

CHINA DAILY

FRIDAY, August 29, 2025

中國日報

chinadaily.com.cn RMB ¥2

World leaders to attend V-Day events

Preparations
for upcoming
military parade
basically complete

By CAO DESHENG
caodesheng@chinadaily.com.cn

Twenty-six foreign heads of state and government will attend China's Victory Day commemorations, which will include a military parade, on Wednesday as Beijing hopes to use the event to reaffirm its commitment to defending the victorious outcomes of World War II and contributing to world peace and development.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong-un will be among the world leaders attending the commemorations, Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei said at a news conference in Beijing on Thursday.

It will be Putin's first visit to China since he held talks with United States President Donald Trump on the Ukraine crisis in Alaska earlier this month. Putin will also attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Tianjin, to be held from Sunday to Monday.

His China visit also comes following President Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia in May and Xi's attendance at the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War.

Hong said that during that visit, Xi and Putin together sent the strong message that "the history of World War II must not be distorted, the victorious outcomes of World War II must not be denied, and the postwar international order must not be challenged".

Regarding Kim's China visit, Hong said that safeguarding, consolidating and developing relations between China and the DPRK is the firm position of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government.

China stands ready to work with the DPRK to continue to enhance exchanges and cooperation and advance socialist development, coordinate closely on promoting the peace and stability of the region and safeguard international



Foreign journalists have a group photo taken on Thursday at the media center for the upcoming commemorative events marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War.

fairness and justice, he said.

Sept 3 is celebrated in China as Victory Day, marking the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on Sept 2, 1945.

The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) was the first war to break out and the longest-running campaign in the World Anti-Fascist War. It resulted in over 35 million Chinese military and civilian casualties.

With regard to a question about some forces in Japan seeking to



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remove restrictions on its military, including downplaying its history of aggression and even distorting historical truth to paint themselves as a victim of war, Hong said that such acts pose challenges to the post-World War II international order, to human conscience and to all who love peace.

"We urge Japan to face history squarely, reflect deeply upon its crimes of aggression, make a clean break with militarism and pursue the right path of peaceful development, good neighborliness and friendship," he said.

Former Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama, who said that Japan should reflect on its stance on history, will be among the former statesmen invited to attend the commemorations.

A total of 50 international friends who have contributed to the war of resistance against Japanese aggression or their families from 14 countries, including Russia, the US, the United Kingdom, France and Canada, will also attend the commemorations.

Wu Zeke, deputy director of the Office of the Leading Group for the Military Parade and a senior officer of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission, said at the news conference that the

preparations for the V-Day military parade are basically complete.

The parade will feature a wide range of weapons and equipment, much of which will be unveiled for the first time, Wu said, adding that the event will highlight the Chinese military's recent advances in modernization and enhanced combat readiness.

When asked about what message China will send to the world about the military parade, Hong said, "We hold the military parade to show our firm determination to pursue the path of peaceful development, our strong will to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and our great capability to safeguard world peace and tranquility."

Industrial upgrade pivots on digital tech

By FAN FEIFEI
and YANG JUN in Guiyang

China will intensify efforts to leverage innovative digital technologies to bolster industrial upgrade and foster strategic emerging and future-oriented industries, as part of its broader push to promote the high-quality development of the digital economy and nurture new quality productive forces, said officials and experts.

They made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the China International Big Data Industry Expo 2025, which kicked off on Thursday in Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou province.

The expo, which runs through Saturday, features a diverse range of exchanges and activities, with more than 16,000 guests and 375 enterprises participating.

Hao Mingjin, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature, said that



Children interact with a robot dog at the China International Big Data Industry Expo 2025, which kicked off on Thursday in Guiyang, Guizhou province. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

heightened efforts should be made to give full play to the role of data as a fundamental resource and an engine for innovation, promote the in-depth integration of the real and digital economies, and accelerate the development of artificial intelligence.

There is a pressing need to further deepen reforms related to the market-oriented allocation of data elements, establish and improve basic data systems, cultivate the data industry ecosystem and expand international cooperation in the digital economy domain, Hao said.

Noting that data serves as a new

type of production factor, Zhuang Rongwen, head of the Cyberspace Administration of China, highlighted the significance of cultivating new growth drivers for industrial transformation and upgrading, deeply implementing the "AI Plus" initiative and building a modern industrial system.

He called for efforts to raise people's digital literacy, improve the rules and systems in the digital field, promote efficient, convenient and secure cross-border data flows, and strengthen AI security governance.

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YUNNAN TOURISM FLOURISHES UNDER 'IDEAL LIFE' CAMPAIGN

Authorities tap into natural wonders, attract more long-stay visitors, retirees

By LI YINGQING in Kunming
and WEI WANGYU

Yunnan province has elevated its reputation as China's preferred tourism playground in recent years, with visitors encouraged to embrace the botanical wonderland and treat it as a second home.

At the heart of the tourism success is the southwestern province's stunning scenery and its rich tapestry of ethnic cultures. Celebrated as the "kingdom of plants and animals" and the "world's garden", Yunnan has taken advantage of its enviable reputation for cultural tourism to draw both domestic and international travelers.

In 2024, the province's tourism revenue reached a record 1.14 trillion yuan (\$158.7 billion), with 3.9 million long-stay travelers, a 20.7 percent year-on-year increase, according to a Yunnan provincial government report.



From January to November, over 50 percent of visitors came from all across the country, with repeat travelers accounting for 77 percent of all arrivals, the data showed.

In recent years, Wang Ning, secretary of the Communist Party of China Yunnan Provincial Committee, has responded to netizens expressing their love of the province, and invited them to experience in person its tourism slogan — "Yunnan, where your ideal life lives".

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BONDED BY BLOOD

US medic's selfless help for refugees recalled

Editor's Note: This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War. This series of special reports by China Daily presents how and why China cherishes and keeps revisiting the wartime friendship with its foreign friends.

By ZHANG YUNBI
zhangyunbi@chinadaily.com.cn

Over 87 years ago, when Japanese invaders embarked on killing and raping in Anqing, the then capital of eastern China's Anhui province, American missionary physician Harry B. Taylor and his colleagues went all out to provide shelter in their hospital in the city to hundreds of Chinese refugees, including women and children.

Taylor, who arrived in Anqing in 1905, served as head of St. James' Hospital, an American missionary hospital in the city.

In June 1938, Japanese troops occupied Anqing and slaughtered civilians, putting those residents who failed to escape in great danger.

The invaders did not take over St. James' Hospital at that time as it was an American property, and many refugees decided to rush into the hospital.

"Taylor instructed the hospital staff to keep the main gate open, allowing refugees to enter for shelter. ... Chinese people couldn't leave the hospital because Japanese soldiers were everywhere in Anqing," said Xu Meizhen, an Anqing resident.

Taylor led his American colleagues out of the hospital and managed to procure rice, soybeans and pickles to feed the refugees, Xu said in an article dictated by her and published by Anqing Culture, History Data magazine in 2005.

Taylor also established a small school within the hospital for the refugee children.

"Even today, all those who benefited from Taylor's kindness during the most difficult time in the War of Resistance (Against Japanese Aggression), or their descendants, still hold deep gratitude toward him," Xu said.

After arriving in Anqing in 1905, Taylor became well known among people from near and far as he patiently and fairly treated patients from all walks of life from both China and other nations.

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