



## Seoul trilateral summit offers a valuable restart

The China-Japan-South Korea summit can be seen as a valuable restart for cooperation among them. Trust-building and fuller cooperation will take more time **6**

## Overhaul of the Bretton Woods system is needed

Global calls for an overhaul of the Bretton Woods system increase due to US abuse of dollar's hegemony and its irresponsible policy, said experts **10**

## China-initiated fund to support biodiversity protection

A China-initiated fund aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation in developing countries was launched in Beijing on Tuesday, expected to help countries to conserve and reverse their biodiversity loss **4**

### Spacewalk



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A taikonaut of the Shenzhou-18 crew is doing spacewalk outside China's orbiting space station on May 28, 2024. According to the China Manned Space Agency, the crew members on board the space station have completed their first spacewalk on the day. Photo: VCG

## Philippines hypes China's maritime moves to fuel tensions

### SOUTH CHINA SEA WATCH

By Hu Yuwei and Fan Wei

The Philippines' recent hype and sensationalization of China's implementation of the annual fishing ban in the South China Sea and the new China Coast Guard (CCG) regulations are fueling tensions between the two countries amid already strained ties.

Experts are calling on the Philippines to stop being self-absorbed and delusional in smearing China's regular efforts to upgrade maritime conservation and law enforcement levels.

The Philippine foreign ministry issued a statement on May 27 to protest China's imposition of a four-month long fishing ban in the South China Sea, saying that the ban "raises tensions" in the South China Sea and calling on Beijing to "cease and desist" from "illegal actions" that "violate the Philippines' sovereignty."

Since the official implementation of the marine seasonal fishing ban in 1999, this Chinese policy has been widely recognized for its ecological, economic and social benefits as an important means of conserving marine fisheries resources in waters around China.

The seasonal fishing ban in the South China Sea has to some extent curbed the decline of major economic fishery resources, while effectively reducing the damage caused by trawling and other fishing gear to the marine biological habitat, said Ding Duo, a deputy director of the Institute of Maritime Law and Policy at the China

## Calls for cease-fire grow as 3 countries formally recognize Palestinian state

# Israel urged to end attack amid intl outcry over Rafah strike

By GT staff reporters

China is seriously concerned about Israel's attack on Rafah and strongly urges Israel to listen to the international community's calls and stop the attacks, a spokesperson from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said after an Israeli attack on a Rafah tent camp stirred another wave of international con-

demnation and rage. Chinese experts said Palestine's plight is laid bare by the latest attack from Israel, and such exposure may lead to more international support in the near future.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is expected to be discussed by foreign ministers from China and Arab countries during the upcoming ministerial meeting of the China-Arab States

Cooperation Forum in Beijing. Experts predicted that thanks to the high degree of trust from Arab countries toward China, China and these Arab countries will likely form a common proposal regarding the Palestine issue that can be promoted in the UN, to help promote cease-fire and alleviate the humanitarian disaster.

Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu said Monday that a "tragic mistake" was made in an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza city of Rafah that set fire to a camp housing displaced Palestinians and, according to local officials, killed at least 45 people.

There was another strike by Israel on Tuesday and it also caused civilian casualties



Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation Jose Manuel Albares (center), Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide (right) and Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin hold a joint press conference at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union in Brussels on May 27, 2024. The three European countries officially recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday. Photo: VCG

## Common voice on Palestine issue to be raised at China-Arab states meeting

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in Rafah. The Xinhua News Agency reported that at least 20 Palestinians were killed and dozens injured on Tuesday in an Israeli bombardment of displaced persons' tents in the Al-Mawasi area in the west of Rafah city in the southern Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian security and medical sources.

China expresses serious concern over Israel's military operation in Rafah, Mao Ning, a spokesperson from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Tuesday. Mao pointed out that the UN International Court of Justice has for the third time delivered the order for provisional measures on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and for the first time explicitly asked for ceasing the military offensive in relevant region. This reflects the world's consensus on and strong call for an urgent cease-fire, protection of civilians and deescalation of the humanitarian crisis. Relevant provisional measures should be effectively implemented as soon as possible.

China opposes any action that violates international law, including international humanitarian law and asks all parties to protect civilians and civilian facilities, and strongly urges Israel to heed the call of the international community and stop the offensive on Rafah. The world needs to work together to deescalate and end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Mao said.

The strike only added to the surging international criticism Israel has faced over its conflict with Hamas.

"There is no safe place in Gaza. This horror must stop," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres post-

ed on social media.

