▶ Trip seeks stronger engagement with China amid Mideast uncertainty

Sultan of Oman kicks off historic first visit to China

By Zhang Wanshi

Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik Al Said of Oman arrived in Beijing on Sunday for his two-day state visit to China, media reported, which marks the first visit to China by an Omani head of state since diplomatic ties were established in 1978.

Chinese analysts said Oman seeks stronger Chinese engagement amid the evolving situation in the Middle East, and the trip could not only promote cooperation in trade but also set a positive example for regional cooperation.

This will be the first visit to China by Sultan Haitham since ascending to the throne and by an Omani head of state since diplomatic ties were established 48 years ago. As such, it is of great significance for advancing bilateral relations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun introduced during a press conference on Friday.

The visit is expected to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation between Oman and China across various fields, Times of Oman said in its report on Sunday.

The Oman Observer noted that the visit marks a landmark in Omani-Chinese relations. It carries a particular importance in light of the steady evolution of bilateral ties and the wider horizon it holds for deepening the strategic partnership, and it opens the way for closer cooperation across political, economic, investment, cultural and scientific fields, the media outlet said.

Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times that the visit to China is to seek stronger Chinese engagement against the backdrop of the evolving situation in the Middle East, as tensions in the Gulf region have escalated sharply recently. Oman hopes that China will play a greater role in actively promoting reconciliation and dialogue, thereby helping to maintain stability in the Middle East, Sun said.

Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, said that Oman's Vision 2040 aims to diversify the economy and reduce its dependence on oil and gas, while China's strengths in renewable energy equipment, infrastructure development, digital technology and industrial supply chains offer the external support Oman needs for its economic transformation.

With tensions mounting in the Strait of Hormuz, and Oman, which has been a long-standing active mediator in regional disputes, coming under pressure as well, the visit reflects its efforts to strengthen strategic support and enhance diplomatic autonomy amid great-power rivalry, Ding told the Global Times, adding that the visit could further consolidate China-Oman trade and investment ties.

The steady development of relations between China and Oman is an important part of the broader growth of China-Arab cooperation, Sun noted.

Since the beginning of this year, China has welcomed a succession of high-level visits from Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

▶ Collision investigation



Civil Guard officers secure the area during the investigation at the site of a train collision in Urda in the province of Toledo, Spain, on November 1, 2026. At least 69 people were killed and dozens more injured when two trains collided on October 28. Photo: VCG

US-Japan-ROK plan of coordination amid G20 talks risks harming regional stability: expert

By GT staff reporters

The US is seeking to consolidate its alliance network by linking multiple regional hotspots, including Taiwan island, the South China Sea and the East China Sea, in its trilateral coordination with Japan and South Korea, a move that risks intensifying bloc confrontation and undermining regional stability under the guise of "stability maintenance," a Chinese expert said. The expert's comment came after the three countries' foreign ministers expressed their positions on regional security issues on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, the US on Friday local time.

In a statement, the US State Department claimed the secretary and foreign ministers "emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits."

The claims once again reflect Washington's attempt to draw its allies into the Taiwan question and exploit China's internal affairs to serve the US' broader regional strategy, Zheng Jian, a professor at the Taiwan Research Institute of Xiamen University, told the Global Times on Sunday.

The notion of "stability" for the US is merely a relative one, which it can interpret and invoke at different stages to justify actions that serve its own interests. This time, Washington is doing so by linking multiple regional flashpoints, making it easier to mobilize its allies in support of its broader "Indo-Pacific" strategy, Zheng said.

Alongside this "repeated sensationalism," the US Secretary of State and foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for a Trilateral Arctic Pacific Partnership.

The move reflects Washington's strategic concerns over its limited infrastructure and capabilities in the Arctic, as it seeks to leverage cooperation with allies to strengthen its position in Arctic shipping routes and related areas, Zheng said.

However, a MOC and a few working groups cannot conjure up even a single operational heavy icebreaker, revealing the gap between Washington's strategic ambitions and its actual capabilities in the region, he noted.

Poland's Constitutional Tribunal crisis 'mirrors rising political polarization at home and in Europe'

By Zhao Yusha

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Saturday that his government would press ahead with efforts to restore the independence of Poland's Constitutional Tribunal, as hundreds of protesters gathered for a second night against the suspension of the court's president.

The pro-European government said the suspension is necessary to restore judicial independence, while critics from the opposition have likened it to a "coup d'etat," according to the Associated Press.

President Karol Nawrocki – who opposes the pro-European government – turned back his plane during a flight to Senegal on Friday evening and returned home. On Friday night, he made his way to the Constitutional Tribunal despite the chaos and said he helped the suspended court president enter the building.

A long-running political dispute over the Constitutional Tribunal has effectively paralyzed the institution, with the pro-European government and the nationalist president refusing to recognize appointees put forward by the other side, according to Reuters.

The conflict reflects deeper ideological and partisan divisions between Poland's prime minister and president, who represent opposing political camps. It is also a microcosm of the growing political polarization in Poland and across Europe, Jian Junbo, director of the Center for China-Europe Relations at Fudan University, told the Global Times.

The dispute is likely to deepen political polarization in Poland a year before a parliamentary election, further intensifying the standoff between the pro-European government and the national-conservative opposition party Law and Justice, AP reported.

The crisis could also have spillover effects for European politics, Jian predicted. He explained that if political forces increasingly resort to methods that depart from established institutional procedures to compete for power, and such practices gain acceptance, this could undermine democratic institutions and the rule of law within the EU.

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