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WEEKEND EDITION

CHINADAILY

中國日報

August 1 - 2, 2026

chinadaily.com.cn RMB ¥2

Xi: Advance modernization of military

Efforts urged to strengthen political guidance, deepen innovation-driven development

By CAO DESHENG

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Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, has called for efforts to strengthen political guidance and deepen innovation-driven development to advance the high-quality modernization of national defense and the armed forces.

Xi, who is also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks on Thursday when presiding over a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

He urged efforts to fulfill the goals for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army in 2027 and make "decisive progress" in basically realizing the modernization of national defense and the armed forces. This, he said, will provide strong strategic support for advancing the cause of building a great country and achieving national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization.

The study session was held ahead of the founding anniversary of the PLA, which falls on Saturday. On behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the CMC, Xi extended festive greetings to all members of the PLA and the People's Armed Police Force, civilian personnel of the PLA, and members of the reserve forces and the militia.

Xi said that since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, China has made comprehensive efforts to enhance political loyalty in the military, strengthen the military through reform, personnel training and science and technology, and run the military in accordance with the law.

By simultaneously carrying out operations, strengthening combat preparedness and enhancing military capabilities, the Chinese military has significantly improved its modernization level and become a capable fighting force, making historic achievements and transformations, he said.

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring political loyalty in the military,



Above: Newly enrolled flight cadets of the People's Liberation Army Air Force prepare to board a Y-20B aircraft in Changsha, Hunan province, on Friday. Until Saturday, the PLA Air Force will use multiple Y-20 planes to transfer new cadets from six boarding points — Shenyang in Liaoning province, Shijiazhuang in Hebei province, Jinan in Shandong province, Nanjing in Jiangsu province, Chengdu in Sichuan province, and Changsha — to the PLA's Aviation University of Air Force.

Top: Parents wave flags in Changsha on Friday as new PLA Air Force cadets take off aboard a Y-20B aircraft, which has been deployed for the transfer mission for the first time. PHOTOS BY REN YONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Xi urged upholding and strengthening the absolute leadership of the Party over the armed forces. Efforts should be made to ensure that military officers and soldiers follow the Party and that they always obey the Party's commands, he said.

Xi called for unremitting efforts to fight against corruption, improve the supervision system for major projects and ensure that all initiatives are underpinned by quality, capability and integrity.

He noted the importance of combat effectiveness in the high-quality modernization of national defense and the armed forces, saying that it is essential to enhance the military application of unmanned intelligent technologies and intensify construction and application of a network information system to gradually build an intelligent military system.

Solid steps should be taken to advance military training and enhance combat preparedness to effectively safeguard China's national sovereignty, security and development

interests, he said.

Xi emphasized that consolidating and enhancing integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities is the path the nation must take to achieve high-quality modernization of national defense and the armed forces.

He called for strengthening military governance, optimizing institutional frameworks and improving policies and regulations to strengthen close collaboration between the military and civilian sectors.

In another development, Xi has signed an order to commend Yang Yong from Troop 91548 of the PLA, honoring him with a first-class merit citation in defense-related science and technology.

China has also commended and honored 12 military officers and soldiers as "the most beautiful revolutionary personnel of the new era", according to a joint announcement on Friday by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and the Political Work Department of the CMC.

China rebuts Philippines' move on Huangyan

By JI HAISHENG

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China has firmly rejected the Philippines' delimitation of the so-called "baselines of the territorial sea" of Huangyan Island, calling the move "a grave infringement upon China's territorial sovereignty and a serious violation of international law."

The move "is illegal, null and void. China firmly rejects and will never accept it", the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

China has indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island and its adjacent waters, and has sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters, the statement said, adding that the country has continuously, peacefully and effectively exercised sovereignty and jurisdiction over the island.

It emphasized that Huangyan Island has never been part of the Philippines' territory, which has been defined by a series of international treaties. The Philippines' illegal territorial claim over Huangyan Island is completely baseless under international law, it added.

Slamming Philippines' unilateral initiation of the "South China Sea arbitration", the statement said its so-called "award" is illegal, null and void, and has no binding force. China neither accepts nor recognizes the "award", and it opposes and will never accept any claim or action based on the same "award", the statement added.

