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Kabul
 5° / -6°



Herat
 14° / -2°



Nangarhar
 15° / -2°



Balkh
 13° / -1°



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Shahbaz Sharif Criticizes Muslim World for Failing on Women's Education

The first day of the Islamic countries' conference titled "The International Conference on Girls' Education in Muslim Communities: Challenges and Opportunities," concluded today (Saturday) in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

Shahbaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, stated during the conference that restrictions imposed on women and girls deprive them of achieving a bright future.

The Pakistani Prime Minister further added that Pakistan and the Muslim world face significant challenges in ensuring equal education rights for girls. Sharif remarked: "Despite... P2



Pezeshkian Emphasizes Pursuing Iran's Water Rights

Masoud Pezeshkian, the President of Iran, stated during a televised interview on Friday that discussions are underway with Afghan authorities regarding Iran's water rights.

In this interview, Pezeshkian referred to Afghanistan as Iran's brother and noted that the governor of Sistan and Baluchistan, along with Iran's Minister of Energy, are actively following up on the matter of water rights.

At the same time, during a visit to Sistan and Baluchistan province, Iran's Minister of Energy also emphasized pursuing Iran's water rights through engagement and dialogue with Afghanistan's interim government.

Abbas Aliabadi, Iran's Minister of Energy, stated, "One of the most important issues is engaging with our neighboring country. I am following various matters."

The Islamic Emirate has not commented on the statements made by the Iranian President and Minister of Energy. Najibullah Sadeed, a water management expert... P3

IEA Set to Finalize Gas Transit Deal With Russia

Afghanistan is preparing to sign an agreement with Russia for the transit of 50 million cubic meters of liquefied natural gas (LNG) through its territory, according to Rustam Khabibullin, head of the Russian Business Center in Afghanistan.

The agreement is expected to be finalized at the upcoming International Economic Kazan Forum 2025, which will be held in mid-May, Sputnik reported on Friday.

Khabibullin revealed that the LNG will be transported to Southeast Asia, with the transit likely to be carried out via gas tankers. He further noted that trial shipments have already been completed successfully.

This potential agreement follows previous successful negotiations at the Kazan Forum. In 2023, a contract was signed for the annual transit of 50 million tons of Russian oil, and in 2024, a deal for the transit of 2 million tons of Russian wheat and flour was established.

The Kazan Forum, a key platform for economic cooperation between Russia and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries, continues to play a vital



role in fostering regional trade and development. The upcoming forum is expected to further strengthen economic ties between Russia and Afghanistan, particularly in the energy sector. Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Abdul Salam Jawad Akhundzada, stated that initial steps have been taken for signing this contract.

In the meantime, members of the

private sector have stated that with the implementation of this contract, the country's geopolitical position in terms of revenue, job creation, and increased transportation activity in the regional economy will practically be solidified.

Zabihullah Nazari, a member of the private sector, said: "For the implementation of this project, local labor will be needed, which can create many job opportunities

for the people of Afghanistan."

Economic experts also stated that the implementation of this project is important for the country in the short term but have added that Afghanistan's focus should primarily be on the TAPI project.

The Islamic Emirate, meanwhile, has repeatedly stated that with an economy-focused policy, Afghanistan will be transformed into the region's transit hub.

Procurement Commission Approves Nearly 3 Billion AFN in Projects

The Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Office announced that the National Procurement Commission, chaired by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, has approved contracts for 17 projects valued at nearly 3 billion Afghanis and revised contracts for 9 additional projects. These projects include the construction of a transport terminal in Arghandi, Kabul, the establishment of a freight vehicle station in Guzara, Herat, the repair of the Aqina-Andkhoy and Torghundi railway lines, the expansion of the fiber optic network in Kandahar, Helmand, and Farah, the development of internal roads in Kabul, and the completion of several power infrastructure projects across various provinces.



Surge in Domestic Tourism in Herat Following Champions League



The province of Herat has witnessed a significant increase in domestic tourism, following the hosting of the fourth season of the Afghanistan Champions League and recent water surge at the Pashdan Dam. Mawlawi Rahmatullah Mohammadi, the tourism director of Herat's information and culture

department, reported that nearly 50,000 domestic tourists from various provinces traveled to Herat in the past month alone. This surge in visitors has not only been attributed to the excitement surrounding the Champions League but also to the Pashdan Dam, which has emerged as a popular recreational destination.

