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President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, holds a welcoming ceremony on Wednesday for Vietnamese President To Lam, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at the square outside the east gate of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. To Lam is on a four-day state visit to China. YAN YAN / XINHUA

## Beijing, Hanoi vow to boost ties

China always regards Vietnam as priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, president says

By CAO DESHENG

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President Xi Jinping called on Wednesday for China and Vietnam to work together to oppose unilateralism and protectionism, safeguard the global free trade system and keep industrial and supply chains stable and unimpeded, while further cementing their ties through enhanced cooperation.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when holding talks with To Lam, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vietnamese president, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

To Lam is on a four-day state visit to China that started on Tuesday, his first trip abroad since he was elected as Vietnamese president on April 7. Before the official talks, Xi held a

grand welcoming ceremony for him.

Xi told his guest that no matter how the international situation evolves, China always regards Vietnam as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy.

He said that the nation is willing to work with Vietnam to carry forward the traditional friendship, enhance solidarity, coordination and mutual support to advance their comprehensive strategic cooperation with higher quality, and accelerate the building of a higher-level China-Vietnam community with a shared future that carries strategic significance.

The visit takes place just one year after Xi made a state visit to Vietnam, during which he reached an important consensus with leaders of Vietnam on developing relations between the two parties and two countries.

During their meeting on Wednesday, Xi told To Lam that safeguarding the socialist system and the ruling

position of the communist party is the greatest common strategic interest of both parties. Both sides must maintain a high level of strategic vigilance and strong strategic resolve, and always remain confident in the path and system they adopt, he said.

He called on both sides to fully utilize the special role of interparty exchanges to maintain close high-level interactions and consolidate political mutual trust. It is essential to prioritize efforts in safeguarding political security and effectively use the China-Vietnam "3+3" strategic dialogue on diplomacy, defense and public security, he added.

Xi underscored the need for both countries to step up the alignment of their development strategies, with priority given to advancing infrastructure connectivity. Cooperation in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and the internet of things should be strengthened, he said, adding that China welcomes more high-quality Vietnamese products to enter the Chinese market.

Xi emphasized that both sides should hold high the banner of peace, development and win-win cooperation, and join hands to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative, to cope with global challenges.

Noting that this year marks the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, he expressed China's willingness to strengthen coordination and cooperation with countries in the region to promote the building of a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future.

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President Xi Jinping meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Wednesday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

## Xi: Enhance Sino-Russian strategic coordination

By ZHAO JIA

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President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that the stability and certainty of China-Russia relations are truly valuable in a changing and turbulent world, and he called on the two countries to maintain close and effective strategic coordination.

Xi made the remarks in Beijing during a meeting with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Noting that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic partnership of coordination and the 25th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation, Xi said the treaty's strong vitality and exemplary role have become more significant.

Xi said that both sides should ful-

ly implement the important consensus reached between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin, strengthen strategic communication and enhance diplomatic coordination, so that the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination will reach new heights, grow more steadily and advance further.

Xi also said the two sides should maintain strategic resolve, trust and support each other, pursue common development, and manage their own affairs well.

He stressed the need for the two countries to fully leverage the advantages of proximity and complementarity to deepen all-around cooperation and enhance the resilience of their respective development.

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## HH-200 commercial cargo drone completes debut flight

By ZHAO LEI

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The HH-200, a new large cargo drone built by Aviation Industry Corp of China, the country's leading aircraft manufacturer, made its debut flight on Wednesday, AVIC said in a news release.

An HH-200 prototype took off from an airport in Weinan, Shaanxi province, at 9:35 am and stayed in the air for 15 minutes before landing at the airport, the State-owned conglomerate said.

During the flight test, all aircraft systems functioned normally. The drone was in good condition and completed all planned maneuvers, it said.

The HH-200 is a type of commercial unmanned cargo plane developed by AVIC Xi'an Aircraft Industry Group. It is the latest freight drone model to have emerged as a result of the nation's flourishing express delivery industry and the government's efforts to make full use of China's low-altitude airspace.

According to designers, the HH-200 is 12.2 meters long and 16.8 meters wide, and is able to carry payloads of up to 1.5 metric tons.

The twin-engine model has been designed with a maximum cruising speed of 310 kilometers per hour and a top range of 2,360 km. It has a standard inner space of 12 cubic meters available for cargo, which can be expanded to 18 cubic meters.

Meng Fantao, technical director of the HH series, said that the HH-200 is designed in accordance with civil aviation standards, featuring intelligent autonomous flight and artificial intelligence-powered obstacle avoidance systems.

It boasts a service life of 50,000 flight hours and 15,000 takeoffs and landings, with a full life-cycle operating cost of 4.7 yuan (68 US cents) per ton-kilometer — only one-third that of manned aircraft with the



The HH-200, a domestically developed commercial unmanned aerial transport system, is seen after accomplishing its debut flight on Wednesday morning in Weinan, Shaanxi province. LI YIBO / XINHUA

same carrying capacity, according to Meng.

In addition, the HH-200 adopts a user-friendly configuration for loading and unloading. Two operators can complete cargo loading and unloading in just five minutes, he said.

The drone can take off and land on runways as short as 500 meters and at high-altitude airports above 4,200 meters, and can withstand extreme temperatures ranging from freezing cold of -40 C to scorching heat of 50 C.

The researcher noted that the unmanned transport plane can help to deliver goods to mountainous areas, islands, snowy regions and plateaus. It can be rapidly reconfigured for other applications including emergency rescue, forest fire fighting, weather modification, aerial remote sensing, and agricultural and forestry plant protection, he added.

According to Meng, the HH-200 has secured a total of 20 orders of intent so far, and the company will carry out in-depth cooperation with express delivery enterprises to jointly promote the commercial application of the HH series of drones.

In addition to the HH-200, AVIC has designed and tested several other cargo drone models, such as the HH-100 and the TP2000.

## TOURISM BLOSSOMS IN NATION'S 'PEONY CAPITAL'

Travelers come from far and wide to revel in Heze's culturally venerated floral majesty

By ZHAO RUIXUE

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When Tunisian traveler Samar Kerkeni first arrived in Heze, a quiet city tucked away in East China's Shandong province, she expected to see peonies — the country's famed "king of flowers". What she didn't expect was to find them everywhere: on her plate, across her hotel walls, and even woven into the carpet beneath her feet.

"There are peony elements everywhere," said Kerkeni, who now lives in Wuxi, Jiangsu province.

But nothing compared to her first walk through Heze's sprawling flower fields.



"The real flowers are unlike anything I've seen — vast, colorful, so many shades flowing together. It's unbelievably beautiful," she said.

In China, the peony is more than a flower — it's a timeless emblem of grace, prosperity and national pride.

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