

AI researcher decodes cultural patterns into digital genes **LIFE, PAGE 10**

US reducing vaccine funding has high cost

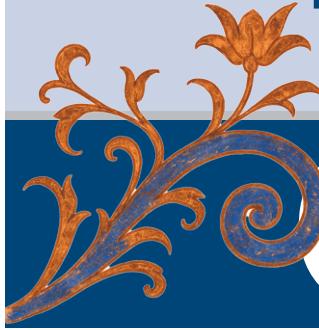
COMMENT, PAGE 4



Deeper links

People-to-people exchanges solidify China-Africa ties

WORLD, PAGE 6



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China, Canada eye new partnership

Turnaround of ties welcomed as Xi meets Carney

By CAO DESHENG
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China and Canada look to a "new strategic partnership" amid growing geopolitical fragmentation, as President Xi Jinping met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in Beijing on Friday.

During the meeting, Xi spoke positively about the turnaround of bilateral ties, and underlined the need for both countries to be partners who respect, trust and collaborate with each other for shared development.

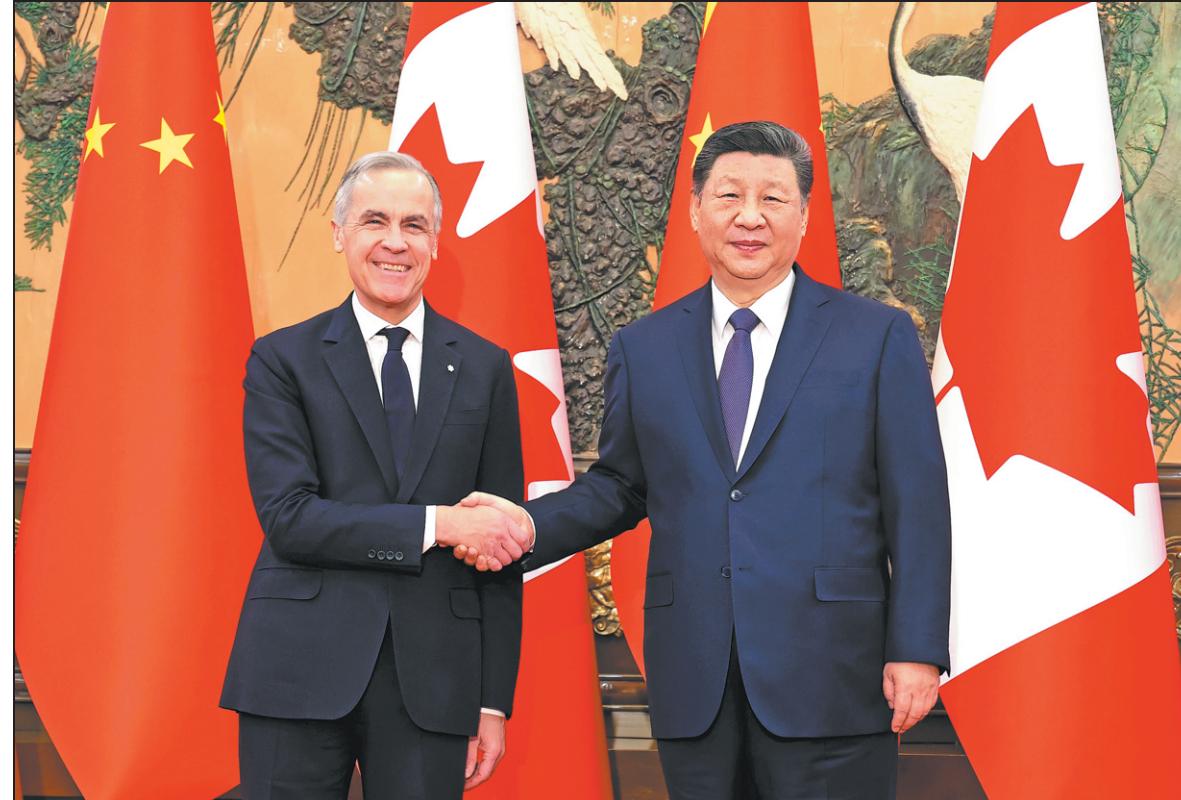
Carney arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for a four-day official visit to China, the first trip to the country by a Canadian prime minister in eight years.