Tourists have taken the opportunity to explore other historical and cultural attractions in Herat, contributing to a revitalized tourism scene in the region. Mohammadi emphasized the positive impact of this influx on the development of tourism in Herat, noting its role in promoting the province's attractions on a national scale.

Shahbaz...

our rich heritage, the Muslim world, including Pakistan, faces significant challenges in ensuring equitable access to education for girls. Denying education to girls amounts to denying their rights and voice and denying them their right to a bright future."

The conference, initiated by the "Muslim World League," brought together representatives from Islamic countries, human rights activists, and the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Participants discussed the role and significance of girls' education in Islam.

In a statement by the Muslim World League, it was mentioned: "This initiative, led by the Muslim World League (MWL), aims to promote Islamic awareness and implement programs that align with its foundational goals."

Rahela Pouya, a student, commented on the effectiveness of the discussions at the conference, saying: "Our request from this conference is for the discussions to result in practical outcomes."

Another student, Lubna, said: "By next year, the Islamic Emirate must reopen schools and universities for girls in Afghanistan." Zalmay Khalilzad, the former U.S. Special Envoy for Afghan Peace, referred to the Islamic countries' conference on girls' education in Pakistan as a propaganda effort against the caretaker government. He stated that resolving this issue is solely the responsibility of Afghans themselves.

By: Global Times

Chinese VP Meets With UK Chancellor of Exchequer; China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue Convenes After A Six-Year Hiatus

Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on Saturday met with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, who is in Beijing for the 11th China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The visit marks the restart of the China-UK EFD, a crucial dialogue mechanism between the two sides, after a nearly six-year hiatus.

During the meeting, Han Zheng, also a Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said that China and the UK are both major economies and financial heavyweights in the world, pointing out that strengthening economic and financial cooperation in the spirit of strategic partnership is of great significance to promoting economic growth, improving people's lives and encouraging green development in these two countries, according to Xinhua.

It will also inject confidence and impetus into the development of the world economy, Han added.

"China is willing to continue to expand openness and exchanges with the UK, enhance mutual understanding and trust, and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation to bring more benefits to the two countries and the world," said Han.

Reeves said the resumption of this dialogue after nearly six years is of great significance. The British side attaches importance to developing relations with China and is willing to strengthen candid dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation with China to promote the economic development of each country, she added.



Since last year, visits by senior UK officials and the meeting between the leaders of both countries have underscored the UK's willingness to strengthening bilateral ties, Li Guanjie, a research fellow with the Shanghai Academy of Global Governance and Area Studies under the Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Saturday.

Li noted that the visit by the UK Chancellor focused on bolstering collaboration in finance, trade, and other pivotal sectors of the bilateral relationship, adding that by reinstating dialogues, the Labour government hopes to reverse the decline in economic and trade relations with China and enhance the UK's economic standing amid challenging growth prospects. Li also noted that despite positive signals, China-UK economic and trade relations continue to face

hurdles, including concerns over investment security, geopolitical strains, and external influences from third-party nations like the US.

The 11th China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue took place in Beijing on Saturday. It is co-chaired by Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council He Lifeng and Reeves as the lead persons of the Dialogue.

He stated that China is willing to work with the UK to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, uphold the strategic partnership, strengthen communication and dialogue, and further expand economic and financial cooperation, providing more momentum for the development of a stable and mutually beneficial China-UK relationship. Reeves expressed

that the UK is willing to enhance practical cooperation with China in the economic and financial fields and develop a coherent, lasting, and mutually respectful UK-China relationship.

Established in 2008, this high-level dialogue mechanism has served as an important platform for dialogue and cooperation on strategic, overarching and long-term issues in the economic and financial fields.

In a statement to the Global Times, the UK Chamber of Commerce in China said that it warmly welcomed the Chancellor's visit to China and the revival of the Economic and Financial Dialogue.

