

# ► Reconciliation an example of resolving conflict via dialogue: Chinese FM Saudi Arabia, Iran resume ties in Beijing

By GT staff reporters

Saudi Arabia and Iran announced the resumption of diplomatic ties with immediate effect on Thursday in Beijing after the first formal meeting between the two countries' top diplomats in more than seven years. The amplification of China's mediation between the two countries has been remarkable over the past month, showing that the diplomatic philosophy advocated and practiced by China is being recognized worldwide, experts said.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in Beijing on Thursday, and witnessed the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The two foreign ministers are in Beijing for a meeting. After the meeting, Qin witnessed the signing of a joint statement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The two countries announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with immediate effect.

With the joint efforts of China, Saudi Arabia and Iran, the Saudi Arabia-Iran Talks in



**Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang (center) shakes hands with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (left) and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on April 6, 2023 in Beijing. Qin witnessed the resumption of Saudi Arabia-Iran diplomatic ties.** Photo: AFP

Beijing last month achieved significant results. Since then, the two sides have conducted sound high-level interactions and fully demonstrated their constructive attitude and sin-

cerity, which China greatly appreciates, said Qin, adding that China supports the two sides in continuously taking new steps toward easing relations.

The improved ties between

Saudi Arabia and Iran will help safeguard regional peace and stability, setting an example for the world to solve conflicts via dialogue as well as provide excellent practice of the Global

Security Initiative and building a community with a shared future for humanity, Qin said.

The two top diplomats both expressed great appreciation for China's role in supporting Saudi Arabia and Iran to hold talks in Beijing.

The Thursday meeting in Beijing follows a landmark agreement brokered by China in March to restore diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and reopen their respective embassies within two months.

The amplification and spillover effects of this major diplomatic event have been significant, Zhu Yongbiao, executive director of the Research Center for the Belt and Road at Lanzhou University, told the Global Times on Thursday.

He noted that other Middle Eastern countries have been positively affected by the event.

It is a strong stimulant in a volatile and uncertain world, he said. Moreover, the multilateral and equal diplomatic relations that China advocates and practices are once again being recognized by other countries. It is also an indication that US diplomacy, which maintains a Cold War mind-set, is being abandoned by the world, the expert said.

## Japan warned of hurting itself by welcoming NATO to region

By Fan Anqi

Japan's act of welcoming NATO to become more involved in Asia will only end up hurting itself by drawing wolves into its own home, experts warned on Thursday.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi on Wednesday said he welcomed the increased involvement of NATO member states in the Indo-Pacific region, and pledged to boost Japan's cooperation with the trans-Atlantic alliance to uphold and strengthen "a free and open international order and the rule of law," Japanese media reported.

Hayashi was speaking at an extended session of the two-day NATO foreign ministerial meeting in Brussels.

Chinese experts regarded Hayashi's move as an attempt to expand Japan's clique in the region to better serve its ambitions to dominate the region and lower the costs when dealing with China.

"Japan has not been vague in showing its ambitions. Japan is seeking an all-round expansion of its influence on Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the situations in regions including the East China Sea and South China Sea, using a

combination of measures including the building up of its own military strength, coordinating with the US' Indo-Pacific strategy, and bringing in extraterritorial forces," Da Zhigang, director of the Institute of Northeast Asian Studies at the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Thursday.

While in Brussels, Hayashi also noted that Japan and NATO are working on a revision to the Individually Tailored Partnership Program, through which Japan intends to significantly strengthen its cooperation with NATO in many new areas such as cybersecurity, outer space, disinformation and critical and emerging technologies, media reported.

Da noted that the revisions to the pact indicated that in dealing with China or other regional powers in the future, Japan will not only focus on conventional areas, but is also attaching increasing importance to cyberspace, space and other related technologies in the new mode of "hybrid warfare."

Japan should realize that by drawing wolves into its home, it will eventually hurt itself, Chinese experts warned, urging Japan to stop making trouble out of nothing.

## China, Cambodia wrap up joint exercise with comprehensive live-fire phase

By Liu Xuanzun

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the armed forces of Cambodia recently wrapped up the Golden Dragon-2023 joint exercise after a comprehensive live-fire phase simulating a terror attack on a major international event, with experts saying on Thursday that the drills consolidated military exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and contributed to regional security, peace and stability.

The exercise was held in a training base in Cambodia on Wednesday with the focus on providing security for important events and humanitarian aid. Participating troops from the two countries formed a joint force to deal with mock emergency situations including a terror attack during a major international sports event, the PLA Daily reported on Thursday.

Under the command of a joint headquarters, the troops mobilized to seal off the exercise area, dealt with emergencies, searched for and eliminated targets before moving in to secure the area.

The drills featured 10 live-fire training courses including warning and containment, hostage rescue, epidemic dis-

infection and dismantling of mines and bombs.

A closing ceremony was held after the drills, the report said, which quoted Chinese and Cambodian defense officials and military officers as saying that the exercise enhanced the two countries' friendship, deepened security cooperation, and made a positive contribution to regional peace and stability.

The China-Cambodia joint exercise is focused on tackling non-traditional security threats rather than confrontational traditional security threats, a Chinese military expert told the Global Times on Thursday, requesting anonymity.

It boosted exchanges and cooperation between the two countries' militaries, and more joint drills will likely be organized in the future, the expert said.

More than 3,000 personnel from both sides, including those from the PLA Army, Navy and Joint Logistic Force, participated in the exercise, which marked the fifth time China and Cambodia have organized the Golden Dragon series drills, according to the report.