It also rebutted the Philippines' so-called "Maritime Zones Act", pushing back against its attempts to illegally include Huangyan Island, most of the islands and reefs of China's Nansha Islands, and their relevant waters into its maritime zones, and to solidify the illegal "award of the South China Sea arbitration" in the form of domestic legislation.

"It severely violates China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, and is illegal, null and void," the statement said, stressing that China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests over Huangyan Island and the Nansha Islands shall under no circumstances be affected by the so-called "Maritime Zones Act".

The Philippines was also reproved for undermining peace and stability in the South China Sea, as it has been frequently making provocations in the territorial waters of Huangyan Island and hyping up the maritime issues between the two countries, according to the statement. "These maneuvers trample on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, and heighten maritime tensions," it said.

Beijing urges Manila to earnestly respect its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, and refrain from any act of infringement or provocation concerning Huangyan Island, the statement said, warning that otherwise, China will respond resolutely.

PBOC set to further boost panda bond issuances

By ZHOU LANXU

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China will further improve policy arrangements for panda bonds to facilitate more issuance and trading by overseas institutions, including sovereign states, according to the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank.

Panda bonds are renminbi-denominated bonds issued by overseas institutions in China's onshore market.

Record sovereign panda bond issuances in recent times have underscored growing global demand for renminbi financing. Several sovereign issuers, including the governments of Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Pakistan, as well as Kazakhstan's sovereign wealth fund, made their debut in China's panda bond market this year, raising 19.15 billion yuan (\$2.83 billion) in total.

The fundraising marked the largest annual sovereign panda bond issuance on record, far surpassing the previous full-year high of 7 billion yuan set in 2025.

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YOUNG MINDS EMBRACE ANCIENT WISDOM

TCM treatments gaining popularity among younger generations

By MENG WENJIE

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In East China's Zhejiang province, summer temperatures can approach 38 C, yet 32-year-old Lu Huanhuan deliberately added more heat.

Inside a room without air-conditioning, she applied moxibustion to selected acupuncture points on her back.

The heat-based traditional Chinese medicine practice is associated with *sanfu*, the hottest period of summer, which runs until Aug 23 this year. Within 10 minutes, warmth spread across her skin.

"This is my fourth year practicing it," Lu said. "The biggest change I have noticed is that my feet no longer feel constantly cold in winter."

According to TCM theories, the practice follows the principle of "treating winter illnesses in summer". Warming therapies are used during the hottest months in the belief that they can help restore balance in the body and prepare it for colder conditions in winter.

Lu is among a growing number

of young people embracing TCM-inspired wellness. Lu shares her routines on Xiaohongshu, also known as RedNote, where she has attracted about 150,000 followers, more than half of whom are aged between 20 and 35.

South African TCM practitioner Shannah Rose Erasmus frequently sees long queues for *sanfu* moxibustion, with young adults accounting for 30 to 40 percent of her patients during peak periods. "Young people are increasingly looking for holistic and sustainable ways to better care for their bodies, rather than simply relying on symptom-suppressing pharmaceuticals," she said.

Erasmus, 28, is a PhD student at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine who has studied TCM for over 10 years. She explained that the therapy is used across departments, treating musculoskeletal issues, winter-aggravated conditions and immune-related skin disorders.

"Although *sanfu* moxibustion is widely used, it is not suitable for everyone," Erasmus said, cautioning that pregnant women, people



Tourists from the Czech Republic experience moxibustion at Fanghuichuntang, a traditional Chinese medicine pharmacy in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on July 14. XINHUA

with acute infections or fever and those with sensitive or damaged skin should avoid it.

Beyond clinical treatments, she offered simple daily wellness tips for *sanfu* — cut down on cold beverages and raw foods, avoid abrupt temperature changes from heavy air-conditioning and keep living spaces well-ventilated.

Erasmus has also noticed a

steady rise in foreign visitors seeking TCM treatments at the hospital in Shanghai where she works. "Although international patients still represent a smaller group — roughly 5 to 10 percent — interest among expat wellness seekers has grown noticeably," she said.

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Nation's slow EVs register fast exports growth

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国内统一连续出版物号: CN 11-0091
国际标准连续出版物号: ISSN 0253-9543
代号: 1-3

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Vol. 46 — No. 14413

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