



Arabs welcome China's role in Mideast stability

Many in Arab and Muslim nations have high expectations of China and see mutually beneficial complementarity between their aspirations and China's **6**

New movie reveals pain behind cyber violence

The upcoming realist film Trending Topic zooms in on today's unpredictable social media platforms and the war of public opinion on the internet **14**

Xinjiang becomes bridgehead in westward opening-up strategy

Along with the country's implementation of the westward opening-up strategy, Xinjiang region is embracing a rare opportunity. Xinjiang must firmly seize this opportunity and make significant contributions **8-9**



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in the role of Security Council rotating president, speaks during a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East and the Palestine-Israel conflict, at the UN headquarters in New York City on November 29, 2023. Photo: AFP

► Chinese FM calls for complete cease-fire, two-state solution

Wang reiterates stance on Gaza before chairing UN meeting

By GT staff reporters

China's top diplomat Wang Yi reiterated the country's stance on the Palestine-Israel conflict with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday, before chairing a UN Security Council high-level meeting on the issue. Wang stressed that China stands firmly on the side

of peace, and called for a complete cease-fire, as well as the implementation of a two-state solution as soon as possible.

Chinese observers said Wang's propositions, as well as China's chairing of the high-level meeting, come at a key juncture as Palestine and Israel are in temporary truce. These moves highlight the most

pressing issues and lay the foundation for the future solution of the Palestine issue. Experts hailed Wang's attendance at the meeting, as it shows that China has great sincerity to seek solution for the crisis.

On the Palestine-Israel conflict, China stands firmly on the side of peace, human conscience and international law,

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said in a meeting with Guterres in New York.

China supports the UN and the secretary-general in playing their unique and irreplaceable role in resolving the Palestine-Israel conflict, Wang said, **2** US

Hospitals across China grapple with respiratory illnesses surge

By GT staff reporters

From providing more beds for pneumonia treatment and allocating more manpower to extending working hours, hospitals across China are grappling with a surge in cases of respiratory illnesses in children, especially a spike in mycoplasma pneumonia.

But the Global Times learned from several hospitals and clinics in Beijing, Shanghai and Central China's Henan Province that though facing an obvious increase in outpatient and inpatient visits for respiratory illnesses this winter, the country's health system has not been overwhelmed as it did during the early stage of the fight against COVID-19.

The Capital Institute of Pediatrics, a Beijing-headquartered renowned hospital for children, which has been one of the top choices for Beijing parents when their children get sick, has made several improvements to enhance its medical treatment capability – raising the number of infusion seats by 48.7 percent on the daily basis compared to their usual capacity, and also expanding the number of beds available for patients with pneumonia by 40.58 percent, according to Beijing Youth Daily.

The Global Times spoke with the pediatrics department at the First Affiliated Hospital of Henan University of Chinese Medicine on Wednesday. Zhou Rongyi, deputy director of the hospital's pediatrics department, stated as one of the coping measures, his hospital has opened pediatric wards previously used for treating COVID-19 patients to accommodate the surge in cases. Like **2** Some



► Firm relations



From left, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko and State Secretary of the Union State of Russia and Belarus Dmitry Mezentsev are seen before a meeting of the Russia-Belarus Union State's Council of Ministers, in Moscow, Russia on November 29, 2023. Golovchenko invited Mishustin to visit Belarus. "All Belarusian regions are ready to receive you and members of the Russian government," he emphasized. Photo: VCG

US wants to get itself out of diplomatic pothole: observers

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noting that China's position is clear.

First, there should be no reignition of the war, Wang said. A complete cease-fire should be achieved to avoid greater humanitarian disasters, and the hostages should be released.

Second, unhindered access of humanitarian supplies to Gaza needs to be ensured, he said. And third, the two-state solution should be restarted at an early date.

Wang made the remarks before chairing a UN Security Council high-level meeting on the Palestine-Israel issue, which is scheduled for Wednesday local time.

Concerns remain

Wang's propositions emphasize the most urgent issues at the current stage which are a complete cease-fire and the importance of humanitarian assistance; it also lays a foundation for a permanent solution to the crisis, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Wednesday. Liu noted that the high-level meeting, held during the temporary truce, may bring both sides one step closer to a complete cease-fire.

Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days on Monday, raising the prospect of further exchanges of militant-held hostages, according to a report from the Associated Press.

However, experts believe such meeting may fail to reach concrete result in reaching a complete cease-fire agreement due to Israel's unwillingness to call a halt to its military actions.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made clear that Israeli Defense Forces will eventually restart military operations after the conclusion of the current, temporary cease-fire. "Nothing will stop us," he said in a video statement in which he wore protective gear and was surrounded by Israeli soldiers.

