

CPC members reach 99.185 million

The 103-year-old Communist Party of China demonstrates strong resilience, with the number of CPC members reaching 99.185 million **4**

'China-Peru cooperation a model for Latin America'

Peruvian President Dina Boluarte emphasized Peru's keen interest in exploring new ways of cooperation with China within the framework of BRI in an interview with GT **8-9**

How Asia's oldest library has survived for over four centuries

In Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, there lies a library that has survived for more than 450 years, making it the oldest library not only in China but also in Asia, and one of the three oldest private libraries in the world **16**

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► Event to 'inspire new collective approaches' in dealing with challenges

Xi to attend SCO summit, visit Kazakhstan, Tajikistan

By Li Xuanmin and Xing Xiaojing

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Astana and, at the invitation of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan and



President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, pay state visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, from Tuesday to Saturday, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced on Sunday.

The upcoming visits carry great significance against the backdrop of growing geopolitical tensions, rampant US decoupling pushes that are fragmenting the world, and the West's attempts to sow discord among the cooperation framework, observers said, while highlighting China's significant contribution to the

SCO summit that will help to build a more "cohesive, influential" regional community that overcomes geopolitical rivalries and promotes mutual trust.

The state visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan also underscore that China attaches great importance to neighborhood diplomacy and it **2** State

France starts voting in snap election as RN leads in polls

By GT staff reporters

French President Emmanuel Macron's political gamble faces its first test as voters headed to the polls on Sunday in the first round of snap parliamentary election, which could potentially result in the country's first far-right government since World War II. Observers believe that a victory of the far-right could not only render Macron a "lame duck" in his remaining years as president, but also affect France's support for Ukraine and have an impact on EU unity.

Experts said a victory for the far-right could also lead to an increase in protectionist measures against China in Europe, particularly in the electric vehicle sectors. However, they believe that any sensible European politician will eventually recognize that cooperation with China is essential for addressing the continent's struggling economy.

Polls opened at 0600 GMT and will close at 1600 GMT in small towns and cities, with an 1800 GMT finish in the bigger cities, when the first exit polls for the night and seat projections for the decisive second round a week later are expected.

Opinion polls have suggested that the far-right National Rally (RN) of Marine Le Pen and her protégé, 28-year-old Jordan Bardella, has a comfortable lead of 33-36 percent of the popular vote, with a hastily assembled left-wing coalition, the New Popular Front, in second place on 28-31 percent and Macron's centrist alliance in third on 20-23 percent, Reuters reported on Sunday.

This is a two-round election, and most of the Na- **2** Macron's

► Mega cross-sea link opens



The Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, a 24-kilometer mega cross-sea passage in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, begins trial operations on June 30, 2024. Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday sent a congratulatory letter as the cross-sea passage opened. (See story on Page 10) Photo: IC Inset: Photo of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link. The series of bridges and tunnels cuts travel time between the city of Zhongshan and the technology hub of Shenzhen from two hours to approximately 30 minutes.

Photo: CCTV



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State visits to consolidate ties, broaden co-op

► Xi, from Page 1

is set to inject new impetus into the relationship between China and Central Asia, where all five countries are China's strategic partners, observers said.

Considering that Kazakhstan is where the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was first proposed in 2013 and that vibrant cooperation under the BRI has transformed the landlocked Central Asia region into a vital regional transportation hub, foreign scholars expect that the visits could prompt bilateral and regional cooperation between China and Central Asia to reach deeper and broader areas, such as on the construction of more logistics corridors that could further promote regional integration and development.

Highlights of SCO summit

The SCO summit will be held in Astana on July 3-4, according to a statement on the SCO website. China will take over the SCO rotating chair at the conclusion of the summit.

The timing of the SCO summit is particularly apt given the drastic changes in the international situation and the stepped-up containment and bloc confrontation instigated by the West, according to Chinese analysts.

"It sends a message to the Western

world that there are many different voices from the emerging economies that need to be heard and represented, and the mainstream trend of global cooperation won't be reversed by their obstruction," said Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China.

He stressed the SCO summit's significance in demonstrating unity among member states and inspiring new collective approaches to deal with emerging challenges and conflicts.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said he expects his country will join the SCO at the Astana summit, according to media reports. That would mark the organization's new round of member expansion, after Iran formally joined SCO last year.

Analysts said the expansion will be a "historic breakthrough" that brings the number of SCO members to a two-digit level of 10, underscoring the organization's growing influence in the international arena amid a complex international environment.

"Cooperation under the SCO sets a paradigm for a new type of international relations in the spirit of mutual respect, justice, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation. Its growing relevance in the global context reflects the common de-

sire for this kind of relationship and is a pushback against the US' hegemonic abuse," Li Xin, director of the Institute for Eurasian Studies at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, told the Global Times.

Bolat Nurgaliyev, former SCO secretary-general, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview that the SCO also serves as proof of the possibility that countries with different economic and political systems can cooperate quite harmoniously, reconcile their sometimes diverging interests and work out a joint approach in dealing with common challenges and risks.

Along with the membership expansion, the economic complementarity among member countries will see significant enhancement, so will the potential for broader regional collaboration – making it another hot topic of discussion during the SCO summit, analysts noted.

Central Asia visits

Kazakhstan was the place where the concept of the BRI was first proposed in 2013. In 2022, President Xi made his first overseas trip after the pandemic to Kazakhstan, setting in motion a new "golden 30 years" of bilateral cooperation. Since May 2023, Tokayev has visited China three times, indicating fre-

quent exchange of visits at the highest level between China and Kazakhstan.

"During the visits, our leaders reached important agreements and coordinated political strategies, which should be viewed as exemplary, as they reflected the top level of mutual trust and good will. That is why the forthcoming visit of the Chinese top leader to Astana will definitely become yet another brick in the foundation of the beautiful edifice of the Kazakh-Chinese friendship," Nurgaliyev said.

"The visits to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan will consolidate ties and lead China-Central Asia relations to a new height," Li Xin said, adding that the solid relations are based on mutual support of core interests, mutual respect, equality and openness.

Central Asia, as one of the key areas in the implementation of the BRI, offers a vivid example of how the China-proposed global public good has been transforming the landlocked region into a land-linked region, transforming it into a bridge connecting the Eurasian continent. In this context, strengthening China-Central Asia cooperation under the BRI and SCO frameworks is consequential for the region's development in the economy, transportation, clean energy and technological fronts, analysts said.

Macron's 'political gamble' faces first test; result could impact unity of EU: expert

► France, from Page 1

tional Assembly's 577 seats will not be decided until the second-round run-off vote next Sunday.

Wang Yiwei, a professor at the School of International Relations at Renmin University of China, said the French President wants to use the election to scare voters out of their attraction to the "extremes," and return to a centrist majority; or he will end up being a lame duck for the next three years while in office, with far-right politicians to impede his policy decision and implementation.

If the RN wins an absolute majority, French diplomacy could be headed for an unprecedented period of turbulence, with Macron – who has said he will continue his presidency until the end of his term in 2027 – and Bardella jostling for the right to speak for France, media reported.

Affect support for Ukraine

Bardella said earlier to be "vigilant" in the face of any Russian threats but also said his party would not send troops to Ukraine if it wins snap elections. Macron had earlier rattled his European partners by saying he would not rule out the possibility of deploying troops to Ukraine.

The RN, once it secures seats



French President Emmanuel Macron casts his ballot in the first round of the early French parliamentary election, in Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, northern France on June 30, 2024. Photo: VCG

in parliament, will make some adjustments in its support for Ukraine and NATO, but those changes will be limited, according to Cui Hongjian, a professor at the Academy of Regional and Global Governance at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Cui said the French public has not withdrawn its support for Ukraine; they simply hope the government will reduce the extent of its support.

The main function of the parliament is to allocate funds, so RN will definitely seek to reduce France's financial support for Ukraine. Therefore, France's support for Ukraine will certainly be affected, Wang explained.

Bardella has indicated he would challenge Macron on global issues. France could lurch from being a pillar of the EU to a thorn in its side, de-

manding a rebate of the French contribution to the EU budget, and reversing Macron's calls for greater EU unity and assertiveness on defense.

Cui said since France holds a prominent position within the EU, any increase in power for the RN could potentially raise concerns from Europe. This could lead to a wider sense of disillusionment and disappointment throughout the EU.

More protectionism

While the full extent of RN's victory on China-France and China-Europe relations is yet to be determined, Chinese experts told the Global Times that RN's involvement in French and European politics may not help reduce ideological tensions with China. Moreover, it may also lead to an increase in protectionist measures against China in Europe.

The far-right political parties still uphold the so-called traditional values of Europe. In such context, they may not easily compromise on issues related to democracy or human rights, said Cui.

Chinese experts said that however, the French parliament will exert limited influence on France's diplomacy while Macron remains in power, as foreign affairs ultimately fall within the president's jurisdiction.

Any sensible European politician, no matter from which political party, will ultimately realize that when it comes to economic development and improving people's livelihoods, cooperating with China is in line with France and Europe's interests, said experts.

► Discussion 'reflects concern over US gerontocracy'

Biden's debate performance sparks replacement talks

By Zhang Yuying

As US President Joe Biden's "disastrous" performance at the Thursday debate sparked Democratic nominee replacement discussion, Chinese experts said this reflects public concerns about the aging of US presidential candidates, as well as the deep-seated contradictions in the US between the elites and the general public.

Divisions within the Democratic Party are anticipated to deepen with the upcoming presidential election and the potential for Biden's performance to deteriorate, experts said.

According to the AP on Saturday, Biden's halting debate performance has led some in his own party to begin questioning whether he should be replaced on the ballot for the 2024 election.

The discussion reflects public concerns about the aging of candidates in the US presidential election, as they do not want a sick and unclear-minded candidate to lead the country during a time when it is facing significant challenges, Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Sunday.

The political ecology and public opinion environment that Biden has to face reflect the general confusion of the public toward elite governance within the US, which was brought about by blind faith of elite figures in themselves, Li said.

According to The New York Times, some Democrats have been mulling over a roster of names for nominating an alternative candidate, with Vice President Kamala Harris high on the list, while a crop of Democratic

governors and other figures are often mentioned too.

However, Biden sought to extinguish anxieties among top Democratic donors as he spent Saturday personally reassuring them that he was up to the task of running for reelection and beating Trump, Politico reported.

Regardless of potential candidate changes, the lack of vitality in US rigid politics are unlikely to undergo significant changes. Gerontocracy poses great uncertainty and risks for both domestic and foreign affairs of the US, as Washington's decision-making may become fragmented and the risks faced by the US government may also increase, Lü Xiang, a research fellow of US studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Joint drills among Japan, NATO countries 'orchestrated by US'

By GT staff reporters

Russia has protested against joint military exercises among Japan and NATO countries, including Germany and Spain, taking place on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, which neighbors Russia's Far East.

Moscow claims the drills pose a "potential threat" to Russian security. But Chinese experts said on Sunday that the drills, being manipulated by the US behind the scenes, target not only Russia but also China, endangering the peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

According to the Japan Times on Tuesday, a contingent of more than 30 military aircraft from Germany, France and Spain will arrive in Japan in July to conduct a series of training exercises with Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF), marking the first trilateral air force deployment to the Asia-Pacific by the three European countries.

Russia protested to Japan on Friday about Tokyo's plans and accused Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of placing his country "on a path to dangerous escalation," Reuters reported on Saturday.

The joint military exercises are clearly orchestrated by the US as they are mobilizing more NATO member forces to the Western Pacific and Asia-Pacific regions to demonstrate their combined air combat capabilities, Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military expert, told the Global Times on Sunday.

The exercises clearly provoke Russia, as one of the long-distance flight routes is from Alaska, US to the northern region of Japan, potentially approaching Russian airspace, and may involve simulated attack drills, Wei said.

