



**Milestone marked**  
China-Europe freight train service makes 100,000th trip  
**BUSINESS, PAGE 14**

**Not tournament sharp yet, says Tiger Woods**  
**SPORTS, PAGE 19**

**Legacy lives on**  
Romance writer Qiong Yao, 86, passes away, leaving a farewell note **CHINA, PAGE 5**



# CHINADAILY

THURSDAY, December 5, 2024

中國日報

chinadaily.com.cn RMB ¥2

XI'S VISION | MAJOR COUNTRY DIPLOMACY

## Nation's tireless pursuit of peace wins acclaim

Promoting dialogue seen as crucial to productive solutions on hot spot issues

By **ZHANG YUNBI**  
zhangyunbi@chinadaily.com.cn

In the eyes of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, China's adherence to peace, amity and solidarity is deeply rooted in the nation's culture of thousands of years.

"In my own career, I have learned a lot from the teachings of ancient Chinese philosophers. One of my strong guiding principles is: A thousand friends are never enough; and even only one enemy is still too much," Prabowo said at a reception during his state visit to China last month, drawing huge applause from the audience.

During his talks with President Xi Jinping on Nov 9, he thanked China for upholding fairness and justice on the Palestinian question, and said Indonesia supports the three major global initiatives proposed by Xi — the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Leaders, officials and scholars have agreed, when assessing Beijing's major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, that China is a sincere, productive provider of peaceful solutions to hot spot issues and in global governance.

China has strived tirelessly for breakthroughs, using a range of innovative approaches, and is a keen supporter of true multilateralism, working consistently to make the voice of developing countries better heard regarding global justice, peace and development, analysts said.

Among the clear evidence in this regard is Beijing's role in successfully mediating and facilitating the landmark reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran last year.

"China, we have seen, is constantly pursuing different avenues to promote peace, to create dialogue among nations, to try to reduce tensions and sit everybody around the table. We saw this especially in the situation with the Middle East right now," said Nicaraguan Ambassador to China Michael Campbell.

"We are committed to working hand in hand with China as we seek to create more democratic international relations for the world," Campbell told China Daily.

He noted that in many situations, China advances cooperation among countries "to find solutions, and to focus on the real priorities of the world, addressing issues such as climate change, helping to eradicate poverty, and promoting development and prosperity for everyone".

Building on the momentum of its facilitation of the reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, China "has promoted de-escalation efforts and long-term peace" in the Middle East, according to an article published by British and Portuguese scholars in October at the website of the Georgetown (University) Journal of International Affairs.

Maria Papageorgiou, a China expert and researcher at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, and Mohammad Eslami, an invited assistant professor at the University of Minho in Portugal, said that "China's most substantial engagement" in resolving the Palestine-Israel conflict came with the Beijing Declaration issued in July at the gathering of representatives of Patah, Hamas and other Palestinian factions.

See **Diplomacy**, page 3



Protesters hold signs calling the imposition of martial law in the Republic of Korea unconstitutional during a rally against President Yoon Suk-yeol on Wednesday in Seoul. ROK lawmakers submitted a bill on the same day to impeach Yoon over the short-lived order.

JUNG YEON-JE / AFP

## Yoon faces impeachment over martial law order

By **YANG HAN** in Hong Kong  
kelly@chinadailyapac.com

Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol is facing impeachment over his declaration of martial law in the country on Tuesday night, an order he was forced to withdraw within six hours of announcement as ROK lawmakers unanimously voted against it.

An impeachment bill, submitted to the National Assembly on Wednesday afternoon by the main liberal opposition Democratic Party and five smaller opposition parties, was expected to be introduced at a parliamentary plenary session in the early hours of Thursday, and could be put to a vote as early as Friday, local media reported.

China said on Wednesday that it had noted the short-lived declaration of martial law in the ROK, but

"will not comment" on the country's internal affairs.

"We hope the ROK will take effective measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions. China's position on the Korean Peninsula issue remains unchanged," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian.

According to ROK laws, a presidential impeachment motion requires the agreement of at least two-thirds of the National Assembly members to pass. Impeaching Yoon would therefore require support from 200 of the National Assembly's 300 members. The Democratic Party and other small opposition parties together have 192 seats. In addition, at least six justices of the nine-member Constitutional Court must endorse the vote to remove him from office.

In a televised address on Tuesday

night, Yoon shocked the nation and the world by declaring "emergency martial law" to contain "anti-state forces" and protect constitutional freedom. This was the first time martial law was invoked in the country in more than 40 years.

The announcement drew heavily armed troops to encircle the ROK parliament, while lawmakers scrambled to reenter the building. People gathered in front of the National Assembly and at Gwanghwamun Square in the heart of Seoul, demanding Yoon's resignation, impeachment and arrest. The standoff played out over a few tense hours, with cameras capturing the moments of anger, bravery and defiance before Yoon was forced to back down.

Woo Su-keun, head of the Institute of East Asian Studies of Korea in Seoul, said that as only eight votes

are needed from the ruling People Power Party, of which Yoon is a member, there was a possibility that the impeachment bill would pass.

