



Second Global Digital Trade Expo kicks off

Exhibitors and visitors embraced the 2nd Global Digital Trade Expo and expressed high hopes of utilizing the platform for fostering global cooperation **10**

New generation of music in Xizang region

For Xizang people, music is a way of understanding the world. Today, the tunes from Xizang unfold with an increasingly natural, ever freer, and remarkably easy cadence **15**

Doolittle Raid manifestation of China-US cooperation

Stories of the Doolittle Raid showcase the friendship between the two peoples, which has stood the test of blood and fire, and will be passed on from generation to generation **8-9**

► Heroes' remains return



People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers stand by the side of caskets containing the remains of 25 Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War in the heavy snow on November 23, 2023 in Shenyang, Northeast China's Liaoning Province. At around 11:30 am, a PLA Y-20 transport aircraft carrying the remains landed at the Taoxian International Airport in Shenyang from South Korea. (See story on Page 4) Photo: VCG

French FM begins China visit to enhance mutual trust

By Chen Qingqing

French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna began her two-day visit to China on Thursday. She is scheduled to co-host the 6th meeting of the China-France high-level dialogue mechanism on people-to-people exchanges, paving the way for more activities in 2024 to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and France.

The dialogue concludes the series of high-level dialogues following French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit to China in April, including the high-level economic and financial dialogue in July and strategic dialogue in October, according to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Colonna's visit also came as Chinese President Xi Jinping called on Macron on Monday to carry forward the traditional China-France friendship and push bilateral relations to a new level during a phone conversation between the two leaders.

Agreements on several concrete projects are expected to be signed during Colonna's visit in fields such as education, science and technology, culture, health and sports, tourism and young people, French media outlet Le Point reported. The two sides will also exchange views on major global challenges such as climate change, the Ukraine crisis and, particularly, the situation in Gaza, according to Le Point.

Against the backdrop of increasing exchanges between China and Europe over the year, more face-to-face dialogues between China and France will also be conducive to en-

► Pause will 'save limited lives if cease-fire can't be maintained'

Truce in Gaza 'a key window for humanitarian assistance'

By Yang Sheng

Israel and Palestinian armed group Hamas have very limited mutual trust to execute the temporary cease-fire and a hostage release deal, so they need more time to solve technical problems, said experts on Thursday, as the Israeli side claimed that the truce will be delayed and no

hostages will be released before Friday.

Meanwhile, analysts stressed that a four-day pause can only save limited lives if the conflict ever resumes, and the international community needs to make efforts to turn the pause into a sustainable truce.

The four-day pause agreed by the conflicting parties on

Wednesday has been seen as a diplomatic breakthrough that will free dozens of hostages held by militants as well as Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, and bring a large influx of aid into the besieged Palestinian territory. The breakthrough comes after the UN Security Council on November 15 adopted a resolution calling for

urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors in Gaza.

China, as the rotating president of the UN Security Council for November, has worked with the international community to finally realize a temporary cease-fire for the people who suffered as a result of



US 'should not be jealous' as China's peace efforts hailed

► Truce, from Page 1

the conflict in Gaza.

But to what extent this breakthrough can be turned into greater progress that can effectively save more lives and prevent more deaths remains in question, unless the international community makes further efforts to make it a sustainable long-term cease-fire, said experts.

Hard-won but fragile pause

With this latest round of the Palestine-Israel conflict entering its seventh week, the war has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a nationally televised news conference that the war would resume after the truce expires. Israel's goals are to "destroy Hamas' military capabilities and return all 240 hostages held captive in Gaza."

The cease-fire efforts hit another hurdle when Israel's national security adviser said in a late-night announcement that the deal would not take effect before Friday, one day later than originally expected. Tzachi Hanegbi gave no reason for the delay, but media said there were still some last-minute details being ironed out.

Wang Jin, an associate professor at the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies of Northwest University, told the Global Times on Thursday that the reason could be technical. "The temporary cease-fire and release of hostages will take place, but the two sides need some more time to deal with problems like who should be released, when, where and how to

release them, as well as paperwork."

"The process of a hostage or prisoner exchange will be difficult due to the lack of mutual trust between Israel and Hamas, but the exchange will take place as both sides want it to happen. The Netanyahu administration faces huge domestic pressure on the hostage problem, while Hamas also wants to buy itself more time in this brutal conflict," Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Thursday.