"Northeast Asia is already a hot spot at a dangerous stage. In such a period, the US continues to carry out military exercises in the Asia-Pacific, targeting China. This time the long-distance rush of some NATO countries to the region for military exercises should put us on high alert," Lü Chao, an expert on the Korean Peninsula issue at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Sunday.

He analyzed that NATO members want to stir up trouble in the Asia-Pacific to alleviate the pressure from conflicts in Ukraine and those in the Middle East. Therefore, the US-led NATO has turned to Japan, which has a delusion of restoring its hegemonic position in East Asia, for cooperation, creating a new military deterrence situation in the region.

With the US consolidating resources from its global allies to concentrate more offensive combat forces in the Asia Pacific, NATO's Asia-Pacific expansion poses a threat to regional peace and stability, Wei stated.

► Temporary relief



A man cools off as he stands in front of water spray fans placed on the roadside as temperatures soar to highs of 46 C in Iraqi capital Baghdad on June 30, 2024. Photo: VCG

China's aircraft carrier Shandong spotted near Philippines amid tensions

By Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

China's aircraft carrier *Shandong* was recently spotted sailing near the Philippines in a move media said serves as a deterrence against continuous Philippine provocations on Chinese islands and reefs in the South China Sea.

The aircraft carrier is likely on a scheduled exercise that could also prepare it for a potential far seas voyage into the West Pacific, Chinese experts

said on Sunday.

Citing commercial satellite images, Hong Kong news outlet the Singtao Daily and media on the island of Taiwan reported on Saturday that the aircraft carrier *Shandong* of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy recently arrived in waters about 200 nautical miles away from Luzon Island, the Philippines.

At a time when the tensions persist between China and the Philippines over islands and reefs in the South China Sea,

China's first deployment of an aircraft carrier to waters near the Philippines aims to deter, media said.

It is completely normal that the aircraft carrier *Shandong* conducts training exercises in the South China Sea, because only through training can the carrier gain combat capabilities, Zhang Junshe, a Chinese military expert, told the Global Times on Sunday.

To the Philippines that has been conducting infringing provocations, these forces will

naturally become a deterrence, as the Chinese military will resolutely defend China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights, Zhang said.

Media reports said that the aircraft carrier *Shandong*'s main mission is likely not the Philippines, but a far seas voyage beyond the first island chain into the West Pacific, because China does not need to deploy an aircraft carrier amid the ongoing tension with the Philippines.

Another Chinese military expert, who requested anonym-

ity, told the Global Times on Sunday that the aircraft carrier *Shandong* conducted multiple far seas exercises beyond the first island chain last year, so it will likely also hold similar drills this year.

It is normal that it makes preparation trainings in the South China Sea before sailing to more distant waters, the above-quoted expert said.

▶ 103-year-old Party 'shows strong resilience as a flourishing organization'

CPC members reach 99.185 million

By GT staff reporters

The 103-year-old Communist Party of China (CPC) demonstrates strong resilience as a flourishing organization, with the number of CPC members reaching 99.185 million, the latest data showed on Sunday, a day ahead of the CPC's 103rd founding anniversary.

The number of CPC members reached 99.185 million as of the end of 2023, up 1.2 percent year-on-year. Among the 2.408 million new members in 2023, 53 percent hold a junior college degree or higher while 82.4 percent are aged 35 or younger, according to a CPC statistical report.

In its early years, the CPC had only over 50 members and over the course of 103 years of its development, that number has increased to 99.185 million members, showcasing its resilience as a flourishing organization, Zhang Xixian, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Zhang credited the increasingly robust organizational growth to its alignment with the demands of China's development and its embodiment of the core tenets of Marxist



A group of the Communist Party of China (CPC) members review the Party oath at the Red Detachment of Women Memorial Park in Qionghai, South China's Hainan Province, on June 30, 2024, a day before the CPC celebrates its 103rd founding anniversary on July 1. Photo: VCG

CHINA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

theory.

Zhang continued to say that the reason why the CPC has grown from strength to strength, why it has won the support of the people, and why

it has overcome various risks and tests and won victory after victory is ultimately because the CPC is an advanced political party.

The newest data also proves this point. Throughout 2023, 2.408 million new Party members were recruited, of which

1.276 million are frontline workers, accounting for 53 percent.

Among the entire 99.185 million members, there are 55.786 million with a junior college degree or above, accounting for 56.2 percent, an increase of 1.5 percentage

points from the previous year. Workers and farmers remain the main body of the Party, accounting for 33 percent of the total.

The structure of the Party continues to be optimized, with more than half of the Party members having received junior college education or above. The optimized structure empowers the Party organization to maintain its vitality and better adapts to the development tasks of the times, said Zhuang Deshui, a deputy director of the Research Center for Government Integrity-Building at Peking University.

CPC organizations at the primary level continued to improve in 2023. At the end of the year, there were 298,000 Party committees, 325,000 general Party branches and about 4.6 million Party branches at the primary level in China, the report showed.

Building a close bond with the masses through the CPC organizations at the grassroots level is essential for the organization to maintain an advanced nature. It solves the real problems facing the people, and promotes the continuous improvement of people's happiness, Zhuang said.

Regions step up efforts to combat floods amid continuous heavy rain

By GT staff reporters

After the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) issued a top-tier red alert for heavy rain across the country on Sunday morning, large to heavy rainstorms were seen in East China's Jiangsu, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces, Southwest China's Guizhou Province, and other regions during the day. On Sunday night, the CMA issued another orange alert for heavy rain and a blue alert for severe convective weather. Meanwhile, affected areas are actively responding to flooding and other disasters.

During the day, areas of Shanghai, Guangxi, Hunan among other regions saw heavy downpours. At the same time, there were heavy rains in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi and Guizhou. In some areas, the maximum hourly rainfall reached 30-74 millimeters, according to the CMA.

At 6 pm, the CMA continued to issue an orange alert for heavy rain, the second highest level in the four-level system.

After days of continuous heavy rain, multiple regions have experienced floods. According to the Xinhua News Agency citing the Ministry of Water Resources, currently, 98 rivers in China have exceeded flood warning levels.

Among them, Central China's Hunan and East China's Jiangxi provinces have been facing more severe floods in recent days, with flood control emergency response levels raised to level III.

In Jiangxi, the water levels of multiple rivers and lakes continue to rise and have exceeded warning levels. The Jiangxi Provincial Emergency Management Department has requested local departments to strengthen the preparation of materials and teams, organize inspections of embankments, and enhance response to sudden risks. As of Saturday, a total of 68,000 personnel were deployed for embankment inspections, and 26,000 personnel were mobilized for flood control and rescue efforts.

In Hunan, flood prevention and disaster relief remain severe and complex. According to the provincial government release, as of Saturday, the total storage capacity of 12 major large reservoirs in the province reached around 19.3 billion cubic meters, which is about 1.5 billion cubic meters more than the same period in 2023. At the same time, there are 1,505 reservoirs in the province that have overflowed or discharged water, the highest number in a single day so far this year, while the current round of rainfall is expected to continue.

On 27th anniversary of return to motherland, HK 'in best devt period'

By Chen Qingqing

As the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is set to celebrate the 27th anniversary of its return to the motherland on Monday, the city also embraced the 4th anniversary of the implementation of the National Security Law (NSL) for Hong Kong on Sunday. Meanwhile, with the completion of the Article 23 legislation and reform of the electoral system, Hong Kong has already entered the best development period from being well governed to achieving prosperity, where opportunities outweigh challenges, officials said.

In summarizing his experiences as the HKSAR Chief Executive for two years, John Lee said from a global perspective, Hong Kong has performed well in many areas and continues to shine on the world stage, according to a video the Hong Kong official posted on his social media over the weekend.

"Today's Hong Kong has entered the best development period from being well governed to achieving prosperity, stepping onto the fast track of national development, promoting the development of new quality productive forces and deepening reform. Opportunities and challenges coexist but opportunities

outweigh challenges," Lee said.

On the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the implementation of the NSL for Hong Kong, a HKSAR government spokesperson said on Sunday that the law transformed Hong Kong society from chaos to order, allowing people's livelihoods and economic activities to return to normalcy.

This year marks the near complete reshaping of Hong Kong's political landscape and governance model, thereby laying a solid political foundation for Hong Kong's development and allowing it to write new chapters from this historical starting point, said Lau Siu-kai, a consultant from the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies, who is also a senior policy advisor.

Following those measures of safeguarding the national security in Hong Kong, almost all the anti-China and anti-Hong Kong figures who planned and directed the violent protests in Hong Kong have been brought to justice, put on trial, placed on wanted lists, or fled to avoid punishment, Lau told the Global Times on Sunday.



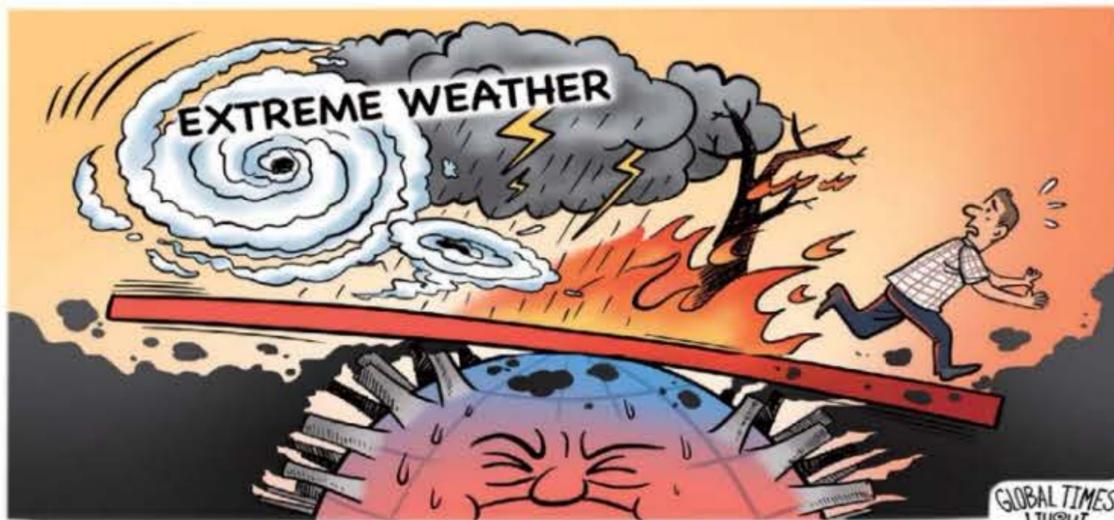


Illustration: Liu Rui/GT

Addressing climate issues requires developed countries to broaden mind

Abnormal climate and frequent severe weather events have been a common experience for many people this summer. Recently, northern China has been experiencing prolonged high temperatures, while southern China has been hit by frequent heavy rains. On a global scale, since the beginning of this year, extreme weather events such as heavy rains, floods, heatwaves and droughts have frequently occurred in many places. Hurricane Beryl has intensified into a Category 3 storm and is making landfall in the Americas, while “deadly heatwaves are scorching cities across four continents.” These scenes once again sound the alarm on climate issues for all of humanity.

The latest Global Risks Report released by the World Economic Forum warns that in the next decade, the primary global risk will not be armed conflicts or social division but extreme weather events. For this reason, people generally hope that governments worldwide can work together to address the frequent occurrences of extreme weather globally. A survey report released by the UN Development Programme on June 20 shows that 80 percent of respondents globally hope for stronger climate action.

Addressing climate change requires the full co-operation of the international community and both developed and developing countries need to fulfill their respective responsibilities and obligations. As early as 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change enshrined the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, recognizing the historical responsibility of developed countries for their emissions. However, developed countries such as the US and Europe have failed to fulfill their commitments in actual implementation despite having shown a positive attitude in international negotiations on global climate governance. This has directly slowed down the process of global green and low-carbon transformation.

