to immediately cease attacks against civilians and non-military targets, fully comply with international humanitarian law, and stop attacks on key infrastructure such as energy facilities, desalination plants, power systems and peaceful nuclear facilities including nuclear power plants.

In terms of the Strait of Hormuz, China and Pakistan call on all parties to ensure the safety of vessels and crews stranded within the Strait, arrange for the safe and prompt passage of civilian and commercial ships, and restore normal navigation in the Strait as soon as possible.

Advocating strengthening the

UN's role, the two countries said they support reaching agreements based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law to establish a comprehensive framework for peace and achieve lasting peace.

Zhu Yongbiao, director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at Lanzhou University, told the Global Times that the proposals highlight the special nature of China-Pakistan relations and the high degree of alignment in their positions.

It also demonstrates China's responsibility in maintaining regional and global peace. In particular, the call to ensure safe passage for civilian vessels through the Strait of Hormuz aligns with the interests of the vast majority of countries and is practically feasible, Zhu noted, making it a key point of focus.

The five-point proposals provide a roadmap for resolving the current Middle East crisis, outlining the basic principles of both countries for future peace negotiations, and demonstrating China's support for Pakistan's mediation efforts, Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

### Strategic coordination

The trip to Beijing marks Dar's second official visit to China this year, the Pakistani Foreign Office (FO) said. The FO stated that although Dar suffered a minor hairline fracture in his shoulder while hosting the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and doctors had advised him to rest, he insisted on proceeding with the planned visit to China as scheduled. The FO

stressed that this "is evidence of the importance placed by Pakistan on its relationship with China," a point also noted by Pakistani media outlets.

Zhu said the frequent recent visits of Pakistan's foreign minister to China reflect both the practical need to address recurring regional hotspots, including issues in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, and the high level of strategic mutual trust between the two countries.

The expert noted that regular high-level exchanges allow China and Pakistan to coordinate positions efficiently, respond jointly to complex regional challenges, deepen mutual trust, and strengthen consensus, signaling a broad and promising future for bilateral relations.

International media has focused on the timing and context of the visit amid the escalating tensions surrounding Iran. Some foreign outlets linked Dar's trip to Beijing with the heightened situation in the Middle East, suggesting that Pakistan could serve as a "peace broker," a "mediator," or even as a potential host for talks between the US and Iran.

"The visit comes a day after Islamabad hosted the foreign ministers of Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia for a quadrilateral meeting as part of its ongoing efforts to push the US and Iran toward the negotiation table," Anadolu Agency said in its report.

Ding noted that the Middle East crisis has now reached a crossroads between war and peace. Pakistan's mediation efforts have been recognized by both sides of the conflict, providing a platform to de-escalate the prolonged tensions and offering a glimmer of hope for peace, making them particularly valuable.

## 'We don't need missiles': Local residents protest deployment in Kumamoto

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Both types of weapons are highly destructive, with the 25HGP posing a more pronounced threat due to its stronger penetration capability, Chinese military affairs expert Song Zhongping told the Global Times. He noted that even though the 25SSM is a high-subsonic system, it still boasts considerable strike capacity. "At a minimum, Japan's strategic intent behind these developments poses a substantial security risk to neighboring countries," Song added.

The 25SSM, which also features a stealth design and terrain-matching guidance, enables precise strikes against land targets, far exceeding Japan's defensive requirements, said Xiang Haoyu, a distinguished research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies.

As for their locations, Xiang said the coverage of Camp Kengun and Camp Fuji together forms an "east-west pincer posture." This combination of range and deployment is clearly targeted at neighboring countries. Acting offensively under the pretext of defense, it marks a fundamental shift in Japan's post-war security policy from defense-oriented to offensive, the expert noted.

### Domestic opposition

Notably, while Japan's Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi announced the deployments and their new names on Tuesday, dozens of citizens protested in front of the main gate of Camp Kengun, holding placards that read "We oppose the deployment" and "We don't need missiles," Kyodo News reported.

"Camp Kengun is situated in a residential area in the city center, 1.5 kilometers from the prefectural government office, adjacent to Kumamoto City Hospital, and only about 200 meters from my home," Hideaki Takabayashi, a professor from a local university in Kumamoto, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Takabayashi added that within a 2-kilometer radius of the camp, there are 29 childcare facilities, 12 elementary schools, seven junior high schools, eight high schools, and one university. "Deploying long-range missiles in such an area would naturally cause deep anxiety among local residents," he said.

Takabayashi said that the local residents' opposition stems not only from the extremely high security risks associated with deploying long-range missiles, but also from the fact that their deployment violates the Japanese Constitution.

Takabayashi stated that Japan's Constitution defines national sovereignty, respect for fundamental human rights, and pacifism as the core principles of state governance. The deployment of long-range missiles threatens the basic human rights of people across Asia, including the Japanese people. Such an action openly violates the "exclusively defense-oriented" principle and constitutes a breach of the Constitution.

Chinese observers said that the Japanese Self-Defense Force's (SDF) deployment of new missiles has aroused grave concern, largely because it coincides with the increasingly blatant resurgence of a new form of militarism in Japan. This alarm is compounded by the recent incident in which a member of the SDF broke into the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo armed with a knife. With the SDF undergoing a clear rightward shift, there is a strong likelihood that they are becoming a vehicle for this emerging militarism. By breaching the long-standing "exclusively defense-oriented" principle, the potential danger is self-evident.

