



China, Russia example of relations, cooperation between major countries: joint statement



President Xi Jinping (left) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. Xi held talks here yesterday with Putin. Putin held a welcome ceremony for Xi at the Grand Kremlin Palace's St. George's Hall. – Xinhua

MOSCOW – China and Russia have set a model for the world on building new-type international relations as well as on developing cooperation between major countries and between the countries as each other's biggest neighbor, said a joint statement yesterday.

The bilateral statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era was released after President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks in the Russian capital.

The statement noted that the relations between China and Russia have reached the highest level in history with a steady and across-the-board development.

China and Russia are each other's important trade partner, and the two sides agree that the bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation has strongly contributed to the improvement of the well-being of

the two peoples, the statement said.

In efforts to further enhance the cooperation, China and Russia agree to push for a stable expansion of two-way trade with an optimized structure through lifting the share of high-tech products and fostering innovative forms of e-commerce, among other efforts.

They will work to deepen investment cooperation and consolidate the overall energy cooperation partnership, according to the statement.

The two sides will also jointly explore the potential in science and technology cooperation, finding new direction in areas including innovation and basic and applied researches, conducting regular selection and implementation of joint programs, and encouraging new patterns for collaboration, according to the statement.

The statement said that the two countries will comprehensively deepen their practical cooperation



in fields ranging from economic and trade, customs, agriculture, transportation, finance, industry, environmental protection, aerospace and satellite navigation, nuclear energy, urban construction to health care and information and communication technology, ensuring a higher-quality and upgraded bilateral cooperation by 2030. (More on pages 5 – 7) – Xinhua

Central authorities acknowledge good start made by new-term local govt: Xia

Tony Wong

On the first day of his six-day working visit to Macau, Xia Baolong, who heads both the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office (HKMWO) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO), said yesterday that the central authorities acknowledge the good start made by the new-term Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government in exercising its administration and governance, according to a statement by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) last night.

According to local media reports, Xia arrived in Macau yesterday evening through the Hengqin checkpoint for his fact-finding visit scheduled to end on Tuesday.

After arriving in Macau, according to the statement, Xia headed to Santa

Sancha Mansion on Penha Hill, the MSAR chief executive's official residence, where he had a meeting with the heads of the city's executive, legislative and judicial organs.

In addition to Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, according to the statement, the meeting was attended by all principal officials of Sam's administration, including his five policy secretaries. The meeting was also attended by Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In and Court of Final Appeal (TUI) President Song Man Lei.

Central People's Government Liaison Office in the MSAR Director Zheng Xincong and Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, according to the statement, Xia conveyed President Xi Jinping's greetings for Macau compatriots, as well as the central authorities' affirmation of

the good start made by the new-term MSAR government in exercising its administration and governance.

The statement also said that the meeting enabled Xia to gain a better understanding of Macau's current developments and future plans as well as the ongoing administration and governance exercised by the local government.

According to the statement, Sam expressed his warm welcome to Xia and said that his visit to the city again highlights that Xi and the central authorities are paying great attention to Macau's development.

Sam pledged that his government will continue to actively implement the spirit of Xi's various important speeches and advance its governance with the strong support from the central authorities, including the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office and the Liaison Office in the MSAR. ■



Xia Baolong (right), who heads both the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office (HKMWO) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO), shakes hands with Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai outside Santa Sancha Mansion yesterday. – Photo: GCS

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Digital voting breeds distrust among overseas Filipino workers

A new online voting system aimed at boosting turnout among the Philippines' millions of overseas workers ahead of Monday's mid-term elections has been marked by confusion and fears of disenfranchisement. – Story on p. 8

Prevost becomes first US pope as Leo XIV

Robert Francis Prevost became the first pope from the United States yesterday, picking the papal name Leo XIV after cardinals from around the world elected him leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics. – Story on p. 11

Mozambique to build first oil refinery within 2 years

Mozambican President Daniel Chapo on Wednesday announced the construction of the country's first oil refinery, a project to be completed within two years and planned to produce 200,000 barrels of fuel per day. – Story on p. 12

HK tourist steals 2 motorbikes, commits raft of traffic offences: police

Armindo Neves

A Hong Kong man was arrested in the lobby of a hotel in the city centre on Tuesday for stealing two motorcycles parked in street and going on joy rides last Friday and on Sunday, Lai In Hong, a spokeswoman for the Public Security Police (PSP), said at a regular press conference yesterday.

