



## Advanced tech shown at Zhongguancun Forum

Annual meeting offers a closer look at China's technological innovation, allowing attendees to see the practical application of advanced technology up close **4**

## China finds major rare-earth deposit in Sichuan

Discovery boosts nation's resource security and supports high-tech, clean energy sectors amid rising global demand, experts say **11**

## Sanya to host 'sky-ocean meeting' Asian Beach Games

The 6th Asian Beach Games in 2026 is entering its final stretch of preparations. The Games will officially open on April 22 in Sanya, South China's Hainan Province **14**

www.globaltimes.cn

VOLUME 17 • NO. 4870 • WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2026 • PRICE 2 YUAN

人民日报社主管 《环球时报》社有限公司主办、出版

### Key forum



A press conference for the 2026 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) annual conference was held on March 24, 2026 in Boao, South China's Hainan Province (see story on page 10). Photo: VCG

## China, Iran FM's speak as mixed signals emerge over US-Iran talks

By Zhao Yusha

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday held a phone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi over the current situation in the Middle East.

Wang said that hotspot issues should all be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, rather than through the use of force.

Araghchi said that the Strait of Hormuz is open to all and ships can pass safely, but countries that are at war with Iran are not under consideration.

The phone call came after US President Donald Trump said he had held "productive conversations" with Tehran, using the claim to justify delaying a looming ultimatum. Iran, however, denied any such talks, saying the US was invoking the prospect of dialogue to "escape the quagmire in which the US and Israel are trapped."

This diplomatic whiplash has plunged the true state of US-Iran relations into murkiness. Experts said that Washington's shifting rhetoric toward Iran suggests growing concern about being drawn into a protracted conflict, with US officials appearing to signal openness to de-escalation and encouraging Tehran to take the initiative, said a Chinese expert. However, any public move to engage in dialogue with the US would face considerable pressure in Iran as the country suffered great loss, analysts said.

Trump on Monday said the US is negotiating with Iran to end the war still raging on. He said the US will hold off attacking Iran's energy infrastructure for five days while the talks continue. It came hours before a deadline he

## China lodges strong protests as Japanese man threatened to kill diplomats

# Japanese SDF member broke into Chinese Embassy in Japan

By GT staff reporters

China lodged strong protests with Japan and demanded a thorough investigation after a Japanese man, claiming to be a sitting officer in the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), on Tuesday scaled the wall of the Chinese Embassy and threatened to kill Chinese diplomats "in the

name of god."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday that China is deeply shocked at this incident and has lodged strong demarches and protests with Japan. Lin noted that the individual admitted that his actions were illegal.

Lin said the incident is a

serious violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and posed a grave threat to the safety and security of Chinese diplomatic personnel and facilities. The incident is egregious in both nature and impact. Japan's failure to maintain discipline in the SDF and in fulfilling its responsibility to protect the Chinese diplomatic

and consular premises and personnel, he said.

China has asked the Japanese side to thoroughly investigate the incident at once, bring the full weight of law to bear on the perpetrator and fully account for the incident, Lin said.

On Tuesday morning, an offender claiming

**2**  
Intrusion

**2**  
Dialogue

## Space allure



A spacesuit model draws visitors' attention at the Changchun Aviation Culture Week in Changchun, Northeast China's Jilin Province on March 24, 2026. The event features exhibits including flight simulators and spacesuit displays, allowing the public to experience the allure of aerospace technology up close. Photo: VCC

# Intrusion exposes growing far-right ideology in SDF: expert

► Japanese, from Page 1

to be an active-service official of the Japan Self-Defense Forces was arrested for scaling a wall and forcibly intruding into the Embassy of China in Japan. According to a notice from the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, the 23-year-old man is a Third-Class Land Lieutenant assigned to the Ebino Garrison of the Ground Self-Defense Forces. Following his arrest, police found a knife with a blade length of approximately 18 centimeters in the vegetation of the embassy compound based on his confession, Asahi Shimbun reported.

The man has been arrested on suspicion of unlawful entry into a building. During questioning, he admitted to the allegations and stated that he "did so to express his opinions directly to the Chinese Ambassador in person." The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department is currently conducting further investigation into his motive and other relevant circumstances, per the report.

"This has undoubtedly sent an extremely dangerous signal to the international community," Xiang Haoyu, a distinguished research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times on Tuesday. This is by no means an isolated security incident, Xiang added.

Xiang said it is extremely rare in Japan's post-war diplomatic and security history that an alleged active-duty SDF officer intruded into a foreign embassy with a weapon and threatened to kill diplomatic personnel in the name of extreme ideology.

It exposes not only a grave dereliction of duty on Japan's part as the host country in the fields of diplomatic

security, but also is a perilous microcosm of the accelerated right-leaning of Japan's domestic politics and the breakdown of discipline following the expansion of the SDF, he added.