Xi said that the healthy and stable development of China-Canada relations serves the common interests of both countries and contributes to world peace, stability and prosperity.

Both sides should advance the building of a new strategic partnership with a sense of responsibility for history, for the people and for the world, and steer China-Canada relations onto a track of sound, steady and sustainable development, he added.

Xi pointed out that while China and Canada have different national circumstances, they should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as choice of political system and development path, and adopt the right approach in their interactions.

Noting that economic and trade relations between the two countries are characterized by mutual benefit and win-win, and both sides stand to gain from cooperation, Xi said that China's high-quality development and high-standard opening-up will



President Xi Jinping meets with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Friday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

continually unlock new opportunities for China-Canada cooperation.

He underscored the need for both sides to lengthen the list of cooperation while shortening the list of irritants, and keep strengthening the bond of common interests with more deep-going and extensive cooperation.

Highlighting that a divided world cannot handle the common challenges facing humanity, Xi said the true solution lies in upholding and practicing true multilateralism and building a community with a shared

future for humanity.

China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Canada under the frameworks of the United Nations, the G20 and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation to jointly tackle various global challenges, he said.

Carney noted that with a long history of friendly engagement and strong economic complementarity, Canada and China enjoy extensive common interests and opportunities.

Canada wishes to build a new strategic partnership with China

that is strong and enduring so as to deliver greater benefits to the two peoples, Carney said, reaffirming his country's commitment to the one-China policy.

He said that Canada is committed to working with China in the spirit of mutual respect and partnership to expand and strengthen cooperation in the fields of the economy and trade, energy, agriculture, finance, education and climate change.

China has been long the second-largest trading partner of Canada, following the United States. Bilateral trade in goods exceeded C\$117

billion (\$84.2 billion) in 2024, underscoring the solid foundation and strong complementarity of economic ties between the two countries.

Since December 2017, China-Canada relations have suffered setbacks due to Ottawa's tough stance against China during the Justin Trudeau administration. Trade friction marked by Canadian tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and metals took place in 2024, and was followed by China's countermeasures.

See *Relations*, page 3

Astronauts meet the media



Shenzhou XX astronauts Wang Jie (left), Chen Dong (center) and Chen Zhongrui (right) meet the media at a news conference in Beijing on Friday. This marked the first official public appearance of the Shenzhou XX crew after returning to Earth on Nov 14 last year. WANG JING / CHINA DAILY See story, page 3

Economy set to extend steady growth trajectory

By ZHOU LANXU
and OUYANG SHIJIA

China's economy is poised to extend its steady growth momentum into 2026, with stepped-up policy support for domestic demand and a faster innovation-led transition to cushion any external uncertainties, officials

and analysts said.

Monetary policy, they said, is positioned to provide continuous, targeted support for China's economic transition as recent moves on structural tool rates and quotas underscored a continued focus on supporting key sectors.

See *Market*, page 3

Ancient script gets upgrade for digital age

By ZHENG CAIXIONG
and LI WENFANG in Guangzhou

A style of calligraphy once used to record one of ancient China's most ambitious scholarly projects is being brought back to life — not on silk or paper, but on screens, posters and mobile phones.

In Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on Friday, Chinese cultural institutions unveiled a newly developed digital font based on the script of the *Yongle Dadian*, a vast encyclopedia compiled more than 600 years ago during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The two-year project aims to transform a historical writing style once reserved for the imperial court into a typeface available for public use.

The *Yongle Dadian*, commissioned by the Yongle Emperor in the early 15th century, is regarded as the world's first encyclopedia. Compiled by leading scholars, it brought together classical texts spanning history, philosophy, literature, science and the arts. Its millions of characters were handwritten in a formal style of regular script prized for its clarity and discipline. Much of the original work has since been lost, making surviving volumes culturally invaluable.

Designers said their task was not simply to digitize old characters, but to preserve the movement and balance of brushwork in a format suited to modern reading habits.