As the largest global economy and most advanced developed country, the US plays a crucial role in the process of global climate governance. Unfortunately, the US is the only signatory that has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement to date, showing significant regression in its stance on addressing global climate change, which has severely undermined the confidence in international cooperation on global climate governance. Although the Biden administration announced US’ return to the Paris Agreement in 2021, it is hard to hide the wobbly nature of US climate policy, especially under the highly politicized landscape of bipartisan competition, where climate issues are not purely scientific topics but highly politicized ones.

It is worth noting that the importance of climate issues ranks far lower on the US political

spectrum than economic, diplomatic, or even China-related issues. The recent first televised debate among candidates for the 2024 US presidential election was a prime example. Despite the New York Times emphasizing beforehand that “no election has more potential to affect the planet’s warming climate than the rematch between Joe Biden and Donald Trump,” the two candidates only devoted a very short amount of time to climate issues.

As an important player in the global arena, Europe also has room for improvement in its approaches to addressing global climate change. The EU has initiated several anti-subsidy investigations against Chinese new energy companies and recently, the European Commission announced plans to impose tariffs on pure electric vehicles imported from China starting in July. British scholar Martin Jacques recently warned in the Global Times, “What compromise will it finally reach between protecting European carmakers and prioritizing its commitment to decarbonization? Or, to put it another way, what role does it see Chinese EVs playing in Europe’s fight against global warming?” Such reminders not only question European decision-makers but also question Europe’s sincerity and determination in promoting global climate governance.

To push forward global climate governance, China has always been a firm activist. We are not only promoting sustainable development at home but also actively cooperating with all parties, continuously injecting stable momentum into global climate governance. China has exceeded its 2020 climate action targets ahead of schedule and will realize carbon neutrality from carbon peaking in the shortest time in global history. The green and low-carbon transformation that China promotes is not just a transformation at the technological and energy levels but involves the transformation of the entire social system, as well as the economy, culture, finance and other aspects. This can be said to be an important strategic decision and action statement made by China in response to global climate change.

Global climate change is a common enemy of all humanity. Countries around the world must work together, share responsibilities and take positive and effective actions. This is not only to protect our planet but also for the well-being of future generations. Only through global co-operation can we make substantial progress in addressing climate change, which especially requires developed countries to broaden their mind and take pragmatic actions.

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Promoting Asia-Pacific version of NATO disrupts peace and stability

According to Japanese media reports, Japan plans to hold joint military exercises with NATO countries of Germany, France and Spain in July near the Russian border.

This military activity has been strongly protested by Russia. Lü Chao, a research fellow at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global

Times that Russia’s strong protest was expected. Considering the instability in Northeast Asia due to the US’ Indo-Pacific strategy and NATO countries’ rushing to the region, this joint military exercise should be highly vigilant.

Japan’s plan of joint military exercise with NATO member countries was clearly orchestrated by the US. This move by Japan is the latest action to promote the “Asia-Pacific version of NATO.” Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military expert and media commentator, stated that the US mobilizing NATO member countries to conduct joint military exercises in the Asia-Pacific region poses a threat to regional peace and stability. The US is integrating resources from its global allies to concentrate more offensive combat forces. Not only will Japan collaborate with these actions by the US, but many NATO member countries will also cooperate by deploying more fighter jets and other air forces. This exercise aims to integrate more NATO military forces in the region and merge them with the military forces of the US and Japan to demonstrate joint air combat capabilities.

An article in The Diplomat argues that despite Japan stressed that these joint exercises are not targeted at any particular country or region, the drills, conducted under the slogan “Free and Open Indo-Pacific,” are apparently a sign of Tokyo’s intention to use them as a deterrent to counter a more “assertive China.”

This view represents a mainstream idea in the US: treating China as America’s biggest competitor. In order to contain China,

the US creates utilitarian and exclusive small circles, attempting to integrate these small circles into an “Asia-Pacific version of NATO” large circle to maintain the hegemonic position led by the US. The US promotes the so-called great power competition,

which requires Japan’s support. Japan also willingly plays the role of executor of the US’ Indo-Pacific strategy.

In recent years, the relationship between Japan and NATO has been getting stronger. Japan frequently interacts with NATO countries, staging military joint exercises, forming “small circles” with the US to draw in regional and even external players, and trying to play the role of “second-in-command” in the US’ Indo-Pacific ally system.

In order to maintain its position as the world’s “hegemon,” the US is happy to turn Japan into a “bridgehead” and “tool” for intervening in regional affairs, indulging Japan’s ambitions without seeing the risks it may bring.

Lü believes that Japan’s military buildup has far exceeded its self-defense needs, and since Japan’s defeat in the World War II, Japan has not truly reflected on its war crimes, still harboring the old dream of revisiting East Asian hegemony, which is itself an unstable factor in the region. Once an “Asia-Pacific version of NATO” is formed, it will intensify regional camp confrontations.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is set to attend the NATO summit in Washington later this month, marking his third consecutive year attending the summit. Lü believes that further collusion between the US and Japan has a very dangerous tendency, and countries in the Asia-Pacific region need to remain highly vigilant. Regardless of how the US and its allies try to disguise their military activities in the Asia-Pacific region, they cannot hide their intentions to disrupt the current peace and stability in the region in order to profit from it.



OPENMIC

“Some countries expand and improve their infrastructure while others make wars.”

@angryoldfart990 said on X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday.

The opinions expressed are those of the writer(s) alone and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Global Times. Please send submissions to opinion@globaltimes.com.cn. Pieces should be no longer than 800 words. The Global Times reserves the right to edit the articles for length and clarity. Inquiry: (8610) 65367563

Turbulent world needs more political wisdom from the 'Five Principles'

By Qian Feng

On June 28, China solemnly celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which has attracted great attention from the international community.

For 70 years, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence apply to the bilateral relations between countries, gradually adopted by various international documents. Gaining recognition across the international community, it has a lasting vitality and extensive influence in the world.

At present, regional conflicts are intensifying, major power competition is rising, and geopolitical factors are intensifying. In the face of a turbulent and changing world, the international community needs to seek more political wisdom from the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Seventy years ago, the cloud of the Cold War shrouded the world, and "power is justice" filled every corner of the practice of international relations. For the first time, Chinese leaders fully proposed the "Five Principles" of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. This was the important international public goods that China provided to the world against the background of the time, and contributed Chinese wisdom to the development and improvement of the international order. Once put forward, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence quickly moved from Asia to the rest of the world, stood the test of the changing international situation, effectively safeguarded the rights and interests of other developing countries, and played a positive role in promoting the establishment of a more just and equitable international political and economic order.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have long been enshrined in China's Constitution and have become the cornerstone of China's independent foreign policy of peace. It is by adhering to the general line of independence and peace that China has firmly defended its sovereignty, security and development interests and made significant contributions to the cause of world peace and development. As an open and inclusive tenet of international law, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence embody the values of sovereignty, justice, democracy and the rule of law. Its essence lies in its full equality of national sovereignty and the fact that countries with different social systems can achieve peaceful coexistence and friendly cooperation. The sovereignty of all countries, whether big or small, strong or weak, is inviolable. No country should interfere in the right of other countries to choose their own development path independently, nor interfere in the internal affairs of other countries under any pretext.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence describe the basic principles to be followed in modern international relations. Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is the foundation, nonaggression and noninterference in each other's internal affairs is the guarantee, and equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence are the goals. The three constitute a system of norms governing international relations with rich connotations and strict logic. Its essence is to oppose the hegemonism and the old thinking of power politics in international relations, as well as the old practice of the big bullying the small.



Illustration: Liu Xidan/GT

Seventy years later, facing the historical choice between peace and war and between prosperity and decline, China has also presented the international public goods of building a community with a shared future for mankind, reflecting China's unique views on the direction of human development, making steady progress in practice. The joint development of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative has taken root, bringing prosperity and stable development expectations to the international community and creating solid benefits for people's livelihood. More and more countries and peoples have realized that this concept serves the common interests of all mankind and brings together the greatest common ground for building a better world.

Today, more than ever, the world needs to promote the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and work together toward building a community with a shared future for mankind. History has proved, and will prove, that with every increase in China's strength, the hope for world peace increases.

Over the past 70 years, why has China's foreign policy been widely recognized? It reflects the aspiration of people around the world to seek peace, seek cooperation and promote development, and conforms to the trend of the times and stands on the right side of history.

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The 'Five Principles' establish a just and reasonable international order

By Giancarlo Elia Valori

The Conference Marking the 70th Anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was held in Beijing on June 28. The 70th anniversary of the promulgation of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is a big event for the international community. It is also of great importance for China under President Xi Jinping's leadership to carry forward the long-standing tradition of friendly cooperation among the citizens of all countries to promote world peace and development. China does not agree with the theory that a strong country should seek

the rights, obligations and responsibilities of all nations. Through the "Five Principles," China and some other Asian countries were able to resolve long-standing disputes in the 1950s. Since the late 1960s, these principles have become deeply ingrained in Asia and have gained recognition worldwide.

Indeed, the "Five Principles" safeguard the rights and interests of developing countries. The essence of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is that all countries have equal sovereignty and oppose any country's monopoly on international affairs. This provides a powerful ideological weapon for developing countries to defend their national sovereignty and independence. They become a banner for these countries to unite, cooperate and strengthen each other through militant solidarity, which deepens mutual understanding and trust, promotes South-South cooperation, and develops and increases North-South cooperation. The main aim of the "Five Principles" is currently their contribution to the establishment of a more just and reasonable international political and economic order. The "Five Principles" reject the law of the jungle in which the strong can prey on the weak. It has been a clear anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist sign since the independences of the 1960s that accelerated the collapse of the formal colonial system.

In the context of the Cold War, "spheres of influence" and other methods failed to adequately manage relations between countries, leading to peripheral regional conflicts over expanding interference. In stark contrast, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence opened a new path for the peaceful resolution of long-standing issues and international disputes between countries.

Today's world is undergoing profound and complex changes. Injustice and inequality in international relations are still evident, and various regional conflicts and local wars are taking place in many countries without the screen of ideologies, but with a clear attempt to seize resource-rich territories. People, especially children, in some countries, still live in the fires of war. People still suffer from hunger and cold. There is still a long way to go to maintain world peace and promote common development.

In this situation, the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is not obsolete, but remains fully relevant. The meaning of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence is not watered down, but becomes deeper; it is not weakened, but strengthened over time.

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hegemony. The Chinese people don't seek to oppress other peoples through militarism, the so-called conditioning soft power, or humanitarian bombs that bring "freedom."

Seventy years ago, during the decolonization movement that emerged in the aftermath of the World War II, the cause of independence and national liberation flourished in Afro-Asian-American countries. Those new countries aspired to establish equal international relations with countries that had previously dictated and imposed their laws on them in an imperial-colonialist manner.

The newly independent countries followed the historical trend and jointly upheld the "Five Principles" of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

The Chinese nation has always supported the harmonious concepts. Asian countries have long valued principles such as benevolence, charity and peace. The renowned Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore once wrote, "Do you think you can achieve friendship through war? Spring will slip away before your eyes."

China has consistently advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which align closely with the aims and objectives of the UN Charter and provide a tangible framework for promoting peace and cooperation on a global scale. They not only reflect the aspirations of Asian countries for international relations, but also embody the spirit of international law that should guide

High tariffs won't fix US' structural disorders

One of the prime tools of the US economic strategy these days is foreign trade tariffs. The country that used to be a resolute champion of free trade is now very persistent in protecting its domestic markets from foreign competition. The explicitly protectionist approach to international trade goes back to at least the Donald Trump administration and it has continued throughout the current Joe Biden administration. China remains the main, though not the only, target of this strategy.

