Humanoid robots draw promising

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MONDAY, August 25, 2025 chinadaily.com.cn

XI'S VISION | HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

Innovation is key to cultivate growth drivers

New quality productive forces seen as giving nation an edge in emerging fields

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China's commitment to cultivat ing new quality productive forces through scientific and technological innovation, as reiterated by President Xi Jinping, will help the country gain a competitive edge in strategic emerging fields and tech frontiers, and contribute to global economic growth, said experts and company executives.

Highlighting that fostering new growth drivers has been high on Chidevelopment agenda, they called for accelerated efforts to achieve breakthroughs in crucial technologies by investing more in fundamental research, reinforcing the dominant position of enterprises in boosting technological advancements, and intensifying financial support for innovation-oriented tech companies.

First put forward by Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, during his inspection tour of Heilongjiang province in September 2023, the term "new quality productive forces" has been highlighted

at several high-profile meetings. New quality productive forces are driven by revolutionary technological breakthroughs, the innovative allocation of production factors, and deep industrial transformation and upgrading, Xi said while presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee in January last year.

He said that sci-tech innovation can generate new industries, new models and new growth drivers, which are the core elements of the development of new quality productive forces.

The tone-setting Central Economic Work Conference held in December called for more efforts to make scitech innovation drive the development of new quality productive forces and build a modern industrial system.

Huang Hanquan, head of the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research, said, "Developing new quality productive forces is an intrinsic requirement for promoting China's high-quality development and will inject fresh momentum

into global economic growth." Huang added that China has favorable conditions for fostering new quality productive forces, given ever-increasing innovation capacities, complete industrial systems, ultra-large domestic market, high-caliber talent pool and massive data resources.

To gain an upper hand in a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, he stressed that more efforts should be made to bolster sci-tech innovation, especially innovation in cutting-edge and disruptive technologies, and to accelerate the industrial application of innovative achievements, further deepen reforms in technology and education mechanisms, and expand high-level opening-up.

A meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on July 30, which was presided over by Xi, called for accelerating the cultivation of emerging pillar industries with global competitiveness and promoting the deep integration and development of sci-tech innovation and industrial innovation.

"China has sent a clear signal that it is dedicated to implementing the innovation-driven development strategy and facilitating the in-depth integration of digital technologies with the real economy, in a bid to drive a shift from old growth drivers to new ones," said Luo Zhongwei, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Industrial Economics.

Luo emphasized the need to improve indigenous innovation abilities by stepping up investment in core technologies in key fields to solve bottleneck issues, as well as the $\,$ need to upgrade traditional industries, while vigorously developing strategic emerging industries and future-oriented industries, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, high-end equipment manufacturing, biomedicine, new energy and new materials.

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Celebrating Tibetan culture



Local residents dance in front of a massive *thangka* painting of Buddha unrolled on a hillside platform at the Drepung Monastery in Lhasa the Xizang autonomous region, on Saturday, marking the start of the traditional Shoton Festival, or Yogurt Festival. During the festival. participants enjoy yogurt, go on picnics and attend traditional activities such as Tibetan opera and horse racing. This year's festival includes new activities such as cultural tourism promotions, intangible cultural heritage exhibitions and sports games. KUNGA LEZANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Recall votes spell separatist defeat

By LI SHANGYI

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The results of the second round of recall votes targeting lawmakers of the Chinese Kuomintang party in Taiwan show that "Taiwan independence" separatism runs against the will of the people and is bound to fail, a Chinese mainland official said on Sunday.

Zhu Fenglian, a spokeswoman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said the people of Taiwan "have once again said no" to the Democratic Progressive Party's "malicious political farce" to suppress dissent and divide society.

This clearly demonstrates that any form of "Taiwan independence" separatism and political manipulation is doomed to fail,

she added. The second round of recall votes $\,$ targeting seven legislators failed on Saturday, with none of the recall proposals being passed, marking another sweeping victory for the KMT. Following the announcement of the results, Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te said the DPP "respects and accepts" the outcome.

the DPP still remains a minority party in Taiwan's legislature, holding 51 seats out of 113. This overwhelming rejection of the recall campaign shows growing public discontent with the DPP's divisive and undemocratic style of governance, experts and officials said.

Inside

Wang Shushen, deputy head of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' page 8 Institute of Taiwan

Studies, said the successive recall vote failures indicate widespread dissatisfaction among Taiwan people with Lai's arbitrary and undemocratic style of governance.