The chamber highlighted that the resumption of this dialogue marks a significant step forward in rejuvenating economic ties and strengthening bilateral relations and it is hoped that this renewed engagement will foster constructive discussions in critical sectors, paving the way for fresh opportunities in trade, investment, and cooperation. Earlier Saturday, the chancellor visited the Beijing store of UK bicycle maker Brompton and said that she was in China "to unlock tangible benefits for British businesses exporting and trading around the world to ensure that we have greater access to the second-largest economy in the world", Reuters reported.

Reeves' visit is being accompanied by a delegation of senior executives from the City of London, according to The Guardian. The Guardian described this trip as the UK government's efforts to "closer economic links with Beijing as part of its quest for growth."

Editorial

Special Efforts are Essential to Attract Foreign Investors in Afghanistan

Afghanistan has entered a new phase of stability after years of prolonged conflict, presenting an unparalleled opportunity to attract international investors. The country's current peace and stability have the potential not only to foster domestic economic growth but also to build trust among foreign investors. It is imperative to strengthen a dedicated institution responsible for managing foreign investments, ensuring all necessary facilities are provided to investors and addressing their concerns effectively.

Security alone is not sufficient to attract foreign investment. Serious attention must be paid to providing financial and technical support to facilitate investments. Efficient and transparent services in visa issuance, licensing, and related processes are essential. Furthermore, simplifying investment-related regulations, establishing a risk guarantee system to minimize financial uncertainties, and creating industrial parks and economic zones are critical measures to inspire confidence among global investors.

The Afghan caretaker government bears the responsibility of fostering trust and portraying a positive image of Afghanistan's security

and economic opportunities to the world. To achieve this goal, an effective strategy must be implemented to expedite the process of building international confidence in Afghanistan's investment potential. Direct engagement with international companies and presenting Afghanistan's economic opportunities through global forums and conferences are vital in this regard.

Geographically, Afghanistan occupies a strategic position in the region. Its natural resources, agricultural potential, and economic opportunities are factors that can attract international investors. To leverage these advantages, the Afghan government must ensure transparency in its regulations and protect investors' rights. Creating a trustworthy environment for investors and initiating large-scale economic projects based on this trust will pave new paths for Afghanistan's economic development.

Moreover, Afghanistan must prioritize strengthening economic cooperation with regional countries. Central Asian nations, China, Russia, and Iran are key players in Afghanistan's foreign economic relations. Efforts to establish trust

among investors in these countries can bring significant changes to Afghanistan's economic landscape. The Afghan caretaker government should develop a comprehensive plan to promote foreign investments both domestically and internationally. This plan should include providing essential facilities for investors, such as allocating land for projects, reducing taxes, ensuring the provision of electricity and water, and streamlining customs processes. Additionally, a robust system for the implementation of economic laws should be established to further enhance the trust of international investors.

In addition to creating opportunities for investors, the Afghan government must focus on advancing technology and fostering innovation within the country. This will serve as another significant factor in building confidence among international investors. Prioritizing job creation for youth and emphasizing skill development can ensure sustained economic growth in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, Afghanistan is at a critical juncture that requires focused and determined efforts for economic development. The institution managing foreign investments must... **P3**

By: GT Staff Reporters

US Proposed Ban on Chinese Connected Vehicles 'May Backfire'

The Biden administration plans to finalize rules next week aimed at cracking down on Chinese vehicle software and hardware, US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo told Reuters. However, for Chinese car makers and companies in the supply chain, the impact will be minimal as the sales of Chinese cars in the US are low. But experts said that it will greatly impact international car makers in the US market, and the US automotive industry will likely bear a high cost for the attempt to replace the Chinese supply chain.

In September, the US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) announced a proposed rule that would prohibit the sale or import of connected vehicles integrating specific pieces of hardware and software, or those components sold separately, with a sufficient nexus to China or Russia, according to a document issued by the BIS.

The proposed rule focuses on hardware and software integrated into the Vehicle Connectivity System (VCS) and software integrated into the Automated Driving System (ADS). These are the critical systems that, through specific hardware and software, allow for external connectivity and autonomous driving capabilities in connected vehicles, according to BIS.

BIS claimed that malicious access to these systems could allow adversaries to access and collect the US' most sensitive data and remotely manipulate cars on American roads.