Over the last three and a half years, Biden has maintained most of the tariffs imposed earlier by Trump on Beijing, including the existing tariffs on more than \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods. Though the most recent May 2024 tariff hikes were relatively modest in their overall size, targeting only \$18 billion worth of Chinese imports, these restrictive decisions affected a number of strategic sectors like electric vehicle (EV) batteries, computer chips and medical products.

The odds are that the US trade protectionism will go further, no matter who wins in the forthcoming November presidential election. The apparent assumption in the White House is that since the US remains a lucrative market for all US trading partners, eventually these partners will have to yield to demands coming from Washington. It is

indicative that the Biden administration, exactly like its Republican predecessors, does not rely on multilateral trade mechanisms like the World Trade Organization to sort out US trade problems. Moreover, it would not be an exaggeration to argue that Washington acts as a spoiler on many WTO-related matters.

You do not have to be an expert on international markets to see that with its sheer size and its links to other economies, the policies of the US have a significant impact on the world.

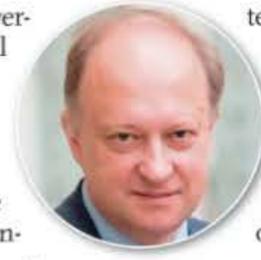
However, suppose that the Biden administration or its Republican opponents do not really care about the future of the global economy. Suppose that the US leadership views international trade exclusively through a zero-sum lens, believing that it could and should make full use of its privileged position in the world in order to extract maximum concessions from partners without offering much in return. Can the US achieve affluence and prosperity at the expense of its partners?

The available data shows that it cannot. Higher tariffs do not really help balance the US foreign trade. The most recent data available indicates that in April of 2024, the US trade deficit widened to \$74.6 billion, which is the largest monthly increase since October 2022. Looking ahead, the prospects for lowering US trade deficits look dim: Deloitte's baseline forecast predicts that imports

will increase 3.1 percent on average in 2024, while exports will rise only by 2.4 percent. Not a particularly bright upshot for the four-year rule of the Democrats!

The global economy in the 21st century is highly interconnected and interdependent and it is clearly not a zero-sum game. If the US government forces American businesses stationed in China to leave the country, in most cases these businesses are not likely to relocate back to the US. Instead, they prefer to move to other geographical destinations, where the investment environment looks more attractive than it does in the US. Infrastructure decay, inferior vocational training quality, excessive costs of legal services, poor work ethic, numerous political uncertainties and many other domestic problems and shortcomings, rather than unfair foreign nations' trade practices, are at the core of the poor health of the US economy. The real wages in the US economy have been stagnant for decades, the social inequalities are sharply increasing, the productivity growth is slowing down and even the life expectancy is declining.

This is not to write off the US as a formidable superpower with huge po-



ANDREY KORTUNOV

GLOBALMINDS
COLUMNISTS

tential. Still, even a true friend of the US would find it hard to deny that the nation is not in its best shape these days and that launching trade wars is not an appropriate remedy to its multiple structural disorders.

Instead of trying to shift problems from a sick head to a healthy one, the US leaders should meticulously conceptualize and consistently implement a long-term re-industrialization strategy that could once again unite the divided nation around common goals and aspirations. This is exactly what Franklin D. Roosevelt did in the 1930s to combat the Great Depression and to give Americans a sense of a common goal and social justice. A renewed social cohesion rather than high tariffs should make America great again. It seems that today neither Joe Biden nor Donald Trump is ready to come up with the next edition of the New Deal calibrated to fit the realities of the 21st century. Let's hope that the incoming generation of US political leaders will fill this gap before too long.

The author is the academic director of the Russian International Affairs Council. opinion@globaltimes.com.cn

Visa-free stays offer opportunity to experience real China, debunk Western misinformation

By Jerry Grey

Starting from Monday, tourists from Australia, New Zealand and Poland will be eligible for visa-free stays in China for up to 15 days.

China wants more people to come and see the country for themselves and see that people-to-people exchanges are good for business, good for the economy, and good for relationships between countries and lasting personal friendships across cultures.

However, there's one more incredibly positive aspect of visiting China which is an intangible one. Everyone that visits China decide that they haven't seen enough and want to come back for more, and starting this year, that's going to be a lot easier. Before Australia, New Zealand and Poland, China had already added six European countries and Malaysia to a list of countries whose citizens are able to travel visa free to the Chinese mainland.

Although a 15-day stay is a little short for such a diverse country, the policy will definitely be long enough for a tour and a taste of the many great things China has to offer.

Australians and New Zealanders are renowned for their



Illustration: Liu Rui/GT

global travels. Young backpackers flock out when schools break up in the southern summer, middle-aged tourists travel all throughout the year and even many retirees make their homes in exotic locations throughout Indonesia and Southeast Asia. All of these people can now take a short trip to China and see for themselves what a great country it is and what they've been missing.

But here's some bad news: According to the Lowy Institute, many Australians see China as a threat. There is no evidence of any threat whatsoever. This is just a massive media campaign by Australian media, which has vilified

China in such a way that the opinions held by many people there are false.

Here's where they got it wrong: when Australian media said that Chinese people were buying homes, land and businesses, the truth was, China owned less than 2 percent of all foreign owned assets. When Australian media said that China was restricting Australian trade, the real reasons were never given – even the Trade Minister Don Farrell admitted there was, and still is, a biosecurity issue with lobsters. For the record, it's cadmium and the Department of Fisheries knows all about it, but media won't tell us that as it would

damage the reputation of the Australian industry. Andrew Wilkie MP took a report to Parliament proving that China was right to stop the imports of Australian coal because the exports were of the wrong type of coal, the coal was "dirtier" than it should have been.

The list goes on, every negative item in Australian news has a reasonable explanation, but Australian people are misinformed because their media hasn't been telling the real story. Something else Australian media neglected to tell their audience was that their economy relies on, and can't survive without, China. But the media was constantly suggesting China was hurting Australia through trade restrictions, the actual situation was that China was buying more products and resources from Australia and trade has consistently grown over the years since well before the pandemic.

There's a small problem for Australians who take the time to visit the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Website for any travel alerts. Unfortunately, there's a message there that Australians should exercise caution as they "may be at risk of arbitrary detention." As an Australian living in China

for two decades with many other Australian friends here, I can assure all Australians that this is not true. There has never, in the history of foreign visits to China, been a report of anyone being arbitrarily arrested. This simply doesn't happen.

If this travel alert concerns you, don't be concerned, unless you happen to come here for the purpose of espionage, then you can ignore the department's travel alert; spies will be arrested in every country in the world, China is no exception. If you aren't a spy though, you won't be treated like one.

Tourists that come here to see China for themselves will very quickly realize that, like me, they have been misinformed. Once that happens, there's no going back. China will entice, enthrall and capture the hearts of all.

The author is a British Australian freelance writer who has studied cross cultural change management in China and has lived in the country, traveling extensively for almost two decades. opinion@globaltimes.com.cn

GT: What are the most important objectives of your visit to China? What aspects of China have left the deepest impression on you during this visit?

Boluarte: I want to express my sincere gratitude to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people for their warm welcome. This is my first visit to this impressive country. We are countries with ancient cultures and as such, cradles of global civilization.

It is my intention, during this visit, to reaffirm the importance of our comprehensive strategic partnership, strengthen the connection between our peoples, promote our economic and trade relations, and explore new forms of cooperation.

GT: What role does China play in your government's foreign policy? What are the sectors in which you and your government are seeking to deepen cooperation with China?

Boluarte: Both nations agree that the world must set aside their differences and cooperate to face together the great global challenges together, such as artificial intelligence, climate change, and regional conflicts. We think China is an important partner for cooperation.

GT: How do you evaluate the impact of the BRI on your country's development? The Chancay port is a landmark project under the BRI in the Latin American region. How do you evaluate this project and what are your expectations for the cooperation under the BRI?

Boluarte: The BRI offers opportunities to help close the existing infrastructure gap in our country. Peru is interested in exploring new forms of cooperation under the BRI and realizing win-win cooperation between the two countries.

A clear example of this could be the construction of the Chancay port, led by the Chinese company COSCO Shipping and the Peruvian company VOLCAN. Chancay port is having a significant economic impact with its construction, generating business opportunities, and we hope it will become a logistic and technological hub together with the Jorge Chávez International Airport, the port of Callao, and the industrial park of Ancón.

It is worth noting that once the Chancay port is operational, the transportation time from [South America to China] will be reduced from 45 days to 23 days, and it is expected that at least 1 million containers will be handled by



Peruvian President Dina Boluarte attends an exhibition titled "The Son of the Sun – The Inca and Their Tawantinsuyu: The Land of Four Quarters" in Shenzhen on June 25, 2024. Photo: Courtesy of the Peruvian Embassy in China

the port in the first year of operation.

We hope more Chinese companies will enter our country via Chancay port.

GT: We have noticed that you visited Chinese technology companies such as Huawei and BYD in Shenzhen. What was your impression of these companies? Was there anything that particularly impressed you? What cooperation opportunities do you see between China and Peru in high-tech sectors such as telecommunications and renewable energies?

Boluarte: The innovative capacity of Chinese companies like BYD is admirable. This company, leading in electromobility, not only stands out for its high-end designs, but also for the affordable prices they offer to the international market. The productive capacity and high-level technology of the Chinese automotive industry put it at the forefront of this sector.

I also believe that the high-end technology that Huawei is implementing in telecommunications and artificial intelligence reveals the importance

of having these technologies to improve productivity and competitiveness in our economies.

I would like to see that through Chancay port, more Chinese companies will enter our country, like BYD. The case of BYD is particularly interesting, as the Chinese company could benefit from the strategic location of the port and the proximity to the main lithium-producing countries in

the world (Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina) by achieving more competitive advanced battery manufacturing. This would benefit the local population, creating jobs and attracting other investments to complement and support the production of products for BYD needs.

GT: We are also interested in hearing your opinions on how China's cooperation with Peru and other Latin American countries can contribute to the development of the Global South, especially considering that Peru will be hosting APEC this year.

Boluarte: Cooperation between China and Peru can serve as an example for other nations in Latin America, demonstrating the advantages of maintaining good relations with China and the positive impact of collaboration.

A clear example of this was during the COVID-19 pandemic, when China provided over a million doses of vaccines to Peru. This gesture from the Chinese government allowed the country to avoid chaos due to a lack of vaccines and helped to boost health and industrial sectors open to the world.

As the host of APEC 2024, Peru aims to promote consensus among participating economies, with priorities including investment for inclusive and sustained growth; innovation and digitalization to promote the transition to a for

Editor's Note:
 During Peruvian President Dina Boluarte's five-day visit to China, she tried out China's new energy vehicles in Shenzhen and gave a thumbs up to the latest technology by Chinese enterprises. She also took a ride on China's high-speed railway and praised it, saying, "The Chinese high-speed train is really fast! We arrived [at our destination] so quickly." She extended an invitation to Chinese people, saying Peru has many world-renowned historical and cultural heritage sites, and we welcome more Chinese tourists to visit.
 In an exclusive interview with the Global Times reporters Zhao Yusha and Bai Yunyi (GT), Boluarte said China's cooperation with Peru can serve as a model for Latin America. She emphasized Peru's keen interest in exploring new ways of cooperation with China within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Boluarte also expressed her strong interest in inviting Chinese electric vehicle companies such as BYD to establish factories in Peru.

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Catedral de Lima, Peru Photo: VCG

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global economy; and sustainable growth for resilient development.

GT: The Peruvian avocado is very popular among the Chinese public. Many Chinese consumers want to know, will Peru increase its avocado exports to China? Is it possible that in the future we will be able to buy Peruvian avocados at a lower price?