"Nearly all public opinion polls in Taiwan showed that more than half of the population opposed the large-scale recall campaign," Wang said.

The recall campaign targeting lawmakers was initiated by civil groups backed by the DPP, which did not secure a legislative majority despite winning the election in Taiwan in January 2024. While the DPP holds 51 seats, the KMT holds 52 and the Taiwan People's Party eight.

Political analysts see the recall votes as an attempt to guarantee the DPP's control over the legislature.

However, Saturday's results vere a second straight setback for the ruling DPP. All seven opposition lawmakers held onto their seats, as did 24 legislators during the first round of recall votes on July 26.

In June, ahead of the recall campaign, Lai prepared a 10-part series of speeches promoting anti-China sentiments, but managed to deliver only four.

Wang said the speeches failed to win people's hearts, as these were widely perceived as hypocritical. "On the one hand, Lai aimed to unify the island through his speeches, but on the other hand, he used pro-DPP affiliate groups to eliminate the opposition," Wang said.

On Saturday, KMT Chairman Eric Chu Li-luan said: "Lai Chingte's administration has been mobilizing hatred to consolidate power, sacrificing the trust and harmony of society as a whole. It should halt all political maneuvers that create division.

Wang highlighted that the recall results also underscore Taiwan people's focus on economic and livelihood matters, rather than political rivalries.

new deliveries by land, but the UN

and others say it is far from enough.

report, with Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu's office calling it

"an outright lie", saying that Israel

"does not have a policy of starvation" but rather "a policy of prevent-

Ceasefire efforts are on hold as

Many Israelis fear that the

mediators await Israel's next steps.

assault on Gaza City could doom

the 20 hostages who are believed to

have survived since 2023. Another

30 hostages are thought to be dead.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis

protested a week ago for a deal to

end the fighting and bring every-

Israel has rejected the famine

THEME PARKS MUSHROOM**UNDER HAPPINESS** ECONOMY'

Shanghai leads country in pioneering, upgrading profitable playgrounds

By WANG YING in Shanghai wang_ying@chinadaily.com.cn

hanghai is poised to cash in on the "happiness economy" as it undergoes a surge in construction of new theme parks and upgrades existing ones,

tourism and industry experts said. Already the theme park capital of China, Shanghai has seen the opening this summer of the country's first Legoland, to be followed by a slew of other major projects including the world's biggest Peppa Pig theme park, which is slated to launch in 2027.



"Driven by the varied supply and strong consumption, as well as its good business environment, theme parks in Shanghai and China can unlock an enormous theme park economy," said Dai Bin, president of the China Tourism Academy. While it usually costs billions of

yuan or more to build a theme park, owners can recoup

those costs through annual consumption, with thousands of jobs created and a boost given to the entire supply chain, he said.

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Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza amid worsening humanitarian crisis

By LIU JIANQIAO

Israeli strikes and gunfire killed at least 33 Palestinians in Gaza on Saturday, including people sheltering in tents and searching for food. as the enclave faces the risk of famine 22 months into Israel's offensive.

Analyst warned that Israel's military campaign in Gaza is unlikely to ease anytime soon, as its ultimate objective is to gain full control of the Gaza Strip.

Israel's defense minister has said that Gaza City could be destroyed in a new military operation perhaps just days away

Aid groups have long warned that the war, which began on Oct 7, 2023, and months of Israeli restrictions on food and medical supplies entering Gaza are causing starvation.

In southern Gaza, Israeli strikes killed at least 17 people, more than half of them women and children, according to morgue records and health officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where officials said

the strikes hit tents sheltering displaced people.

Eleven people were killed in attacks elsewhere, according to hospitals and the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Gaza's Health Ministry said at least 62,686 Palestinians have been killed in the war, including missing people now confirmed dead by a special ministry judicial committee. The number of malnutritionrelated deaths has exceeded 300, the ministry said.

Chaos was seen on roads leading to aid delivery sites, and there have been almost daily reports of Israeli troops firing in the vicinity of aidseekers. Israel's military says it fires warning shots if people approach troops or pose a threat.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a network of United Nations agencies and NGOs, released a famine report on Friday, saying that nearly half a million - about one-fourth of Gaza's population — face catastrophic hunger.