The man, surnamed Lee, who is in his twenties had entered Macau as a visitor and stayed in his relatives' home.

According to Lai, the first case

occurred on Friday last week. The victim forgot to remove the key from his motorcycle's ignition when parking it on Rua da Praia do Manduco (下環街) in the Inner Harbour district at 6:30 a.m., and found it had been stolen when he returned to where he had parked it at 3:30 p.m. that day so he reported the case to the police.

After scrutinising the police forces' citywide CCTV camera system, PSP officers found that a man, Lee, started to ride the motorcycle without a helmet at

about 10:30 a.m. and abandoned it at Rotunda de S. João Bosco (鮑思高圓形地) due to the vehicle breaking down.

According to Lai, the second case occurred on Sunday. When the suspect was walking along Travessa das Virtudes (道德巷) in the Inner Harbour district at 11:45 p.m., he noticed a motorcycle with a key left in the front storage compartment. After removing a helmet from another motorcycle parked nearby, he drove to Rua de Constantino Brito (貢士旦甸奴街) in the Inner Harbour district, and parked it there. The owner of the motorcycle did not discover that his or her vehicle had been stolen until Tuesday evening.

The police recovered the two stolen motorcycles. Besides, the second victim told the police that HK\$2,000 in cash had been stolen from his or her motorcycle.

Under questioning by the police, according to Lai, Lee admitted to stealing the two motorcycles and riding them around "out of curiosity", but he denied stealing the cash from the second vehicle.

Lee has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further questioning, facing charges of theft and vehicle theft.

Moreover, Lai said, the police found that Lee had committed a raft of driving offences while riding the two motorcycles, such as driving without a licence, driving on pavements, riding without a helmet, reversing against the flow of traffic, speeding, and jumping red lights. ■



Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Lai In Hong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. - Photo: Armindo Neves

56-year-old suffers CO1 poisoning

Armindo Neves

The Fire Services Bureau (CB) received a report of a carbon monoxide poisoning incident yesterday. The incident occurred at a flat on the 9th floor of U WA Building (Block 2) on Rua do Canal Novo (涌河新街) in the Areia Preta district, where a 56-year-old female resident showed symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, but her condition was stabilised after emergency medical treatment.

When firemen arrived at the scene, they found that the resident was suffering from dizziness, vomiting and weakness on the right side of her body, which are typical symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, but the patient was conscious. She was



Image courtesy of CAN Safety

accompanied by a family member and rushed by ambulance to Kiang Wu Hospital for treatment.

After testing with a gas detector, firefighters recorded a carbon monoxide (CO1) reading of 326 parts-per-million (PPM) in the kitchen area, far exceeding the safety standard. ■

Local woman loses HK\$130,000 in fake police scam

Tony Wong

A local woman was defrauded out of about HK\$130,000 in a fake police scam earlier this week, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Cheong, the woman received a phone call on Monday from a person claiming to be a "Wuhan police officer", who told the victim that her mainland phone number was sending out numerous scam messages.

Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, lies about 1,000 kilometres north of Macau.

The "officer" demanded that the victim download a video call app used for questioning and stay in a hotel room for a "covert investigation", Cheong said.

As the officer was able to correctly mention the victim's Home Return Permit card number (Macau residents' travel documents to the mainland), her mainland phone number, and other personal information, Cheong said, she

complied with the officer's requirements.

During her stay in the hotel room, Cheong said, the officer told the victim to provide her bank account information and password and also to switch on her smartphone's screen mirroring function, enabling the officer to directly operate the victim's smartphone and her online bank account.

According to Cheong, the victim received a phone call from

her bank on Wednesday telling her that abnormal transactions had been made on her account, after which she found that HK\$131,100 had been transferred to a bank account in Hong Kong.

The victim then realised that she had been defrauded and reported the case to the police.

No one had been arrested in connection with the case at the time of yesterday afternoon's press conference. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. - Photo: Tony Wong

Fake health-care site steals personal data: police



This poster provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warns members of the public of the fake "health-care" from the Chinese mainland.

Ida Cheong

The Judiciary Police (PJ) warned the public in a statement yesterday that a bogus health website from the mainland is illegally using the names of local hospitals' doctors and information about the them without the authorisation of the respective hospitals, complete with a fake online appointment interface.