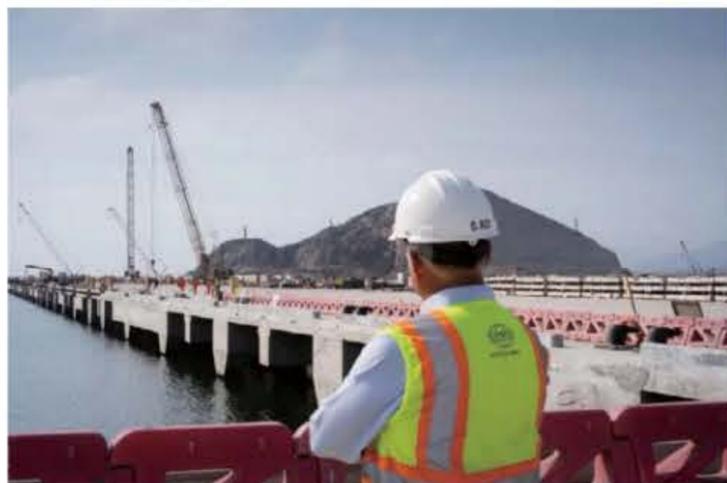
Boluarte: Peruvians are very happy to know that you like our avocados and we would like all our Chinese friends to enjoy this Peruvian product that is highly valued in the international market and considered a superfood for its nutritional properties.

We hope that avocado exports to China will increase in the coming years. In this sense, from the agricultural sector, we are working hard for our producers to adopt new technologies that will allow them to expand their production in the face of the challenges and effects of climate change.

GT: Finally, we have a personal question for you. You are the first female president in the history of Peru

and a role model for many women. What message do you have for Chinese women, especially those who aspire to pursue careers in politics or serve their country?

Boluarte: Do not be intimidated by adverse situations. Always prioritize the interests of your country, as the best thing you can do as a citizen is to work for your nation. Also, I want to remind you that nothing is impossible; it all depends on your determination to achieve your dreams. Never forget to always fight for them.



A worker stands at the construction site of the Chancay port in Chancay, Peru, on March 5, 2024. Photo: VCG

Chancay port a highlight of China-Peru win-win ties despite US pressure: expert

By GT staff reporters

Chinese President Xi Jinping said Friday that China stands ready to work with Peru to advance the comprehensive strategic partnership to new heights. Xi also urged joint efforts for the completion of Chancay Harbor on schedule, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Xi made the remarks while holding talks in Beijing with Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, who was on a state visit to China from June 25 to 29.

Xi said that Peru is one of the first Latin American countries to establish diplomatic ties and a comprehensive strategic partnership with the People's Republic of China, and is the first Latin American country to sign a package of free trade agreements with China.

Hailing the fruitful outcomes of bilateral cooperation in various fields, Xi said Chinese enterprises have played an important role in Peru's economic development and the improvement of people's livelihood through major cooperation projects.

Xi also said both countries should work together to ensure the timely completion of the Chancay port.

The Chancay Port is a megaproject in northern Lima that has been dubbed "the gateway from South America to Asia." Cosco Shipping Ports, a Chinese state-owned company, acquired a 60 percent stake in the Chancay port terminal, Caixin reported.

One important highlight of win-win bilateral cooperation between China and Peru is the completion of the Chancay port project, which is the first large-scale transport infrastructure project implemented by China in Peru, and a landmark project of the BRI in Latin America. It is expected to become an important transport hub and logistics center on the South Pacific coast.

During an interview with the Global Times recently, Juan Carlos Capuñay, former Peruvian Ambassador to China and Asia expert, described the project as "a significant initiative aimed at developing a national infrastructure system that will enhance national economic integration, regional, and the world connectivity."

"The port project will serve as the primary logistical and operational hub for connecting South America with the Asia-Pacific region," the former envoy said, giving the example of how the port will help reduce the sea transportation time for cargo between South America and Asia, which will result in significant cost savings in shipping goods to and from China and other Asian countries.

When the Chancay port is put into use, it will significantly reduce shipping time between China and Latin America, and help elevate trade not only between China and Peru, but also benefit the continent, Wang Youming, director of the Institute of Developing Countries at the China Institute of International Studies in Beijing, told the Global Times.

Peruvian authorities hope the Chancay port will become a hub in the South American Pacific, but the project has upset players in the US seeking to stop a rise of Chinese influence in Latin America, Reuters reported.

General Laura Richardson, commander of the US Southern Command, previously voiced unease over the Chancay port, saying it sits on America's "20-yard line," following a US Council on Foreign Relations report identifying it as a China-backed maritime project that could be converted for military purposes.

Before Boluarte's visit to China, the Peruvian government just asked a judge to withdraw its request to revoke exclusive operating rights from China's Cosco Shipping Ports for the Chancay megaport, Reuters reported.

The decision helped to ease tensions between the two countries ahead of the visit.

The Peruvian president's latest visit has not only demonstrated the country's strategic autonomy despite US pressure, but has also sent a strong message: Peru chooses to cooperate with China for development, rather than bending under the pressure from the US, which has been trying to force out Chinese companies from this Latin America country, said Wang Youming.

► China's cooperation with Peru can serve as a model for Latin America: Peruvian president

Relations

DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL



Temple of Heaven in Beijing, China Photo: VCG



► City fosters common devt path with Greater Bay Area HK's hub influence to grow

► POLICY

By GT staff reporters

As Hong Kong celebrates the 27th anniversary of its return to the motherland, experts and industry insiders said on Sunday the city's hub status will gain further influence with the backing of the Chinese mainland and the coming into effect of security safeguards such as the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance.

A launching ceremony marking the 27th anniversary was held in Hong Kong's Victoria Park on Saturday, kicking off a series of celebration activities.

Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, with the firm support of the country, the efforts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, the concerted efforts of all sectors of society and the hard work of residents, Hong Kong has been riding the waves and constantly breaking new ground, creating success for the practice of One Country, Two Systems, John Lee, chief executive of the HKSAR, said at the ceremony.

Despite economic headwinds, the meddling in its affairs by external forces, and challenges in a fast-developing world, experts said that with the central government's strong backing, Hong Kong can achieve better development by integrating into the overall national development.

In the first quarter of 2024, Hong Kong's GDP grew by 2.7 percent year-on-year, a Hong Kong official said on May 17.

The Hong Kong economy should record further growth in the rest of the year and exports of services should be supported by further revival of inbound tourism alongside the continued recovery of handling capacity, the official said.

Over the past year, Hong Kong's connection with the mainland has increased.

Timothy Chui Ting-pong, director of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, told the Global Times on Sunday that he is optimistic about Hong Kong's future. He said that an economic upswing is taking place in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay

Area (GBA) despite the global economic downturn, and the opening on Sunday of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link will help boost tourism.

Hong Kong's commitment to integrating deeply into the GBA has brought it closer to the mainland's economic development, promising an even brighter future, Chui said, adding that the city's educational standards and capacity for technological innovation are recognized as key competitive advantages fostering greater economic momentum.

"The future of Hong Kong will only get better," Chui said.

Looking ahead, as the GBA continues to develop, Hong Kong is expected to continue playing a vital role in promoting high-quality development of the country's financial industry, said Yu Lingqu, director of Financial Development and SOE Research Department at the China Development Institute in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

It can be anticipated that the city's financial market will continue to be open and vibrant, offering a plethora of investment opportunities, Yu said.

Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link project starts trial operation

► INFRASTRUCTURE

By Zhang Weilan

The Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, a transportation hub project in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), opens to traffic at 3:00 pm on Sunday, with traffic flow exceeding 7,000 vehicles within the first hour of its operation, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The daily average traffic volume is estimated to reach 80,000 to 100,000 vehicle trips, and the link is expected to operate at full capacity upon opening, according to yicai.com.

The passage will significantly enhance economic and social connectivity, facilitating the movement of goods throughout the Pearl River estuary, promoting balanced development of the GBA, local transport authorities said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday sent a congratulatory letter on the opening of the cross-sea passage. He noted that the project fully illustrates that Chinese modernization can only be achieved through solid work, according to Xinhua.

After the bridge commences operation, the travel time between Shenzhen and Zhongshan will be shortened from two hours to around just 30 minutes, greatly enhancing the connectivity and efficiency of the national highway network and transportation system in the GBA.

Authorities said the toll for the entire route is 66 yuan (\$9) per vehicle trip.

The bridge marks a significant improvement in connecting not only the GBA cities, but all of South China, bringing accessibility, convenience and speed to both travelers and businesses, local officials said.

The project, which integrates two bridges, two islands and an tunnel, consists of a 24-kilometer-long eight-lane expressway with a speed limit of 100 kilometers per hour.

It is an important part of the national expressway network crossing the Pearl River estuary, about 30 kilometers south of the Humen Bridge and 31 kilometers north of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, another passage in the GBA.

► Connecting Central Asia

A freight train leaves Xining, capital of Northwest China's Qinghai Province on June 30, 2024 for Almaty, Kazakhstan, carrying 51 standard containers of home appliances and chemical products. The cumulative number of China-Europe Railway Express trains exceeded 90,000 in May after the services started in 2016.

Photo: cnsphoto



More foreigners traveling to China as visa-free policy expanded

► TOURISM

By GT staff reporters

China's unilateral visa-free policy for citizens from Australia, New Zealand and Poland will take effect from Monday, allowing them visa-free entry for up to 15 days for business, tourism, visiting relatives and friends or transit.

Visitors from these countries will likely join other foreign tourists who have been enjoying China's visa-free

policy, which, together with the resumption of more international flight routes, has greatly boosted the recovery of inbound tourism and resulted in an inbound travel boom.

Local people feel that the visa-free policy is of great benefit, and many have plans to visit China within the year, Wang Jiazheng, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand, told the Global Times on Sunday.

"When I talked with the gen-

eral managers of China Southern Airlines, Air China, Hainan Airlines and other airlines in New Zealand, I learned that the flights to China are basically full. And the proportion of New Zealanders is significantly higher than before," said Wang.

The number of direct flights between China and New Zealand has returned to that of pre-pandemic levels. Since the beginning of 2024, inbound tourism orders from New Zealand have increased by nearly

60 percent year-on-year, according to statistics online travel agency Trip.com sent to the Global Times.

China on June 13 announced that New Zealand is now on the list of visa-free countries. In the 30 minutes following the announcement, searches by New Zealand tourists for China-related keywords increased by 65 percent from the previous day on Trip.com.

The increasingly expanding visa-free "circle of friends" has

spurred enthusiasm among foreign tourists for travel to China.

According to the National Immigration Administration, by May 31, a total of 12.09 million foreigners entered China, of whom 7.014 million came under the visa-free policy. The daily average entry number of foreigners reached 79,000.

► Move to strengthen protection, utilization of resources: experts

China issues rules for rare-earth management

► RESOURCES

By GT staff reporters

China's State Council, the cabinet, unveiled a set of regulations on Saturday on rare-earth administration, stipulating that the country will pay equal attention to resource protection, development and utilization of rare earths, following the principle of overall planning, ensuring security, and boosting technological innovation and green development.

Industry insiders and experts said that the new set of government regulations shows the country's focus on the healthy development of the rare-earth sector, as well as green development.

They rejected the allegation by some Western media claim-

ing the rules are to "enhance regulation for political purposes." Industry insiders noted the new rules are aimed at ensuring China's energy security, especially at a time when some Western countries increasingly see supply of key metals as a matter of national security.

The regulations will take effect on October 1. China will promote the high-quality development of the rare-earth industry, and encourage the research, development and application of new technologies, new materials and new equipment.

The regulations also specify punishments for illegal activities in areas including rare-earth mining, smelting and extraction, as well as unlawful imports and exports.