A Palestinian boy extends an empty pot at a charity kitchen to receive food in Gaza City on Saturday. OMAR AL-QATTAA / AFP

The pronouncement came after Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza earlier this year, then resumed some access with a focus on the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a new private aid supplier backed by the United States.

Thousands of people have protested in cities around the world after the UN network officially declared famine in northern Gaza.

In response to global outrage over images of emaciated children Israel has also allowed airdrops and

Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, said the ultimate objective for Israel is to gain full control of the Gaza Strip, a goal it links to the elimina-

tion or removal of Hamas.

See Conflict, page 3

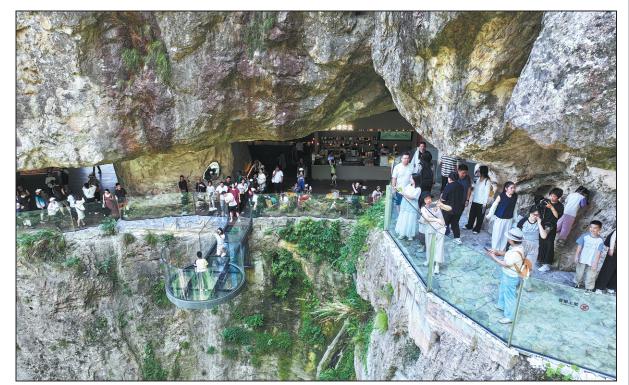
one home.

ing starvation".

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TOP NEWS

Coffee on the cliff



Visitors make a beeline for a cliffside cafe at the Fangdong scenic area in Yandang Mountain in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, on Sunday. The Yandang Mountain scenic area has leveraged the natural beauty of the place to create unique experiences for visitors, enabling the historical site to remain a tourist magnet, ZHU HAIWEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Conflict: Peace talks urged for ceasefire

From page 1

He said that Israel's military campaign in Gaza is unlikely to ease in the short term, with operations expected to continue until its stated objectives are met. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise, and the humanitarian crisis is likely to deepen.

"Prospects for a ceasefire in Gaza remain slim, with the pace of the conflict largely shaped by Israel's domestic politics and regional ambitions," Ding said, adding that he believes that even if Hamas signaled readiness for a truce, Israel would be unlikely to agree.

On Thursday, the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan were among 21 countries that condemned Israel's plan to build a settlement in the occupied West Bank, warning that the move undermines prospects for a twostate solution.

Ding said that an increasing

number of Western countries are shifting their stance on the conflict in Gaza, openly criticizing Israel and voicing support for Palestinian statehood.

"Israel, however, with firm backing from the US, has shown little regard for international opinion and continues its campaign to eliminate Hamas and reassert control over Gaza," he said.

"The immediate priority is to de-escalate the conflict and work toward a ceasefire," Ding said, adding that peace talks can help bring the matter back to the path

Agencies contributed to this story.

Nursery rooms help fathers take part in parenting duties with more ease

By CHEN MEILING in Beijing and CHEN HONG in Shenzhen. Guangdong province

There is good news for fathers on a day out with small children. Shopping malls in Chinese cities have begun introducing family restrooms and changing areas for babies that can be used by both men and women, reflecting an emphasis on optimizing public service infrastructure as more couples share parenting duties equally.

At a shopping mall in Beijing's Chaoyang district, what was once a mother-and-baby room has been renovated into a nursery room for both fathers and mothers. Outside, a board reads "A room that not only belongs to her" and another says "Co-parenting". Inside, there are changing tables, a feeding bottle heater, parent-child toilets, sofas and washbasins. Behind a glass door, there are several cubicles with curtains exclusively for breastfeeding mothers.

At the Huiduo Mall in Chaoyang, a Super Dads' Spot has been in operation for the past few months from 10 am to 10 pm daily. According to a staff member, the facility was created in response to a number of requests from customers.

A man surnamed Wu, who had taken his 3-year-old daughter to the mall on Friday, praised the dads' spot, which basically offers baby rooms complete with hot water dispenser, bottle warmers, training pants and disinfectant wipes for the convenience of men visiting the mall with their children. "It was not convenient for us (fathers) to enter the motherand-baby rooms," he said.

In Shenzhen, Guangdong province, the Rainbow Shopping Center in Bao'an district has set up a fatherand-baby room next to the mother-

According to mall manager Li Yin-

Through slogans and thoughtfully designed spaces, public perception and behavior can be nudged, encouraging men to step into the parenting sphere."