The proposed rule would apply to all wheeled on-road vehicles such as cars, trucks, and buses, but would exclude vehicles not used on public roads such as agricultural or mining vehicles, BIS said.

The rule would also prohibit manufacturers with a nexus to China or Russia from selling connected vehicles that incorporate VCS hardware or software or ADS software in the US, even if the vehicle was made there.

The prohibitions on software would take effect for Model Year 2027 and the prohibitions on hardware would take effect for Model Year 2030, or January 1, 2029 for units without a model year. Cui Dongshu, secretary general of the China Passenger Car Association, told the Global Times the proposed rule mainly involves the software and hardware related to intelligent connected vehicles. This includes intelligent driving software, driver assistance software, and vehicle control software. Key hardware components may include various hardware components required for intelligent connectivity, such as sensors, chips, and other internal hardware... **P3**

Afghanistan Emerges as Russia's Largest Flour Buyer in 2024

Afghanistan became the largest importer of Russian flour last year as it doubled purchases, Russia's state agricultural export agency, Agroexport, said late on Friday. Afghanistan imports flour as it does not have enough production capacity to fully meet domestic demand, Reuters reported. The increase in imports came as Russia sought to foster ties with Afghanistan's rulers.



Agroexport, citing preliminary estimates, said Afghanistan bought Russian flour worth almost \$80 million last year, double the 2023 level. Russia's total wheat and wheat-rye flour exports reached \$300 million last year, up 3% year on year in value terms and 7% more by volume, according to the watchdog. China and Turkmenistan were also in the top three buyers of Russian flour, it said.

Special Efforts...

align its operations with international standards and provide all necessary facilities to global investors. This will not only rejuvenate Afghanistan's economy but also create widespread opportunities for prosperity and development for its citizens. The current time is uniquely valuable for attracting international investors, and the Afghan caretaker government must intensify its efforts in this regard to lead Afghanistan toward rapid economic progress.

Death Toll Rises...

critical fire weather conditions." California Governor Gavin Newsom said Saturday that he is doubling the California National Guard deployment to aid in firefighting, and public safety resources are deployed to fight the Los Angeles fires, with 1,680 California National Guardsmen now active in the region. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the utility for city residents, said Saturday that one-fifth of its hydrants in the Palisades area sustained a loss of pressure during this week's deadly wildfire, reported Los Angeles Times, the biggest newspaper on U.S. West Coast. Firefighters battling the fire earlier this week encountered swaths of fire hydrants with no water, prompting a swirl of criticism.

Pezeshkian Emphasizes...

commented on Iran's water rights over the past three years: "Iran has received sufficient water from the Helmand River over the past three years, but since this water has not been delivered according to the protocol—meaning it has not been signed off by Iranian commissioners—the matter remains ambiguous. Therefore, we recommend the construction of water intake points and sharing of data related to Dehrawud to ensure water is delivered to Iran based on the protocol." A few days ago, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed concerns over the filling of the Pashtan Dam in Herat and the restriction of water flow into Iran. However, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the former Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs, responded to Iran's concerns, stating that agreements on water rights have been made between the two countries and that irresponsible statements by Iranian officials in this regard could negatively affect bilateral relations.

Xi's Special...

partnership, leading bilateral relations into a new era. Last year, the two sides solemnly celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, and the friendship between the two countries has been more deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples, Wang said. China is willing to work with Venezuela to continue to

implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, consolidate and develop the traditional friendship, and push forward bilateral relations for the benefit of the two peoples, Wang said. Maduro asked Wang to convey his highest respect and sincere greetings to Xi, and extended his gratitude to Xi for sending a special envoy to attend the inauguration ceremony of his

new term. Venezuela attaches great importance to developing China-Venezuela all-weather strategic partnership, and firmly supports China in safeguarding its core interests, Maduro said, adding that Venezuela stands ready to join hands with China to advance practical cooperation in various fields, strengthen the exchange of governance experience, and lift bilateral ties to a new level.

US Proposed...