Officials from China's Min-

istry of Justice and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Sunday that in recent years, China has rolled out a number of related policies and measures, effectively promoting and protecting the sustainable and healthy development of the industry. However, some problems remain in rare-earth management, including the government's oversight on rare-earth resources, the industry's innovation capability, and the penalties for illegal mining and other serious violations. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate specialized administrative rules to provide legal safeguards for the protection of rare earths, they said.

Related departments under the State Council will be responsible for the management

of the country's rare-earth industry development, which will systematically enhance the strategic importance of rare-earth mining and maximize the added value of rare earths.

"The new regulations, including the penalties, are more stringent and more specific. The move will further promote the standardization of the rare-earth industry," Liu Hao, a Shandong-based industry analyst, told the Global Times.

Another industry insider who does not want to be named said on Sunday that the move aims to promote the orderly development of the industry as rare earths are indispensable for many high-tech sectors.

According to the Xinhua News Agency, rare earths consist of 17 elements that are

widely used in high-tech products ranging from flat-screen TVs to lasers and electric cars. According to media reports, global rare-earth resource reserves total about 120 million tons, of which China's reserves have reached 44 million tons, accounting for 37.89 percent, ranking the first in the world.

"Amid the current internal and external environment, the new regulations are a common international practice and do not target any particular country. They are designed to make sure that the rare earths are used for legitimate purposes in order to safeguard China's national security and better fulfill international obligations," Gao Lingyun, an expert at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said on Sunday.

► Peach harvest



An employee of a fruit cooperative sorts peaches in Binzhou, East China's Shandong Province on June 30, 2024. The cooperative has 350 mu (23.3 hectares) of peach trees, and this year, it is expected to harvest 2,000-2,500 kilograms of peaches per mu, with an output value of over 10,000 yuan (\$1,376) per mu. Photo: VCG

BRI helps Africa build infrastructure, create jobs: Nigerian FM

► DEVELOPMENT

By Yin Yeping

China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) builds roads, provides electricity, and creates much-needed jobs for Nigeria, the country's Foreign Minister Yusuf Maitama Tuggar said in a recent exclusive interview with the Global Times during the Summer Davos in Dalian, Northeast China's Liaoning Province.

Tuggar refuted Western media narrative of BRI causing "debt trap" in developed countries, and China's attempt to influence Africa through BRI, calling it "an insult" to African countries. He noted the positive impact of BRI on Nigeria and expressed his expectations for deeper ties with China.

There are quite a few BRI projects underway in Nigeria, which help build roads, bridges, power generators in his country, Tuggar said.

And, infrastructure projects have created many jobs for Nigeria, a country with a huge population, he said.

Talking about the changes that Chinese projects have brought to the African country, the minister said they have been "immense," giving the example of the Chinese-built Lekki Deep Sea Port, the first of its kind in Nigeria.

The multi-purpose deep sea port began commercial operations in April 2023, with a design capacity for handling 1.2 million standard containers annually.

The Nigerian foreign minister expressed his expectations of deepening relations with China. In addition to traditional fields such as infrastructure, Nigeria also wants to expand cooperation in other areas such as electric vehicles, in which China has the competitive advantage.

"We see Chinese companies investing in lithium processing in our country, which is exactly what we need - we want to create an entire supply chain ranging from mining to processing to final EV plants," Tuggar said, adding that "Nigeria sets no limit in its cooperation with China."

Amended company law helps modern firm system construction

► REGULATION

China's amended Company Law comes into effect on July 1. Analysts said its implementation will bring about extensive enterprise reforms, enhance the operational safety of market entities, and promote the healthy development of China's capital market amid the economic transformation.

The revision, passed by China's NPC Standing Committee on December 28, aims to adapt to the country's new economic development environment, and is expected to lay a robust legal foundation to enhance the modern enterprise system with Chinese characteristics, and drive high-quality development of the Chinese economy, the lawmakers said.

Chinese experts emphasize the new Company Law's role in standardizing corporate organizational behavior, reinforcing the responsibilities of all market entities, and enhancing market operation safety to ensure China's economic high-quality development.

The new law will improve corporate registration system for limited liability companies and add punishments for frauds concerning registered capital and company information, aiming to strengthen transaction security on the market and protect creditors' lawful interests.

The evolution of the Company Law reflects the government's considerations for market access and operational security, Hu Qimu, deputy secretary-general of the Digital-Real

Economies Integration Forum 50, told the Global Times on Sunday.

Hu noted that transition from paid-up capital to subscribed capital through policy adjustments would lower costs for establishing companies. The change will help foster diversified development among market entities, boosting their healthy expansion and market competitiveness.

In addition, the registered capital system acts as a market filter, challenging companies that inflate their scale with minimal subscribed capital, Hu said.

Global Times

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Euro 2024 an epitome of win-win China-EU cooperation

The UEFA European Championship, or Euro 2024, which runs from June 14 to July 14 in Germany, has been in the headlines in recent days. Chinese companies make up five of Euro 2024's 13 official global sponsors, including Chinese automaker BYD. This has become a topic of heated discussion both within and outside the EU.

Sponsorship from Chinese companies has become an important source of revenue for Euro 2024. From the Chinese perspective, these Chinese companies are likely to lean on their affiliation with the tournament to reach new consumers, build their brand image, and strengthen their presence in the EU market. This is a win-win situation.

BYD's five models have reportedly entered 19 countries and regions in Europe, establishing over 230 stores. It is normal for the Chinese automakers to further enhance their public credibility and influence through the tournament, so BYD has replaced Volkswagen as the official auto partner of Euro 2024. UEFA Marketing Director Guy-Laurent Epstein was quoted by the Xinhua News Agency as saying recently that this decision aligns with UEFA's vision of creating a greener Euro.

However, some Western media outlets are keen to politicize economic issues, and maliciously hype the competition between Chinese and European automakers. A Bloomberg report said that as Germany's national football team scrapped its way to victory in Dortmund on Saturday, a "game of geo-economic chess" was taking place on the

VOICE SOURCE

Euro 2024, to some extent, offers a window to observe the resilience of economic cooperation between China and the EU. We hope EU politicians can listen to rational voices, abandon zero-sum mentality, and push bilateral EV-related cooperation back on track. The EU side needs to show sportsmanship toward Chinese companies.

sidelines, with stakes that "go beyond the European Championship... China's BYD was looking to land a marketing blow on Volkswagen AG on its home turf," the report said. Its false narrative of marketing competition reflects an

undisguised zero-sum mentality.

Some Western media outlets addicted to geopolitical strife and zero-sum games may not know how to hold back. This strong inertia in geopolitical thinking will probably put up obstacles to mutually beneficial cooperation between China and the EU with regard to the development of clean energy industries. We hope they can abandon their zero-sum game mentality and create favorable conditions for further economic cooperation.

To some extent, Euro 2024 offers a window to observe the resilience of economic cooperation between China and the EU. UEFA estimates that Euro 2024 will generate 2.4 billion euros (\$2.6 billion) in revenue, mainly from broadcast and sponsorship deals, ticket sales, hospitality, and licensing fees for official tournament merchandise, according to media reports. It is a good thing that Chinese companies are active contributors to it.

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers are also contributing to Europe's green transformation. Chinese EV manufacturers are translating their expertise into progress for Europe's green transportation revolution through investment and equipment support.

China's development in the EV sector is an opportunity, and the two sides share cooperation potential in clean energy and the low-carbon economy. Recent trends suggest Chinese EV production will increasingly take place inside the EU and that high-end EVs will continue to be exported from EU countries to China.

In the foreseeable future, China will continue to be an important overseas market for EU companies, including Volkswagen.

Fortunately, on the sidelines of Euro 2024, there have been more rational and scientific voices defending mutually beneficial cooperation between China and the EU. A recent op-ed piece published in a European media outlet said the EU needs to show sportsmanship toward Chinese companies, and hold constructive dialogue between European business and political circles. Faced with competition from Chinese EV manufacturers, "there is a better way than to engage in a trade war," the op-ed said.

We hope EU politicians can listen to rational voices, abandon zero-sum mentality, and push bilateral EV-related cooperation back on track as soon as possible.

Nation's commitment to deepen reform to advance high-quality development

By Wen Sheng

Entering July, Chinese people's expectations will be running high as the Communist Party of China (CPC) will convene the third plenary session of its 20th central committee on July 15. Since 1978, the CPC's third plenums have typically focused on launching new waves of systemic reform, which have helped pave the way for the country's meteoric rise in economy and comprehensive national strength.

A holistic package of new reform plans is expected to come out of the upcoming third plenum scheduled from July 15 to 18. For instance, China will do its utmost to complete the building of a high-standard socialist market economy by 2035, China Media Group reported on Thursday.

The plenary session of great importance will thoroughly analyze the new domestic and international situations that will impact China's path to progress and prosperity, and decide on a flurry of well-coordinated arrangements for further deepening reform – the source of China's modernization, according to some observers.

The key priorities before the

policymakers will most likely go to advancing homegrown technology innovation and fostering new quality productive forces, as well as reforming the country's policies governing population, education, medical care, real estate, local government debt, rural vitalization and financial market stability and growth.

China's stock market rallied on Friday, buoyed by investor confidence in the meeting and the expected reform plans to be mapped out at the third plenum. As always, China's commitment to reform and opening-up is an important driver of the country's growth prospects, and market investors are upbeat that new business opportunities will likely prop up and push forward the Chinese market.

As anticipated by the market, China's new growth paradigm will continue to evolve, centering on inspiring technological innovation, developing new quality produc-



Illustration: Chen Xia/GT

tive forces, and fostering new growth drivers and growth patterns enabled by innovation.

Deepening digitalization and making the most of the latest technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and quantum computing, to renovate and upgrade traditional sectors like manufacturing, agriculture and services, are widely expected to guide China's modernization drive in the coming decade.

As one important segment of technological innovation, China needs to vigorously promote low-carbon development and green transition, by expanding the country's current advantages in new-energy exploration, and resolutely curtailing fossil fuel consump-

tion across the board in the country.

As the planet gets hotter each passing day because of the climate change, China, as a responsible major country, is taking the lead in reducing

greenhouse gas emissions. It is a grand task China has undertaken, despite some Western countries' intentional obstruction, which includes levying high tariffs on Chinese electrical vehicles (EVs).

China is taking even greater efforts for this green transition. Such efforts will underpin China's commitment to carbon neutrality before 2060, and at the same time create new dynamics for long-range battery innovation and high-end EV production as Chinese market demand for EVs soars.

China's future development is widely expected to be marked by high-quality development, supported by high-tech innovation, high-end manufacturing and full-fledged industry and supply chains that

are unparalleled in the world.

The third plenum is expected to reiterate China's stance on high-level opening-up and welcoming foreign investment, backed with easier visa policy and wider access to China's market. Naturally, foreign investors could move to seize the new opportunities arising from China's pursuit of technology innovation, green transition, and deepening reforms.

After more than 40 years' reform and opening-up, Chinese policymakers are becoming both astute and experienced in managing a giant economy like China's. Encouraging new baby births and larger families, providing them with the best education, focusing on technology innovation, and incessantly building up new quality productive forces, and forming friendly partnerships with China's neighbors and the Global South, will set the anchor for China's growth, regardless of the reckless disruption attempts by a few Western countries.

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GT: The 24th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan in early July. What are your expectations for the upcoming meeting? What development opportunities does the SCO present for Kazakhstan?

Shaimergernova: The new context of SCO development may stimulate the search for new approaches to the work of SCO. The SCO summit offers an opportunity to qualitatively influence the international agenda, and the organization needs to offer new concepts and attractive development ideas for a wide range of member states, observers, and participants in the dialogue.

If it effectively adapts to new realities in the future, the SCO could be offered with new impetus to be politically influential, economically powerful, largely self-sufficient, and it will display a new form of international cooperation.

The milestone of development in the past is a good reason for the leaders of SCO member countries to have a comprehensive discussion and begin more important works aimed at leveraging the enlarged potential of the organization.

