Humanoid robots draw promising

future for humanity visual, PAGE 6

After-dark boom

Nighttime economy vitalizing street life, consumer spending **BUSINESS, PAGE 13**

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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

fanfeifei@chinadaily.com.cn

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

ishangyi@chinadaily.com.cn

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.

Wang Shushen,

Inside

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-

Ding Long, a professor at the Mid-

dle East Studies Institute of Shang-

hai 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.

ing starvation".

one home.

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.

indepth

"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.

yuan or more to build a theme park,

costs through annual consumption, with thousands of jobs created and a boost given to the entire supply

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While it usually costs billions of

owners can recoup those

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

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