### Call for ending attacks

Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday, despite an angry reaction from Israel following their announcement of the decision last week. The three European countries' move has been hailed by Chinese experts as representing an overdue correction of "a previously skewed balance," while bringing the Palestinian question, which had intentionally been obscured before, back to the center stage.

Palestine's plight was laid bare by the latest round of conflicts with Israel, mainly due to Israel's attack on Rafah, said Zhu Yongbiao, director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at Lanzhou University. Zhu noted that such exposure of Palestine's suffering will likely lead to more international support for Palestine in the future.

Israel is currently not only becoming increasingly isolated diplomatically, but also facing more and more consequences. This trend indicates that the moral and legal standards of the international community on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are becoming clearer, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

Liu said in the recent round of conflict between Israel and Palestine, especially the military actions in Rafah, a greater humanitarian disaster is looming. In this situation, the international community's support and attitudes toward Palestine and condemnation against Israel's actions are becoming increasingly clear.

Judges at the top United Nations

court ordered Israel on Friday to immediately halt its military assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah, Reuters reported.

### Joint efforts

From Tuesday to Saturday, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Tunisia's President Kais Saied, and the United Arab Emirates' President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will pay state visits to China and attend the opening ceremony of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Monday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and foreign ministers from those Arab countries will continue to discuss the Palestine issue in depth, forming a common voice at the conference, Vice Foreign Minister Deng Li told a press briefing about the conference on Monday. Deng said the goal is to end the Gaza conflict as soon as possible, achieve peace, and promote the international community to implement the two-State solution with greater determination and concrete actions, ultimately achieving long-term stability in the Middle East.

Currently, all parties within Palestine and Arab countries have high degree of trust toward China, Zhu Weilie, director of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times. During this conference, China and the Arab countries will seek to reach a basic consensus, and then form a common proposal regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that can be promoted in the UN Security Council.

## Beijing's measures contribute to sustainable devt of fishery: expert

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Institute for South China Sea Studies.

Among ASEAN members, the Philippines has one of the most seriously destructive fishing problems. Destructive fishing methods such as overfishing, blast fishing or cyanide fishing are exacerbating the crisis of marine biodiversity in the Philippines.

China, which has set aside the Philippines' provocations, has proposed cooperation initiatives in fisheries and marine environmental protection to the Philippines, but the Philippines has rejected these goodwill gestures and repaid kindness with ingratitude, Ding said.

The Philippines' protest comes on the heels of another complaint over China's recent regulations on administrative law-enforcement procedures of Coast Guard agencies (hereafter referred to as Procedures). The Procedures were approved and announced on May 15, and are set to take effect on June 15.

In a statement from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines on May 26, the country expressed "serious concern" of China's Procedures, saying it "effectively covers areas" where the Philippines has "sovereignty," and is in "direct violation of international law."

Some Philippine media reports have hyped up some of provisions regarding the handling of administrative cases involving foreign parties.

Based on China's Coast Guard Law in 2021, the newly released Procedures aim to provide clear and practicable norms and will make maritime law enforcement and the entire case handling process more authoritative, standardized and professional, Ding said.

The Procedures do not target the current situation in the South China Sea and have no connection with China's countermeasures against Philippine provocations, Ding stressed. But China maintains strategic composure in countering the Philippines and will not allow continuous encroachments and provocations, or disruptions to regional peace and stability, he said.

Lei Xiaolu, a professor of law with the China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies, Wuhan University, described the Philippines' nervous and prompt responses as "narcissistic." Lei believes that Philippine claims that China's baselines in the South China Sea are "illegal, null and void" and China's Procedures are inapplicable to relevant sea areas are "unfounded," as they involve the Philippines' illegal sovereignty claims in the South China Sea.

Experts believe that the recent series of malicious misinterpretations and distortions in the Philippines' statements are typical examples of its cognitive wars aimed at attacking and smearing China by hyping the "China threat" rhetoric.

The potential intention behind the Philippines is to summon outside forces to provide support and collaboration for confronting China in the disputed South China Sea, Ding said. In recent years, the US has repeatedly hyped up China's so-called "illegal fishing" activities and the "China threat" theory, misled the international community, and continuously slandered China in the field of marine governance, Ding noted.

"However, a lie repeated a thousand times is still a lie. China's relevant fishing moratorium measures have made important contributions to the sustainable development of fishery resources in the South China Sea, which is widely recognized, showcasing China's image as a responsible major country," the expert said.