This year, Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the SCO took place against the backdrop of growing geopolitical tensions, escalating challenges and threats of exacerbation of smoldering conflicts and the emergence of new conflicts.

In these conditions, Kazakhstan's proposals and initiatives on world

unity as well as peace and harmony seem very timely. These are of decisive importance both for the organization and for the region itself, and provide an opportunity to develop cooperation, strengthen regional integration and solve emerging problems.

Constructive changes in the SCO should be reflected in its new positioning as a more effective organization: not only an increase in members, but also entering new areas of interaction with real projects. Economic issues will remain the area of special attention of the SCO in the coming



years, especially taking into account the improvement of national economies and full-fledged cooperation among SCO members.

The SCO has significantly influenced Kazakhstan both in terms of regional security and economic development. As a founding member of the SCO, Kazakhstan actively engages with the organization to promote stability, cooperation and shared prosperity in Central Asia and beyond. In the field of regional security, the SCO has provided Kazakhstan with an important platform for addressing common security challenges, especially those related to terrorism, extremism and transnational crime.

GT: From your perspective, what kind of role China has played in the development of the SCO over the past decades?

Shaimergernova: China has made a significant contribution to the development of economic cooperation within the SCO. Initiatives such as the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have achieved synergies with the SCO agenda, promoting infrastructure development, as well as trade and investment flow across Eurasia. This integration not only stimulated economic growth, but also strengthened connectivity and stability in the region.

China's role in the SCO goes

Editor's Note:

The 24th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan in early July. Ahead of the SCO summit, Global Times reporters Li Xuanmin and Xing Xiaojing (GT) conducted an exclusive interview with Gulnar Shaimergernova (Shaimergernova), director of the China Studies Center in Kazakhstan, who during the interview highlighted the extensive role China plays in facilitating regional cooperation and economic integration. Shaimergernova was present when the concept of BRI was first put forward in Kazakhstan in 2013. During the interview, Shaimergernova shared her insights on how the initiative has opened up new opportunities of economic interaction and partnership, rising trade and prosperity in the region.

beyond those initiatives. The country proactively advocates cultural exchanges, international diplomacy and environmental cooperation within SCO, emphasizing the importance of soft power in building closer relations between different countries. By promoting dialogue and mutual understanding, China strives to build a cohesive regional community that overcomes geopolitical rivalries and promotes mutual trust.

GT: We noticed that you were there when the Chinese leader put forward the concept of BRI in Kazakhstan in 2013. How did you feel at that time? What changes have you witnessed in Kazakhstan over the past 11 years since the China-proposed BRI was launched?

Shaimergernova: I remember well the inspiring speech of the Chinese leader during his visit to Kazakhstan. In his speech, Chinese leader addressed the deep and colorful history of the ancient Silk Road, which has already been discussed by people of many countries.

The Silk Road affected the larger history of my country, which, thanks to its geographic position, has always played a special role in interregional exchange on the continent. The

Chinese leader presented new prospects for possible development and proposed modern comprehensive cooperation based on the concept of the BRI. These ideas were fully supported by Kazakhstan leaders.

Today, more than 10 years after that speech, we can say that the China-proposed initiative is writing a new history of trade and economic interaction. We see that East and West have become closer economically; many partner countries have a chance for economic development. International trade, investment, technology exchange, modern industrial projects are noticeably expanding, and all participants receive benefits.

The BRI proposed by Chinese leader today opens up enormous opportunities for economic interaction, trade and increased prosperity among partner countries. The proposal has fully justified itself.

GT: Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, China and Kazakhstan have maintained close and friendly relations. From your perspective, what kind of exemplary role this has played in Central Asia?

Shaimergernova: The high level of relations between our countries indicates that China and Kazakhstan fully trust each other, develop mutually beneficial cooperation, and support the initiatives of both countries.

In 2019, China and Kazakhstan decided to develop a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership.

Over these years, our countries have achieved many cooperation results that go beyond bilateral interaction. If we look at the development of cooperation within the BRI framework, we can confidently say that China and Kazakhstan are setting trends in Eurasia.

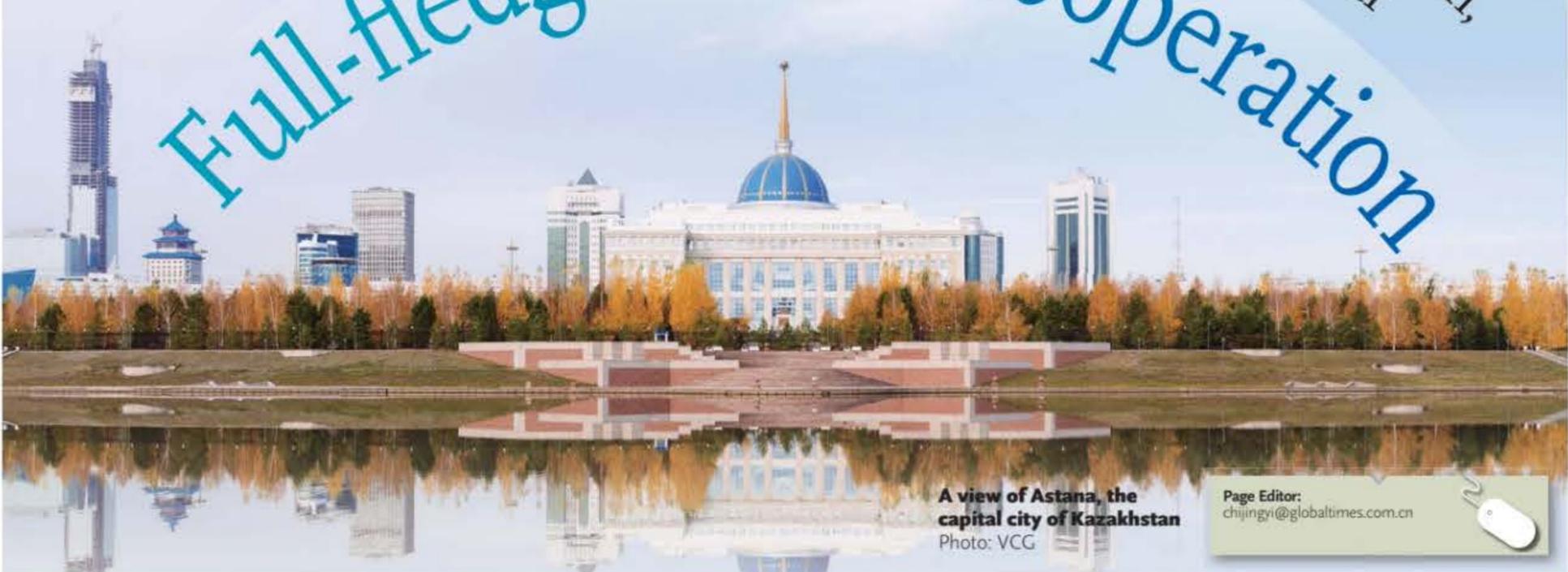
And we will strive to maintain and develop this positive dynamic in our relations and set an example for other countries in the region.



Gulnar Shaimergernova
Photo: Courtesy of Gulnar Shaimergernova

China has contributed greatly to regional economic integration, promoting mutual trust with members: Kazakh scholar

Full-fledged SCO cooperation



A view of Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan
Photo: VCG

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A visitor explores the *Special Exhibition on Design Intelligence and High Quality Development in Beijing* on June 30, 2024. Photo: Li Hao/GT

Young stars claim national titles with new 100m records

By GT Staff reporters

Fifteen-year-old Chen Yujie set a new Asian junior record in the women's 100 meters with a time of 11.29 seconds, while 17-year-old He Jinxian won the men's 100 meters in 10.06 seconds at China's 2024 National Athletics Grand Prix finals held in Rizhao, East China's Shandong Province, on Saturday, drawing widespread attention as young rising stars.

In the women's 100 meters final on Saturday, Chen, from East China's Zhejiang Province, outpaced several top athletes, including Asian Games champion Ge Manqi, crossing the finishing line first with a time of 11.29 seconds. She improved her own Asian junior record by 0.03 seconds, surpassing the previous record set by herself at the Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Dubai in April 2024.

In the following men's 100 meters final, 17-year-old He Jinxian from East China's Fujian Province sprinted to victory in 10.06 seconds, significantly improving upon his personal best of 10.17 seconds set in May.

He also broke the national youth record of 10.15 seconds previously held by Zeng Keli and equaled the season's best time in China set by Xie Zhenye in March.

Despite her young age, Chen has been capturing people's attention with her rapid rise in athletics for a while now. Since winning two gold medals at the 1st Student (Youth) Games of China in the high school category for the women's 100 meters and women's 200 meters in 2023, she has continued to excel.

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► DIA establishing global think tank: CAA president

Exhibition on design intelligence highlights Chinese wisdom

By Xu Liuliu

We all know that knowledge is power. However, in terms of our daily lives, design can be powerful, inspiring, and enlightening, bringing in the new quality productive forces to make life easier and better.

The 180 selected exhibits and cutting-edge technological works from the perspective of the Design Intelligence Award (DIA) over the past decade have been on display at the National Museum of China with the *Special Exhibition on Design Intelligence and High Quality Development* since Saturday.

Beginning in 2014, DIA, China's first international academic award in the field of innovative design, has continuously expanded its reach and influence, gradually evolving into China's most globally influential comprehensive innovation design award.

"DIA is more than just an award, as it is establishing a global industrial think

tank for the innovative development of the current digital economy and smart society," Gao Shiming, president of the China Academy of Art (CAA) which hosted the exhibition, told the Global Times on Saturday.

Gao said he always believes the purpose of design is "people," not just things. The designer's responsibility is to "create a new life aesthetics in the digital intelligence era," and to "realize human preservation and development in the new digital civilization under the new technological conditions, social relations, values and ethics of the 21st century."

For art academies like the China Academy of Art, contributing to the new quality productive forces means "the integration of artistic innovation and scientific and technological innovation, which can boost manufacturing with artistic and design wisdom," Gao said.

The exhibition is part of the efforts to respond to the latest demands of new quality productive forces and demonstrate the

strongest capabilities of Chinese design and manufacturing. The cases and works included in the exhibition are divided into such sections as Auxiliary Computing to Brain-Inspired Intelligence, Healthcare to Human Enhancement, Scale Advantage to Green Innovation, and Portable and Convenient to Smart and Beautiful Living.

According to Lu Tao, the exhibition's curator who is also the secretary-general of Design Intelligence Award, the first section focuses on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) evolving from a simple computational aid to a complex system capable of intelligent judgment and autonomous action, becoming more and more similar to the human brain.

This section presents the transformation of AI and showcases representative application scenarios in industrial hub, aerospace intelligence control, and immersive intelligence. These intelligent systems are reshaping the industrial landscape and indicating a future vision of human-machine integrated intelligence.

CultureBeat

2024 cultural tour impresses diplomats

Organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the 2024 Discover China Cultural Tour of Beijing for Diplomats in China kicked off on Friday. The event attracted over 40 diplomats and representatives from cultural and tourism institutions from 23 countries, with ambassadors from seven countries also in attendance. It presented Beijing's latest cultural and tourism hot spots to the audience through immersive situational dramas and interactive experiences.



A diplomat (left) poses for a photo with a staff member during the tour. Photo: Li Hao/GT

The venue of the event featured a variety of interactive projects, including intangible cultural heritage interactions, photo exhibitions, and

most striking part of the event was an immersive interactive theatrical performance, led by a renowned director, during which foreign

a large-scale digital light show. These multi-sensory experiences allowed guests to deeply appreciate Beijing's rich cultural heritage and modern vibrancy. The

visitors were taken on a bike tour through Beijing.