In a statement, People Power Party chief Han Dong-hoon said that Yoon's declaration of martial law was "wrong", and urged all Cabinet ministers to resign.

Yoon's senior aides, including his chief of staff, offered to resign en masse after the martial law decree was blocked by the National Assembly. On Wednesday afternoon, ROK Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun offered to resign, apologizing for the turmoil the country was cast into.

See **Order**, page 3

**Inside**

Comment, **page 8**

## Beijing, Tokyo called on to foster shared understanding

By **JIANG XUEQING** in Tokyo  
jiangxueqing@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese and Japanese officials and experts convened on Wednesday to advocate for maintaining the proper course of bilateral relations, fostering people-to-people exchanges and building a peaceful world through coordination and cooperation.

At the opening ceremony of the two-day 20th Beijing-Tokyo Forum held in Tokyo, Japan, Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized in a video address that the over-2,000-year history of Sino-Japanese interactions and more than 50 years of normalized diplomatic ties illustrate the importance of steering relations in the right direction.

"China has always regarded Japan as a vital partner and hopes Japan can objectively and rationally view China's development," Wang said. "Together, we should uphold the correct positioning of comprehensively advancing the strategic and mutually beneficial relationship and practice the shared understanding that we are cooperative partners and do not pose threats to each other."

He stressed that the four political documents between China and Japan form the bedrock of bilateral ties, warning against actions that blur, reverse or undermine these agreements.

To address global challenges such

as unilateralism and protectionism, Wang said he encourages the two countries to resist external provocations, advance regional cooperation, restart negotiations on the China-Japan-Republic of Korea free trade agreement and promote Asian economic integration.

Wang said he welcomes Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya's early visit to China and expressed his willingness to visit Japan at an appropriate time.

Iwaya highlighted the significant regional and global responsibilities shared by Japan and China, noting widespread anticipation for the constructive and stable development of their relations. Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's recent talks with Chinese leaders reaffirmed a shared commitment to advancing strategic, mutually beneficial ties, he said.

Iwaya pledged strengthened communication across all levels and sectors and expressed his intent to visit China as soon as possible to address unresolved issues, deepen cooperation and build on recent progress, including China's reinstatement of visa-free visits by Japanese citizens on short-term trips.

In a speech read out at the forum, former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda warned against growing global division and called for international efforts to ease tensions and foster a cooperative world.



Chinese and Japanese guests shake hands after the signing of the Beijing-Tokyo Forum's 2025-34 cooperation framework agreement on Wednesday in Tokyo, Japan. JIANG XUEQING / CHINA DAILY

Fukuda commended President Xi Jinping's commitment at the G20 Summit to upholding the UN Charter's core principles, promoting an open global economy and opposing protectionism.

Fukuda also highlighted the importance of public exchanges as the foundation of Japan-China relations, welcoming China's visa-free policy as a positive step toward improving mutual understanding.

Mo Gaoqi, director of China's State Council Information Office, called for enhanced interaction at all levels to deepen trust and ensure the stable, long-term development of bilateral relations.

"China and Japan are both key nations in Asia and globally. They should uphold strategic independence, foster good neighborly relations and turn their political

consensus of partnership and non-threats into concrete policies and actions," Mo said.

Since its inception in 2005, the forum has become a leading platform for public diplomacy between China and Japan.

The 20th forum, themed "Restoring peace and rebuilding a global order based on multilateral cooperation through Japan-China cooperation", featured discussions on topics such as politics, trade and security.

国内统一连续出版物号:  
CN 11-0091  
国际标准连续出版物号:  
ISSN 0253-9543  
代号: 1-3

**ANN**  
ASIA NEWS NETWORK  
A member of  
the Asia News  
Network

© 2024 China Daily  
All Rights Reserved  
Vol. 44 — No. 13903



## 'MYSTERIOUS' MOUNTAINS START TO REVEAL THEIR NATURAL WONDERS

Online curiosity piques interest in subtropical region with rare animals, forest perils

By **LI YINGQING** in Kunming  
and **ZHANG XIAOMIN**



Driven by viral videos from influencers showcasing the perilous and rare beauty of the Ailao Mountains, the once-hidden range in Yunnan province has piqued a wave of curiosity in recent months.

The topic "A bird numbering only 1,000 worldwide observed in the Ailao Mountains" was a hit on social media platform Sina Weibo.

"The white-eared night heron is hard to spot due to its small population and secretive habits," said Zhao Xuebing, a lecturer at Yunnan University's School of Ecology and Environmental Science.

Classified as endangered on the

International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, the bird has been given top-level protection by the Chinese government.

Located in the central part of Yunnan, the Ailao Mountains extend approximately 500 kilometers from northwest to southeast. The range is home to China's largest, least disturbed, and most intact subtropical montane wet evergreen broad-leaved forest ecosystem.

See **Nature**, page 2

**BREAKING NEWS**

### UNESCO inscribes Spring Festival as intangible cultural heritage

Spring Festival, the social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of their traditional new year, was on Wednesday inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The festival promotes morality, family values and solidarity among the Chinese people.

CHINA DAILY