"We firmly believe that this ban is misguided and is intended to suppress foreign competition, hindering China's competitiveness to create an unfair advantage for American companies," Cui said. However, crackdown measures won't stop the development of China's auto industry. For Chinese companies, the impact will be minimal as the sales of Chinese cars in the US are low. For Chinese companies that manufacture the components, should they face restrictions, they are well-positioned to explore alternative markets, including Europe, Southeast Asia, and Russia, Cui said. According to the China Passenger Car Association, in 2023, the total number of passenger cars exported from China to the US was 74,800 units, accounting for only 1.4 percent of total exports. Among these figures, the number of new-energy passenger cars was 18,600 units, representing just 0.4 percent. An industry insider from a leading Chinese auto manufacturer, who spoke on condition of anonymity to the Global Times on Friday, that "the company has a limited market share in the US." In contrast, it will mainly affect international companies, particularly those that manufacture in China and sell back to the US, such as some models from General Motors (GM) and Ford, Cui said. GM sells the Buick Envision and Ford sells the Lincoln Nautilus - both assembled in China - in the US market. In the first half of 2024, GM sold about 22,000 Envisions and Ford sold 17,500 Nautilus in the US, according to a Reuters report.

Both companies have not replied to Global Times' request for comment as of press time. Backlash When the US released its proposed rules in September, it prompted widespread backlash from auto industries in the US and other countries. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, representing General Motors, Toyota Motor, Volkswagen, Hyundai Motor and other major automakers, in October sought at least one additional year to meet the hardware requirement, Reuters reported. John Bozzella, president and CEO of Alliance for Automotive Innovation, said in a statement in September that "this rule will require auto manufacturers in some cases to find alternate suppliers...you can't just flip a switch and change the world's most complex supply chain overnight. It takes time," according to the statement issued on its official website. The Washington-based Alliance for Automotive Innovation has not responded to Global Times' inquiry as of press time. The Consumer Technology Association (CTA) said both deadlines should be extended by two years, as did Honda Motor, according to Reuters. CTA is the trade association representing the \$505 billion US consumer technology industry. Honda Motor said in a statement in October that the timeline should be extended by two additional years in order "to conduct crucial testing, validations, and updating of necessary contracts." Zhou Mi, a senior research fellow at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, told the Global Times that if the US were

to impose the restrictions, it may backfire and put American automotive manufacturers in a difficult position regarding their supply chains, significantly limiting their options, and lead to high costs in seeking alternative suppliers, which could cause considerable harm to the US electric vehicle industry. The US is attempting to block Chinese companies from entering its market, aiming to slow China's development and give American automakers a chance to catch up. However, in an industry that thrives on global cooperation, these restrictions could ultimately harm the competitiveness of American automakers and damage the US automotive sector, Zhang Xiang, secretary general of the International Intelligent Vehicle Engineering Association, told the Global Times on Friday. China strongly objects to the US proposal to restrict the use of Chinese connected vehicles, as well as their software and hardware, in the US, the Ministry of Commerce said in September. The proposal is one of a series of US actions that have targeted Chinese automobiles in recent years, including tariff hikes, procurement restrictions and discriminatory subsidy policies, said the spokesperson. "China urges the US to cease its wrong practice of generalizing national security, immediately lift the relevant restrictions, and end its unreasonable suppression of Chinese companies," said the spokesperson. China will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of its companies, the spokesperson added.

Trump's Middle...

Civil Emergency Service said five people were killed and several others were wounded

in two Israeli strikes. One of the two strikes killed three people in a house near the Daraj neighborhood in Gaza

City. The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas militant "in that area" at that approximate time.

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Death Toll Rises to 16 as Firefighters Continue to Battle Spreading Wildfires in Los Angeles

At least 16 people have been killed by blazes as thousands of firefighters race to battle spreading wildfires across Los Angeles County, the most populous U.S. county, local authorities said Saturday.

According to a list of fatalities published by the County of Los Angeles Medical Examiner, death toll from wildfires rose to 16 as of Saturday evening.

Eleven of the dead were related to the Eaton Fire and five were found in the Palisades Fire zone.

The deadly Eaton Fire, which broke out Tuesday evening, has scorched 14,117 acres (57.1 square km) near Altadena and Pasadena and was 15 percent contained as of Saturday afternoon.