Medhat Abbas, director of the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, says it has resumed its detailed count of casualties from the ongoing war with Israel, and has documented more than 13,000 deaths. Abbas confirmed the resumption to The Associated Press on Thursday.

During the pause, it will be crucial for the international community, which supports making further efforts toward peace, to use it as a key window to maximize the possibility of a longer cease-fire, for instance, by encouraging both sides to release more hostages so that the humanitarian crisis can be stopped effectively, said some observers.

China stands for justice

The current hopes for peace come after the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2712 on November 15, which lay the foundation for Israel and Hamas to reach a deal for exchanging hostages and prisoners and observing a four-day cease-fire. Experts said that, this time, the resolution was not vetoed by any permanent member of the UN Security Council, and this is clearly a result of coordina-

tion between major powers. On the same day, the heads of state of China and the US met in San Francisco.

Some US media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal recently claimed that "China is trying to take the moral high ground or challenge the US in the Middle East by taking more assertive actions to support Palestine," a charge that has been refuted by Chinese experts. They contend that China's role in the Palestine-Israel issue is entirely different from that of the US, as China has never been driven by selfish geopolitical interests, always stands with justice and takes a non-biased, neutral and fair position.

On Monday, a delegation formed by foreign ministers of a group of Arab and Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia and Palestine, as well as the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, visited Beijing. Choosing China as the first destination of their trip to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council proves that China is trusted by the regional countries, and China's influence and credibility are well recognized and well respected, experts said.

The US, as well as some Western media, need to realize that it was the failed, selfish, messy and inconsistent Middle East policies of Washington that have caused endless tragedies in the region, while China and other members of the international community are being responsible in dealing with these problems, which were actually created by the West, and the US should not be jealous when China's contribution is applauded globally, said experts.

Dialogues conducive to tackling divergences in China-EU ties: experts

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hancing strategic mutual trust, helping the two sides to work together in tackling divergences, some experts said.

Enhancing communication

China and France are both permanent members of the UN Security Council and independent major countries. At present, under the joint leadership of the two heads of state, bilateral relations have enjoyed sound growth, analysts said.

"The bilateral relations between China and France have a long history and tradition, and there are many favorable conditions for the construction of good China-France relations," Gao Jian, an expert on European studies at Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Thursday.

Although the European anti-subsidy investigation into Chinese electric vehicles (EVs) is considered a negative move in China-EU trade cooperation, it won't fundamentally affect the development of the bilateral ties between China and France, Gao noted. "It's believed that the two sides will negotiate and hold discussions to find a correct pathway to tackle divergences."

"The dialogue between the two sides will certainly play a positive role in promoting mutual understanding and resolving differences, which will also improve the overall atmosphere," Cui Hongjian, a professor with the Academy of Regional and Global Governance of the Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times on Thursday.

The EU is made up of member states, with major countries like France having significant influence on the bloc's decision-making process. However, due to the implementation of EU institutions, this dialogue may not have a direct or immediate effect on resolving divergences between China and Europe in terms of economy and trade, but it is crucial to maintaining cooperation and mutual trust with EU member states to prevent China-EU relations from deviating, experts said.

China-EU in focus

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel will travel to China for the EU-China summit scheduled for December 7 to 8 – the first summit held in four years under this format – amid heightened geopolitical tensions, Politico reported on Wednesday.

Although China and Europe have been moving to stabilize relations, there have been divergences on some fundamental issues, Cui noted, citing China's refusal to accept EU's perception of China as a "partner, competitor and systemic rival."

"This shows the complexity of China-EU relations. We cannot expect to solve all the problems between us through short-term dialogue or interaction, and we need to be more patient," Cui said.

Some experts said the upcoming China-EU summit, the first face-to-face summit in the post-pandemic period, would be frank and direct, which will enhance communications on issues of principle and on global hot-spot issues, further coordinating the stances of the two sides.

"On how to push forward the peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis and restore the basic social order in Palestine, China and EU share relatively large common space for working together," Gao said.

► Battling inflation



A shopper checks food prices at a supermarket in Moron, Buenos Aires province, Argentina on November 22 local time, 2023. Prices in Argentina have been going up at an annual rate of 142 percent. Besides inflation, problems affecting Argentina also include unemployment, poverty, corruption, and social inequality. Photo: VCG