According to the statement, the site requests users to submit their names and phone numbers and other personal information, purportedly to "book" medical service appointments.

The statement noted that the website is suspected of collecting personal data for illegal purposes under the guise of Macau hospitals.

The statement underlined that

the Health Bureau (SSM) and affected hospitals have meanwhile emphasised that they never authorised the website to offer appointment services.

The Judiciary Police Anti-Fraud and Coordination Centre is warning the public that they should book medical service appointments only through official channels or formally verified platforms, and if a site requests their personal information or banking details, they should refrain from providing sensitive information.

The statement also pointed out that while anyone suspecting to have been scammed should immediately call the Judiciary Police's Anti-Fraud hotline on 8800 7777, or the crime report hotline on 993. ■

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Source: SMG



Macau, France ink deal on scientific research cooperation

Tony Wong

Macau and France yesterday signed an agreement on launching cooperation on scientific research, aiming to harness each other's complementary strengths and achieve mutual benefits.

A statement by the Macau government's Science and Technology Fund (FDCT) yesterday said that the agreement aims to strengthen bilateral exchanges and cooperation in scientific research and promote technological innovation and the training of qualified professionals, representing a significant advancement in Macau's ongoing efforts to build itself into a platform for higher-standard opening up.

The agreement between the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and the French Republic was signed in a ceremony at Government Headquarters in Nam Van yesterday afternoon.

The agreement was signed by Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip and Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau Christile Drulhe.

The pact is officially known as Agreement Between the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the French Republic for the Implementation of the Joint Scientific Research Programme.

Delivering a speech during yesterday's ceremony, Tai underlined that Macau is accelerating the appropriate diversification of its economy and is committed to promoting the development of several key industries such as high tech. Tai also said that Macau has made various high-level achievements in areas such as traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and space science over recent years.



Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip (right) and Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau Christile Drulhe pose for a photo after signing the agreement on scientific research cooperation at Government Headquarters in Nam Van yesterday. — Photo: FDCT

Tai said that the Macau government has been adopting an active approach for fully promoting the development of science and technology, adding that its 2025 Policy Address clearly lays out efforts to foster and develop Macau's new quality productive forces, commitments to promoting scientific and technological innovation, and various coordinated measures to promote the integration of industry, academia and research.

Tai said that the Macau government will gear up its efforts to support the diversification of the city's industries and increase investment in funding, accelerating its process of establishing a government industrial development fund and a

government guiding fund for scientific and technological transformation, and planning the establishment of a science and technology research and development industrial park.

Tai noted that he led a delegation to visit Paris two weeks ago to study the development concepts and operational models of science and technology parks there as well as the incubation and establishment of start-ups, aiming to seek opportunities for future cooperation, where he was deeply impressed by the development in scientific and

technological innovation in France, he said.

Tai said that Macau's cooperation agreement with France in the field of science and technology is an important opportunity for achieving complementarity and mutual benefits.

Tai said that the cooperation agreement will not only inject strong impetus into Macau's scientific and technological innovation, assisting Macau to play a more prominent role within the "Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Macau" science and technology corridor and promoting Macau's appropriate economic diversification, but also deepen the exchanges and cooperation between China and France in the field of science and technology, contributing to the advancement of innovative progress.

Also delivering a speech during yesterday's ceremony, Drulhe said that France attaches great importance to the cooperation agreement with Macau in scientific research. With a solid foundation in scientific research, she said, France has made notable achievements in various cutting-edge technological fields.

Drulhe said that the cooperation pact will build a bridge of communication between researchers from both sides, adding that France expects to collaborate with Macau leveraging their respective advantages to jointly promote scientific and technological progress.

Drulhe said France expects joint scientific research projects and activities to raise the level of scientific research on both sides and also to strengthen the friendship between people in France and China. ■

Family Sports Day slated for June 8

Ida Cheong

Macau's annual Family Sports Day will be held at the Olympic Sports Centre Stadium and Indoor Pavilion in Taipa on June 8, the Sports Bureau (ID) announced at a press conference yesterday.

The event taking place on a Sunday is open to teams consisting of one child born between 2015 and 2023, along with two or three family members. A total of 950 teams will be accepted for registration, according to the press conference held at the bureau in Zape.