Tian Wenlin, a research fellow at the Beijing-based China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times on Wednesday that Israel's intensity in pounding Gaza Strip after the cease-fire will be weaker than before, as previous military operations included important targets and it will come under mounting international pressure if more civilians are killed during future military activities.

Liu said that resolving the issue of how the Gaza Strip moves forward will be a key point of argument after the conflict stops. "After the conflict dies down, international community will double down its efforts to push for implementation of the two-state solution, as the conflict has highlighted the urgency of this issue. However, who is going to lead the plan and on what basis should a solution be pushed remains to be determined by international community."

Growing Israel-US divergencies

Netanyahu reportedly met with at least 10 backbenchers in his Likud party over the past week, during which he said: "I am the only one who will prevent a Palestinian state in Gaza and [the West Bank] after the war," The Times of Israel reported on Monday.

The stance clashes directly with the policy of the Joe Biden adminis-

tration, which has sought to revive talk of a two-state solution in order to maintain the support of the Arab world.

As a signal that US is shifting away from President Biden's full-throated support at the outset for the campaign to oust Hamas, the US is pushing to have Israel fight a more targeted war, which is the focus of intensive consultations between Biden and Netanyahu on how to handle the conflict, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, noting that it is a result that Washington has worked with Arab allies to prevent from broadening beyond Gaza.

Tian said that it is a sign that Biden has bowed to increasing international and domestic pressures over its full-throated support for Israel.

"The US' international image has been further tarnished by such support which also sowed discord among the US government," said Tian.

US media reported that more than 500 political appointees and staff members representing some 40 government agencies sent a letter to Biden last week protesting his support of Israel in its war in Gaza.

Biden's posture on Israel has put it in opposition to the Arab world, which it badly needs to win over in order to contend against China and widen its international influence, said Tian.

He explained that as the conflict between Israel and Palestine drags on, Washington's hope will vanish, thus Biden is sending a signal to the international community that there are divergencies between Israel and the US. He is betting on the gesture to get the US out of a diplomatic pothole, Tian said.

Some foreign media 'politicize, hype fear' over current situation

► Hospitals, from Page 1

many other pediatric hospitals, they have extended their working hours from 5:30 pm to 8 pm to provide convenience for working parents.

Zhou emphasized that "while some pediatric hospitals may have long queues and limited ward availability, overall, medical resources have not reached an overwhelmed state. Hospitals have learned from their experiences with COVID-19 and have developed strategies to prioritize severe cases and classify treatment based on symptoms."

The overall medical situation in our hospital is currently stable, with a decrease in the number of children seeking treatment for mycoplasma pneumonia infection and an increase in cases of influenza, an expert from Shanghai Children's Medical Center, who asked for anonymity, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The Global Times learned in Shanghai that major hospitals in this metropolis have been adding pre-examination tests, medical scheduling, and enhancing internet-based outpatient services as parts of their efforts to alleviate their pressure of receiving patients.

This year's respiratory diseases are caused by commonly known pathogens, but there has been a noticeable increase in cases of mycoplasma pneumonia, which is more resistant to antibiotics due to long-term overuse. Zhou stated that in his clinical practice, about 80-90 percent of children infected with mycoplasma pneumonia are resistant to commonly used drugs.

Lu Hongzhou, head of the Third People's Hospital of Shenzhen, believes the recent outbreak of mycoplasma pneumonia is an "immunization gap," which resulted in children not having the opportunity to develop resistance to common viruses like influenza. When the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, they became vulnerable to these pathogens.

Hypes are biased

Amid a surge in respiratory illnesses in China, which the country's health authorities have already attributed to known pathogens, certain overseas media reports have been sensationalizing the severity of the diseases and even raising doubts about China's transparency in dealing with respiratory illnesses. These reports have hyped concerns about whether travel restrictions should be imposed on China.

When the World Health Organization made a standard request to China last week for information regarding the reported cases of "undiagnosed pneumonia," some Western media outlets publicized this request as unusual. Experts have noted that this was an attempt to sensationalize China's transparency over increase in respiratory diseases.

On Wednesday, answering a reporter from NHK about international attention over increasing outpatient and emergency visits, Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry, said China's National Health Commission (NHC) held a press conference on November 26 to share information on the prevention and treatment of respiratory infectious diseases in winter. The NHC has had communication in a timely manner with the WHO, Wang emphasized.

Commenting on foreign media's exaggerated worries and concerns about China's respiratory disease, Zhou told the Global Times that it is not surprising to see Western some media outlets spreading false information about China. "But facts speak for themselves."