As a contracting party to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, Japan bears clear obligations as the receiving State: to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.

## Japan's far-right: cancer in society

Xiang said that the Chinese Embassy in Japan, a key security-protected site, was breached by an alleged Japanese SDF member with an extreme murderous intent who climbed over the wall, and the core cause lies in Japan's laxity and the formalistic nature of its security measures. It also exposes that Japan lacks effective education and control over SDF personnel, allowing extreme ideologies to spread unchecked within its ranks, if the man is confirmed to be a SDF officer, according to Xiang.

More worrying is the growing audacity of Japan's far-right forces, which have long been harassing and stirring up trouble near the embassies and consulates of several countries, inciting hatred and xenophobia, and even threatening to take violent actions.

Xiang said that far-right forces in Japan have long become a cancer of Japanese society. The Japanese government has adopted a conniving attitude toward such extreme ideologies and far-right elements, and it has been reluctant to take effective measures to strengthen control. Xiang

added that this ultimately led to this serious incident that threatened the safety of Chinese diplomatic institutions and personnel, which underscores that Japan shirks its international obligations.

According to observations by a Global Times reporter, although the incident occurred on Tuesday morning, most Japanese media outlets only began releasing brief reports one after another after 5:30 pm local time.

The Japanese media's downplaying of the incident is in fact intended to evade Japan's responsibility, conceal the truth about the rampant spread of extreme right-wing ideologies in the country, said Xiang.

At present, Japan is pushing forward with the most thorough reorganization of its SDF since the end of World War II, substantially increasing its defense budget, continuously breaking the constraints of its pacifist constitution, and strengthening its offensive military capabilities, Xiang said, adding that in this process, Japan has a serious lack of ideological guidance and control over SDF personnel, and far-right ideologies continue to spread within the military.

"This dangerous trend not only threatens regional peace and stability but also calls for high vigilance from the international community against Japan repeating the mistakes of militarism," the expert noted.

When asked why far-right ideology has been able to infiltrate the SDF, Xiang said that for a long time, the Japanese political circle has pursued historical revisionism, falsifying history textbooks, downplaying its war crimes of aggression, and deliberately blurring the perception of war responsibility.

# Dialogue with US faces considerable pressure in Iran as Tehran suffered great losses: analysts

► Mixed, from Page 1

had imposed on Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face the obliteration of its power plants. Crude oil prices tumbled on the news, according to NPR.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in a social media post on Monday that "no negotiations have been held with the US." "Fakenews [sic] is used to manipulate the financial and oil markets and escape the quagmire in which the US and Israel are trapped," Ghalibaf wrote on X.

When asked about Trump's announcement of delaying a planned attack on Iranian power facilities by five days, adding that the US government was in talks with unnamed Iranian officials, Lin Jian, spokesperson from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Tuesday that prolonging the conflict serves no party's interests, and that ceasefire and dialogue are the only viable way forward.

The Economist described Trump's move as his "latest climbdown," which suggests "he may want to end the war."

Washington had initially envisioned a lighting campaign against Iran, however, the conflict has unfolded far differently as Iran's resistance is likely to be long-term and tough, Zhu Weilie, a distinguished professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

On Tuesday, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he was willing to host talks between the US and Iran on ending the war in the Gulf, Reuters reported.

## Friendship in test

The Economist claimed that Trump's climbdown on threat against Iran "signal divergence in American and Israeli war aims. Israel sees this war as a crucial step toward neutralizing Iran's military threat, its nuclear-and ballistic-missile programs and support for proxies in the region... Mr Trump has at times appeared to share these aims. But recently he has appeared more concerned with ensuring that oil flows out of the Gulf."

Former Israeli ambassador Alon Pinkas told media that, if Trump has pushed for negotiations over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's objections, it may be a sign that the US president is aware that "Netanyahu may have duped [Trump] on how quick and resounding a victory would be, and how viable regime change is."

With the US midterm elections scheduled for November, the Iran conflict – which has already exceeded Washington's expectations and continues to generate spillover effects – is increasingly turning into a political liability for the White House, said Zhu, noting that against this backdrop, Trump is seeking an exit strategy.

On Tuesday, Iran launched multiple waves of missiles at Israel, the Israeli military said, per Reuters. Moreover, the US war in Iran is taking a mounting toll on America's military, with rising casualties, dwindling munitions stockpiles, a sidelined aircraft carrier and numerous downed aircraft just three weeks into the conflict, according to The Hill.

An analysis piece published by CNN said that "Washington has been betting for days on when Trump would declare victory and bring the troops home...But the spiraling conflict means he may no longer have that option."