This year's Family Sports Day will be held at the Olympic Sports Centre and Indoor Pavilion for first time, which previously took place at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, aiming to ensure the full use of the centre's outdoor and indoor spaces, thereby providing the participants with more time and space, apart from adding exercise trial sessions for the participants to enhance their event experience, Sports Bureau (ID) Development Department Chief Chao Kuok Wai said during yesterday's press conference.

Meanwhile, all tracks will remain open for participants after the race, and multiple booths will be set up on-site, featuring not only recreational games but also a children's health information station, a "Drunken Dragon" dance* experience, and large inflatable play structures, aiming to create a carnival-like atmosphere, combining sporting competitions and interactive booths to encourage local families to adopt regular exercise habits and promote children's physical and mental well-being, Chao added.



The Sports Bureau's (ID) Sports Development Department Chief Chao Kuok Wai speaks to reporters at the bureau in Zape yesterday. — Photo: Ida Cheong

According to the press conference, online registration for the upcoming event will close at 12 p.m. on May 29: <https://apply.sport.gov.mo/>

*The Drunken Dragon Dance (舞醉龍) is a unique traditional performance deeply rooted in Macau's cultural heritage, originating from local fishing communities, a tradition which has been recognised as part of China's National Intangible Cultural Heritage since 2011. — DeepSeek

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Sands team members visit Hengqin cultural relics exhibition



This recent handout photo provided by Sands China shows 100 staff members posing during their tour of the "Treasures of Ancient Shu - Sanxingdui and Jinsha" at the Hengqin Cultural and Art Complex last month.

Adrian Vallesteros

Sands China said in a recent statement that on April 17, one hundred of its staff members visited a cultural relics exhibition in Hengqin, where they were able to learn about a comprehensive collection consisting of 3,000-5,000-year-old Chinese cultural treasures.

As part of the company's ongoing education promotion series of events and activities for team members, the statement noted that the one-day visit aimed to enhance team members' comprehension of Chinese history and culture.

The staff members toured the "Treasures of Ancient Shu - Sanxingdui and Jinsha" exhibition at the Hengqin Cultural and Art Complex in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, according to the statement.

With some recently discovered artifacts on public display for the first time, the exhibition features a total of 163 sets of national treasures from the ancient Chinese Shu* civilization, including bronze, gold and jade artifacts. Moreover, 36 are classified

as first-grade cultural relics. The statement added that the exhibition's artifacts are from Sanxingdui and Jinsha, the two most significant archaeological sites of the Shu civilization, both of which are in Sichuan Province.

Sands China Ltd Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "The exhibition's rich display of cultural relics and their accompanying in-depth academic interpretations are a beautiful, thought-provoking and appealing way for our team members to gain a deeper understanding of the historical development of China. Appreciating the artistic charm and significance of these artefacts enhances our understanding of the evolution of Chinese civilisation and inspires a great sense of patriotism and pride in our nation."

*The Shu Kingdom (蜀國) refers to one of the three major states during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280 AD) in Chinese history, alongside the Wei (魏) and Wu (吳). The Shu Kingdom existed between 221 and 263 in what is now Sichuan Province. Chengdu was the kingdom's capital. It is now the capital of Sichuan. - DeepSeek

'SJM Fish Leong Music Show' gig held at GLP

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort operator SJM hosted the "SJM Fish Leong Music Show" last Saturday at the Grand Pavilion of the Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, gathering fans to watch performances by the "Queen of Love Songs".

According to a statement by the company earlier this week, Malaysian singer-songwriter Fish Leong Ching Yu performed her hits such as "Love Song," "Break Up Happily," and "Pain That Breathes," with the highlight of the event being her performance of her song "Courage".

The statement noted that Leong said that she hoped that the evening had touched the hearts of her fans and that she looked forward to sharing more journeys of love and courage in the future, leaving everyone inspired and uplifted.



This handout photo taken on Saturday and provided by SJM Resorts on Monday shows Malaysian singer-songwriter Fish Leong performing during the "SJM Fish Leong Music Show" at The Grand Pavilion of Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai.

Galaxy Macau unveils world's largest Bentley Flying Spur Mulliner fleet



This undated handout photo provided on Wednesday by Galaxy Macau shows staff members posing with one of the Bentley Flying Spur Mulliner cars.