'Silk Road Dialogue' promotes cooperation

The *Silk Road Dialogue*, organized by the Silk Road Tourism Cities Alliance, was held in Istanbul, Turkey on Saturday. The event centered on deepening dialogue between China and its alliance among civilizations, promoting the spirit of the Silk Road, and exploring the meaning of travel. Its goal was to facilitate the exchange of ideas among member cities and countries, build-

ing a consensus for cooperation.

Francesco Frangialli, honorary secretary-general of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, stated that the significance of the ancient Silk Road extends far beyond trade. It is more about promoting exchanges and mutual understanding among people, ideas, and cultures. Wei Xiaodong, consul general of China in Istanbul, mentioned that the inclusion of Turkish cities in the Silk Road Tourism Cities Alliance will enhance the potential for tourism cooperation between China and Turkey.

China's presence rises in global classical music

By Bi Mengying

The global classical music scene has long been dominated by Western names, but recent years have seen a rise in Chinese musicians making their mark. This trend is exemplified by the Berlin Philharmonic's residency in Shanghai, held as part of a special project from the China Shanghai International Arts Festival.

A grand symphonic performance featuring

nearly 120 musicians from the Berlin Philharmonic, led by chief conductor Kirill Petrenko, was held at the Shanghai Grand Theatre on Wednesday. This event marked Petrenko's debut in China with the orchestra, setting a high bar for subsequent performances. The concert opened with Modest Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*, which immediately captured the audience.

The highlight of the concert was undoubtedly the orchestra's collaboration with pianist Wang Yuja. Known for her dazzling technique and charismatic stage presence, Wang captivated the audience with her rendition of Sergei Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.1 in D-flat major, Op.10*. Dressed in a striking green gown and high heels, Wang gave a performance that was not only a musical feat but also a visual spectacle.

Her collaboration with the Berlin Philharmonic first began in 2015. Over the past years, she has developed a deep connection with the orchestra, creating performances that are both technically brilliant and emotionally resonant. Wang's connection with the Berlin Philharmonic was further highlighted by her encore performances, which included Pyotr Tchaikovsky's *Dance of the Little Swans*, Prokofiev's *Sonata No.7*, and Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Melody*. These pieces, performed amid thunderous applause, showcased her versatility

and deep understanding of the repertoire, leaving the audience in awe.

In the audience sat renowned Chinese-German conductor Tang Mu-hai and his daughter. In 1983, Tang had been invited by Herbert von Karajan to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic.

"Karajan established a unique, profound, serene, and warm sound for the Berlin Philharmonic," Tang told domestic media.

"Forty years later, while the orchestra has changed, maintain-

ing its prestige, it has become more international, with more female members, enriching its sound."

Following her Prokofiev performance, Tang praised Wang's technique and musical control as "perfect," noting her percussionist-like precision and synergy with the Berlin Philharmonic.

This series of concerts was also significant for another reason: It features the Berlin Philharmonic's first Chinese

member, 30-year-old Mei Diyang, who has been principal violist of the philharmonic since October 2022. For Mei, performing in Shanghai with the Berlin Philharmonic was a homecoming of sorts, as he had performed in the city many times before joining the orchestra. Yet it was his first time back as a member of the German orchestra.

Inspired by his grandfather's passion for music, Mei started playing the violin when he was 5. Initially a violinist, he transitioned to the viola at the age of 10. Watching a TV documentary on Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic sparked his dream of joining the prestigious orchestra. In 2014, Mei furthered his studies in Germany. His talent was recognized at various competitions, notably winning first prize at the ARD International Music Competition in 2018. In 2019, he became the principal violist of the Munich Philharmonic, and in 2022, he achieved his dream by joining the Berlin Philharmonic in the same role.

His journey to become a principal player in one of the world's leading orchestras is a source of inspiration for many young Chinese musicians.

The enthusiasm for classical music in China was palpable. According to the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, tickets for the four symphonic performances, totaling over 6,000, sold out within five minutes of going on sale in April. More than 40 percent of the ticket buyers were from outside Shanghai, with many flying in from other provinces or even overseas to attend the concerts. This phenomenon underscores the powerful draw of classical music in China.

Zhang Xinlang, 18, traveled from Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province, to Shanghai just to attend the concerts. For Zhang, who had just finished his college entrance exams, the concerts were a much-anticipated reward.

The Berlin Philharmonic's residency in Shanghai is not just about the concerts. It also includes seven chamber music performances and a series of educational activities, aimed at fostering a deeper appreciation for classical music among Chinese audiences. These activities are part of a broader effort to bridge cultural gaps and promote international cultural exchange through music. The presence of renowned Chinese artists like Wang and Mei in these events highlights the growing influence of Chinese musicians on the global stage.

The orchestra's residency is more than just a series of concerts; it is a celebration of the fusion of Western classical traditions with Chinese talent and enthusiasm. As Chinese musicians continue to rise in prominence on the international stage, events like these play a crucial role in highlighting their contributions and fostering a deeper appreciation for classical music worldwide.

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Illustration: Chen Xia/GT

Young players key to China's campaign in World Cup Asian qualifiers

By Lu Wenao

The third-round draw of the FIFA 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers have placed China in Group C alongside with Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Indonesia, a group that many Chinese fans see as a "group of death" for the Chinese players.

However, with a change in mindset, the third round of qualifiers could be seen as "China's World Cup." Japan, Australia and Saudi Arabia all participated in the 2022 World Cup, with Japan and Australia advancing to the round of 16. This group offers a rare opportunity for the Chinese team to compete against top-tier teams.

Chinese soccer players will

gain invaluable experience by playing home-and-away matches against three World Cup participants, especially after a disappointing group stage elimination at the Asian Cup in January 2024, where the team failed to score a goal in three matches.

Facing such strong opponents, including two round-of-16 participants and Saudi Arabia – the only team to defeat the 2022 champions Argentina – could bolster the confidence of Chinese players even if they manage only a draw.

Since the end of the 2018 World Cup qualifiers, the Chinese national team has emphasized the need for rejuvenation. However, the transition

has been slow, with the second-round 36-team qualifiers series showing little progress.

If China dares to field younger players, as they did in the away match against South Korea in mid-June, it could benefit the new generation of Chinese soccer players. Even in the face of consecutive defeats, the efforts of head coach Branko Ivankovic to leave behind a talented pool of players would be commendable.

Young players like 23-year-old Baihelamu Abuduwaili, along with Zhu Chenjie and Ji-ang Shenglong, who were born in 2000, will mature significantly through this World Cup qualifying campaign. By the time the 2030 World Cup qualifiers come around, they could

represent the most confident generation of Chinese soccer players, offering renewed hope for a World Cup berth.

Compared with the time when China was pushing for the 2022 Qatar World Cup qualification, the atmosphere has changed significantly. Back then, there was a frenzy driven by the return of famed Italian coach Marcello Lippi in 2019 among other preparations. However, the result was a huge disappointment, culminating in the historic defeat to Vietnam on February 1, 2022.

Today, the landscape is different. The fact that China has reached the 18-team qualifiers has tempered expectations. With little of the previous overconfidence, the focus is now

on realistic goals.

With the top two teams of each group qualifying directly for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the third- and fourth-placed teams advancing to the fourth round, the current round of Asian qualifiers offer China an opportunity to gain confidence.

Emphasizing youth over immediate results may not yield instant success, but it helps set the foundation for a stronger team in the future.

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How Asia's oldest library has survived for over four centuries

UNVEILING SECRET

By Cao Siqi in Ningbo

In downtown Ningbo, a historic city of learning and culture in East China's Zhejiang Province, there lies a library that has survived for more than 450 years, making it the oldest library not only in China but in Asia, and one of the three oldest private libraries in the world.

The library, Tianyige, attracts numerous tourists with its unique architectural design, valuable collections of ancient books, and special damp-proof techniques, which are needed given the torrential downpours that regularly soak the city in the rainy season.

A tour guide shared the good news earlier this month that the library has collected several rare ancient books with visitors, including a volume originally from the library that had been missing for more than 200 years.

Now it may not be the best season to visit the library, but given the remarkable story of how it has survived for over four centuries, it is still a rewarding exploration.

Damp-proof combat

Founded over 400 years ago by Fan Qin, a court official of the Ming Dynasty (1386-1644), the Tianyige Library houses nearly 300,000 ancient books. It is one of the world's three oldest family-owned libraries besides Italy's Malatestiana Library and Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana.

Historically, flooding and water damage have posed significant challenges to libraries. The Tianyige Library is no exception. Situated in Ningbo, a city to the south of the Yangtze River, it endures hot and humid summer as well as cold and rainy winter. These conditions make wooden buildings and paper particularly susceptible to mold and insect infestation.

In June, Zhejiang Province enters the rainy season, characterized by high humidity and soaring temperatures, which pose a threat to the books in the library.

According to the Zhejiang Provincial Hydrological Management Center, as of Thursday, the province had received 337.4 millimeters of rainfall in the month, nearly double the total for the same period in 2023.

To combat moisture and moth damage, the Tianyige Library has employed innovative measures. Built with a two-tier structure, it stored books on the well-ventilated second floor to avoid dampness and flooding from the ground



The gate of the Tianyige Library in Ningbo, East China's Zhejiang Province

floor. The bases of the bookcases are elevated, and quartz stones are strategically placed within them to absorb moisture.

Anti-moth herbal sachets are carefully positioned inside the bookcases. Additionally, to address the challenges of the rainy season, descendants of the Fan family have employed the "book-basking" method, which involves moving books out of the storeroom and airing them before peak summer heat to prevent mold.

Despite the challenges, the Tianyige Library has successfully preserved its nearly 300,000 ancient books by continually refining its moisture-proof and insect-repelling measures, as well as its book restoration techniques.

As well as using air conditioning and ventilation systems, the library is equipped with an all-weather temperature and moisture control device that maintains optimal conditions.

"The temperature in our storerooms is kept between 18 C and 20 C, with moisture levels maintained at between 45 percent and 50 percent. Under these conditions, our ancient books are virtually unaffected by the rainy season," Li Yaoyao, head of the Culture and Tourism Development Department of the Tianyige Library, told the Global Times.

Beyond its precautionary measures, the Tianyige Library possesses advanced techniques for restoring damaged ancient books, a legacy that spans over 400 years from the Ming and Qing dynasties to contemporary times.

The restoration techniques at the Tianyige Library involve 28 steps, including an investigation into the reasons for the damage, page removal, page cleaning, and page repair.

In ancient times, damaged books were repaired with a special paste made from Sichuan pepper, lime, and common rue, which effectively repelled

moths. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the Tianyige Library established positions for book restorers. Today, the library has developed a well-established and comprehensive system to pass down these techniques, according to Li.

"We have a professional team of ancient book restorers led by a national intangible cultural heritage skills inheritor. When it comes to severely damaged books, they spend a whole day repairing only one page," Li said. "The

restoration process begins with finding 'matching paper,' which refers to paper that matches the original text in material, color, and texture, from our sample library. The damaged paper is then flushed with water to flatten it. After that, the restorer cuts the matching paper to the appropriate shape and size, then uses the special paste to attach the 'matching paper,' filling in the missing parts of the ancient book."

Family culture inheritance

"The Fan family had strict rules, stipulating that outsiders were not allowed to enter the library and none of the books could be taken out," the tour guide said.

Although Tianyige is no longer privately owned, the library still follows the tradition of its original owners to ensure the preservation of the books in the library's collection.

To allow visitors to gain a deeper understanding of this ancient heritage and get a closer insight into the 300,000 volumes, the library is digitizing the ancient books and planning to build a southern pavilion, which will enable more people to appreciate the ancient books firsthand, Li said.

Ningbo's slogan is, "City of Culture, Gateway to the World," and the Tianyige Library is a vital part of the local heritage. "Tianyige embodies the soft power of Ningbo's culture," Li said.

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