The fire remained active overnight and is burning in an area with steep inaccessible terrain and critically dry vegetation, said the



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in a situation summary update. Aerial imagery overlays show approximately 7,081 structures may have been damaged or destroyed by the fire.

The Palisades Fire, the largest of at least five active wildfires in the Los Angeles region, has scorched 22,660 acres (91.7 square km) and has destroyed more than 5,300 structures since Tuesday. The blaze was 11 percent contained so far. "Firefighting efforts continue to concentrate on building and improving containment lines with a focus on public safety and structure protection. For today, north to northeast winds will gradually increase, peaking in strength this evening and overnight," said CAL FIRE in an update.

CAL FIRE noted that moderate to strong warm and dry Santa Ana winds "are likely to return Tuesday and Wednesday, creating... **P3**

A look at the world

Trump's Middle East Envoy Meets Netanyahu Amid Ceasefire Push

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday amid a push to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, Netanyahu's office said.

After the meeting, Netanyahu dispatched a high-level delegation which included the head of the Israeli Mossad intelligence agency to Qatar in order to "advance" talks to return hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza, a statement from Netanyahu's office said.

Earlier on Saturday, an Israeli official said some progress had been made in the indirect talks between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas, mediated by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, to reach a deal in Gaza.

The mediators are making renewed efforts to reach a deal to halt the fighting in the enclave and free the remaining Israeli hostages held there before Trump takes office on Jan. 20. A deal would also involve the release of some Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Families of Israeli hostages welcomed Netanyahu's decision to dispatch the officials, with the Hostages and Missing Families Forum Headquarters describing it as a "historic opportunity."

Witkoff arrived in Doha on Friday and met the Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Qatar's foreign ministry said.

Israel launched its assault on Gaza after Hamas fighters stormed across its borders in October 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, more than 46,000 people have been killed in Gaza, according to Palestinian health officials, with much of the enclave laid to waste and gripped by a humanitarian crisis, with most of its population displaced. On Saturday, the Palestinian civil emergency service said eight people were killed, including two women and two children, in an Israeli airstrike on a former school sheltering displaced families in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military said the strike had targeted Hamas militants who were operating at the school and that it had taken measures to reduce the risk of harm to civilians. Later on Saturday, the Gaza... **P3**

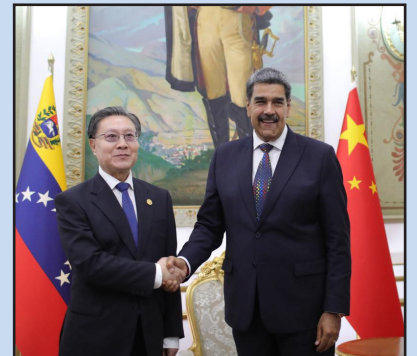


Xi's Special Envoy Attends Venezuelan President's Inauguration

Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy Wang Dongming attended here the inauguration of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro at the invitation of the Venezuelan government on Friday. Maduro met with Wang, also vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, at the presidential

palace after the inauguration. Wang conveyed cordial greetings and good wishes from Xi to Maduro and congratulated him on his re-election as president of Venezuela.

Wang said that in September 2023, Xi and Maduro jointly announced the elevation of China-Venezuela relations to an all-weather strategic... **P3**



Yemen's Houthis Claim New Attack Against US Aircraft Carrier in Red Sea



Yemen's Houthi group said in a statement Saturday night that it had launched a new missile and drone attack against the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier in the northern Red Sea in the past 24 hours, claiming the attack lasted nine hours.

"This is the fifth time we targeted the aircraft carrier since its arrival in the Red Sea," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in the statement aired by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

"The operation achieved its goals successfully and forced the aircraft carrier to leave the theater of operations and flee to the far north of the Red Sea," he said.

The attack aimed to support the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and respond to the latest U.S.-British-Israeli airstrikes on Houthi sites in northern Yemen on Friday, Sarea said, vowing to launch more attacks against Israel until "aggression against Gaza stops and the siege is lifted." On Friday afternoon, Israel said it launched a joint air assault with the U.S.-led naval coalition, targeting a power station and two ports in the Houthi-held capital Sanaa, Amran province, and the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah. Al-Masirah reported one death and nine injuries in Friday's attack.

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