"The challenge was adapting a script written for vertical pages to today's horizontal layouts, without losing its character," said Wang Wen, Foundertype design director of Beijing Founder Electronics Co,



The Chinese characters for *Yongle Dadian*, using the newly developed digital font.

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core brushstrokes from the original manuscripts and used them as modular elements, assembling new characters while maintaining stylistic consistency.

Cultural historians see the project as part of a broader shift in how China is approaching the preservation of its written heritage. "Traditionally, this script was protected by being kept out of everyday use," said Zhang Weitao, head of the Guangzhou branch of the China National Archives of Publications and Culture. "Now the aim is to let people use them, so they remain alive."

"Chinese characters are a cultural gene engraved in the bloodline of the

the company behind the font's development. Proportions, weight and spacing all had to be rethought so the typeface feels natural on screens, while still carrying the elegance of Ming calligraphy."

The resulting font includes more than 42,000 characters, covering simplified and traditional Chinese, as well as Latin letters, numbers and symbols. Designers extracted 32

core brushstrokes from the original manuscripts and used them as modular elements, assembling new characters while maintaining stylistic consistency.

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Chinese people, and they form the core code that has ensured the unbroken continuity of Chinese civilization for over five millennia," he said.

That approach is reflected in the project's licensing model. Alongside the launch, organizers announced a public-interest plan allowing government bodies, media organizations, non-profits and individuals to use the font free of charge for non-commercial purposes. More than 50 institutions have already received authorization.

The font has begun appearing in exhibitions, publications and cultural products. One of the first adopters, Guangzhou Art Museum, has used it in a calendar project.

"The typeface is a visual gene of civilization," said Luo Qi, director of the museum. "When people encounter it in daily objects, they're not just seeing history — they're participating in it." Wang said they are also preparing a mobile version, which will allow users to use the font directly on smartphones. The mobile release is expected within weeks.

Zhao Yang, editor-in-chief of South International Communication Center, said the typeface is more than a design innovation. By combining the grandeur of Ming Dynasty calligraphy with digital technology, it bridges tradition and modernity — a sign of a broader shift in the approach to cultural heritage, where preservation comes through active use by anyone who types, reads or designs.

Xie Ruiqi contributed to this story.

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Development blueprint offers list of opportunities

By CAO DESHENG

China's high-quality development will inject greater certainty and fresh momentum into the world, President Xi Jinping said on Friday, highlighting the importance of solidarity and cooperation to cope with global challenges in a turbulent world.

Xi made the remarks in a speech to 18 new foreign ambassadors to China, after receiving their credentials at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Welcoming the ambassadors to their posts, Xi asked them to convey his best wishes to the leaders and people of their respective countries.

He encouraged the envoys to travel extensively throughout the country to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the true and multifaceted China, and to actively contribute to deepening friendship and cooperation between China and their nations.

Xi emphasized that today's China is forging ahead with enterprise and fortitude on the new journey of Chinese modernization.

While highlighting the country's achievements in economic growth, scientific and technological innovation, ecological progress and the improvement of people's livelihoods during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, he said that the recommendations of the Communist Party of China Central Committee for the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) have outlined a blueprint for China's economic and social development over the next five years.

They also provide the world with a "list of opportunities," he added.

Reiterating China's commitment to expanding opening-up, Xi said that the nation will inject greater certainty and new momentum into the world through high-quality development to achieve common development and mutual prosperity.

Xi pointed out that today's world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, with the international landscape becoming more complex and global challenges more prominent.

Division, confrontation and zero-sum games are destined to lead nowhere, and a return to the law of the jungle goes against people's shared aspirations, he said, adding that mutual assistance and cooperation are the only correct choices.

He emphasized that he proposed the Global Governance Initiative with a view to promoting the building of a more just and reasonable global governance system.

China will always stand on the right side of history, aligning its development with the people's aspirations and its interests with the world, and working with other countries to build a community with a shared future for humanity, Xi said.



INSIDE
Centuries-old furnace where modern design blends with inherited craft
Life, p12

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