Zhang Hongchuan,

an associate professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics

and the father-and-baby rooms were

built in response to customer needs. "Since there are breastfeeding mothers in the nursing room, it was inconvenient for men who are alone with their children to enter, so setting up a father-and-baby room was very necessary," she said.

In Shanghai, a mall offers separate family restrooms for men and women equipped with changing tables for the convenience of parents. It has received widespread praise since opening in October last year.

The topic "shopping malls having father-and-baby rooms" had received about 5.91 million views on hot search

lists of Sina Weibo as of Sunday. A netizen, who's also a father, commented that every time he took his little daughter out, it would be very inconvenient using restrooms, as it was awkward entering the men's restroom with his daughter or accompanying her to the women's restroom.

Zhang Hongchuan, an associate professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics' School of Sociology and Psychology in Beijing, said that while traditional perceptions often assign mothers a greater fen, the mall was renovated in 2021, role in child rearing, research has recognized the importance of men's participation, since the absence of either parent in a child's development is far from ideal.

"Father-and-baby rooms provide essential infrastructure to support fathers in their parenting duties. Through slogans and thoughtfully designed spaces, public perception and behavior can be nudged, encouraging men to step into the parenting sphere, establishing social norms, and reinforcing the idea that it is perfectly normal for men to take an active role in childrearing," he said.

As birth rates continue to decline year by year, it's necessary to build a childbirth-friendly society, and actions like these can cumulatively

help this process, he added.

Zhou Yunqing, a professor at Wuhan University's School of Sociology in Hubei province, believes that the emergence of father-and-baby rooms is an important step in improving family and life services. This development shows that public spaces are being created with the needs of people's livelihoods in mind and is a mark

of civilizational progress.

Huang Lei, who has often spent time alone with his high school-age daughter since childhood, said that such measures show that the stereotype of women dominating parenting is changing, and are helpful for fathers to develop a stronger sense of responsibility.

"Besides, I think most fathers

want to and are capable of taking care of babies, but sometimes mothers worry whether they can do it well," he said. "Such father-and-baby rooms give fathers the chance to prove themselves, while mothers get the opportunity to use the free time

Yang Che contributed to this story.

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Typhoon Kajiki brings heavy rain in Hainan

Sanva authorities had evacuated more than 30,000 people to safety

By CHEN BOWEN in Haikou and ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan,

Strong winds and heavy rain whipped South China's Hainan province and parts of Guang-dong province on Sunday, as Typhoon Kajiki passed over open waters to the south of Hainan and headed toward Vietnam's central coast.

A short video posted online by Guangdong Radio and Television showed winds snapping off tree branches, and heavily rocking a docked boat and sending waves sliding over the pier.

Kajiki gained strength as it moved westward over the sea with maximum sustained winds of 162 kilometers per hour, China's National Meteorological Center said.

Rainfall of 25 to 40 centimeters was forecast for southern parts of Hainan Island, including Sanya, a popular beach resort.

Hainan took extensive measures to prepare for Typhoon Kajiki, amid fears that it could be the strongest typhoon to hit the region in the past 40 years.

As Typhoon Kajiki approached, the province raised its emergency response to the highest level. The typhoon, the 13th of the year, intensified from a severe tropical storm to a full typhoon at 2 am on Sunday. It gained strength and headed toward Hainan's southern coast, with landfall or a close pass expected on Sunday evening, said Cai Qinbo, spokesperson for the Hainan provincial meteorological bureau.

Authorities in Sanya evacuated 31,843 people from potentially vulnerable areas to safety by 3 pm on Sunday, according to the city's publicity department. Temporary shelters were set up at some local facilities like primary schools to receive the affected.

Across the province, over 770,000 emergency supplies had been prepared for vulnerable

areas. More than 2,800 rescue workers are on standby with necessary vehicles and equipment, said Wu Zhanchao, deputy head of the Department of Emergency Management of Hainan Province.

All 30,769 local fishing boats had either returned to port or were safely sheltered, with over 21,000 crew members moved to shore.

Residents were advised to avoid unnecessary travel, stay away from low-lying areas, temporary structures and the coast, and be alert for potential geological hazards.

In Sanya, measures included closing schools, offices, business operations, suspending public transportation and shipping, and shutting scenic areas.

Hotels in Sanya took compre-hensive steps to ensure guest safety. Atlantis Sanya provided multilingual notices in Chinese, English and Russian in each guest room, detailing the latest weather updates, temporarily suspended facilities, and offered alternative indoor activities within the resort.

"I'm not worried about the typhoon at all because the tour guide and travel agency have a lot of experience in dealing with it. They explained the precautions during the typhoon and reminded us to stay indoors as much as possible," said Yelena Rostova, a Russian tourist visiting Sanya as part of a tour group.

"I hope the typhoon passes quickly so that my family and I can enjoy the sunny beaches and our vacation," she added.

With strong winds and heavy rain lashing the city, Wang Wen, a resident of Sanya, chose to stay home over the weekend. "It has not significantly affected my daily life," she said.

Agencies contributed to this story.

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ne capital of Hainan province, on Sunday. In light of Typhoon Kajiki making landfall, residents have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel, Luo Yuneel / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Innovation: Foreign firms bullish on Chinese market

From page 1

Pan Helin, a member of the Expert Committee for Information Communication Economy, which is part of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said, "The integrated advancements in sci-tech innovation and industrial innovation are crucial for promoting social and economic development, advancing Chinese modernization and cultivating fresh driving forces."

According to Pan, China's sharpened focus on nurturing new quality productive forces is conducive to speeding up the establishment of a modern industrial system, enhancing the stability and resilience of industrial and supply chains, and boosting the country's core competitiveness on the global stage amid mounting external uncertainties

Pan said that in fostering new quality productive forces, different regions of the country should focus on comparative advantages and base their efforts on local conditions, avoiding blind investment in specific fields. Moreover, it is important to support the growth of tech startups through financial technology tools, he added.

Li Dongsheng, founder and chairman of Chinese consumer electronics $maker\ TCL\ Technology\ Group\ Corp,$ said, "The development of new quality productive forces requires further stimulating technological innovation, continuously investing in scientific research and talent development, and supporting the intelligent transformation of industries.

Li underscored the need to give full play to the leading role of enterprises in bolstering sci-tech innovation and motivate their innovation vitality, adding that his company will strengthen its innovative capabilities in original technologies and increase expenditure on AI, augmented reality, virtual reality and next-generation display technologies.

China's spending on research and development maintained rapid growth last year, thanks to efforts to support technological innovation. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows that China's R&D expenditure exceeded 3.6 trillion yuan (\$502.3 billion) in 2024, up 8.3 percent year-on-year, ranking second in the world.

In recent years, the country's strength in sci-tech innovation has

taken a major leap. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization, China has moved up to 11th place in the rankings of the world's most innovative economies and remains the only middle-income economy in the top 30.

The country is home to 26 of the world's top 100 sci-tech innovation clusters, maintaining its position as the global leader for two consecutive years, based on the WIPO's Global Innovation Index 2024.

"China is not only a manufacturing powerhouse, but also a global innovation powerhouse driving trends in digitalization, sustainability and high-tech industries," said Denis Depoux, global managing director of market consultancy Roland Berger.

"China has emerged as a strong

player in the global R&D landscape, and has made rapid progress in the development of AI technology, becoming one of the global leaders, and the pace will further accelerate, Depoux said.

The country's emphasis on accelerating the development of new quality productive forces will attract more investment by foreign companies to support Chinese companies' transformation, and to bring more technologies to the world's secondlargest economy, he added.

Anu Rathninde, president for Asia Pacific at Johnson Controls, a United States-based smart building solutions provider, said the rise of new quality productive forces signifies a transformative shift in China's economic model, replacing outdated growth drivers with more dynamic ones and establishing the foundation for more sustained and robust economic development in the future.

He said that China is an important

part of the company's global business network, and will continue to be a key contributor to global economic growth, "We are confident in the Chinese market and determined to deepen our footprint here," he said.

Chris Lee, senior vice-president and head of Asia-Pacific at Aveva, a United Kingdom-based industrial software developer, said that China has rapidly emerged as a global frontier for industrial innovation, presenting vast development opportunities fueled by the development of new quality productive forces and the country's vibrant digital economy.

Lee highlighted that China's mature and extensive industrial system and supply chain offer an unparalleled platform for technological innovation, adding that the company will deepen its roots locally and collaborate closely with local partners to empower China's smart manufacturing and industrial digitalization.