Rui Pastorin

Galaxy Macau unveiled its fleet of nine "Galaxy Collection of Bentley Flying Spurs" at the integrated resort in Cotai last Thursday, with the new transport collection marking the high-specification vehicles' arrival to Macau and Hong Kong, the company said in a Wednesday statement.

The unveiling showcased the world's largest fleet of Bentley Flying Spur Mulliners, according to the statement, which added that the vehicles enable guests to enjoy the "pinnacle of Bentley luxury and performance" that combines a sleek design, hand-finished craftsmanship, leather interiors and exceptional power through its Ultra Performance Hybrid powertrain.

In his speech, Galaxy Macau Executive Vice President of Hospitality Roger Lienhard noted: "The acquisition of these extraordinary cars is the result of many months of close collaboration with the Bentley team in England, to custom-make the bespoke, hand-finished 'Galaxy Collection'. The unveiling of this fleet marks a new era of ultra-luxury hospitality, aligning with Galaxy Macau's signature 'World-Class Asian Heart' service philosophy; while reinforcing Macau's unique status as a 'World Centre of Tourism and Leisure.'"

Managing Director of Bentley Motors for the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, Kim Airey, noted in his speech that: "We're delighted that Galaxy has chosen to co-create with Mulliner, Bentley's personal commissioning division, to bring these handcrafted vehicles into a world-class chauffeur fleet. We hope these Flying Spurs will elevate the chauffeur experience at Galaxy Macau, delivering unparalleled style and luxury to every guest's journey, while also showcasing the exquisite craftsmanship and attention to detail of Bentley's artisans at our Dream Factory in Crewe, England".

Bentley is owned by Germany's Volkswagen Group.

MGM launches new responsible gaming employee care programme

Adrian Vallesteros

MGM launched its new "MGM Responsible Gaming Employee Care Programme" last week, according to a Tuesday statement from the company.

The initiative was organised by MGM in conjunction with the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), University of Macau (UM) and Macao Polytechnic University (MPU), and co-organised by the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), Macao New Chinese Youth Association, Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home, and the Youth Volunteers Association of Macao.

The statement highlighted that the initiative is aimed to further the healthy and orderly growth of Macau's tourism and leisure industry and to implement the government's policies and guidelines in promoting responsible gaming (RG).

The statement added that the company can accomplish this by giving its employees a more

comprehensive, long-lasting, and effective platform for promoting RG through a variety of activities such as roadshows, interactive pop-up games, online quiz games, advanced training and courses on gambling-related knowledge, and more.

The statement mentioned that Executive Vice President of Gaming Operations & Strategic Marketing of MGM Tian Han said that the integrated resort operator has launched a new "MGM Responsible Gaming Employee Care Programme" alongside last year's "MGM RG Community Engagement Scheme". These programmes have initiated an "internal and external dual-track" approach, promoting social advocacy and strengthening employee skills.

According to the statement, MGM aims to leverage innovative approaches to reinforce RG understanding and execution, building a foundation for long-term stability and sustainable development. MGM will continue to collaborate with other entities to promote RG-related information, fostering a healthy society.



This undated handout photo from MGM shows participants posing during the opening ceremony of its latest "MGM Responsible Gaming Employee Care Programme" at MGM COTAI.

Roundtable discusses Macau as regional & int'l entertainment hub



Yesterday's moderator Anna Robb (left), the executive producer of Our Legacy Creations, and David Baxley (right), Vice President, Regional Entertainment, Sands China, look on as Raymond Lo (盧敬恆), SVP, Head of Global Marketing and General Manager of Altira Macau and Mocha Clubs, Melco Resorts & Entertainment, speaks during yesterday's Asian IR Summit at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC).
— Photo: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

A roundtable discussion titled "Shaping Macao as a Regional and International Entertainment Hub" was held during the Asian IR Summit yesterday, during which it was noted that Macau has an oversupply of performance venues, but not enough demand.

The three-day Asian IR Summit was held at Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) and concluded yesterday.

The discussion, the final session of yesterday's summit, featured speakers David Baxley, Vice President, Regional Entertainment, Sands China, and Raymond Lo (盧敬恆), SVP, Head of Global Marketing and General Manager of Altira Macau and Mocha Clubs, Melco Resorts & Entertainment. Macau's visitor demographic, including touching on K-pop and its trends in Macau, and the sustainability of long-term shows (aka "residencies"), were among the areas discussed.

The pair were also asked about Macau's situation as an entertainment hub. Baxley said that from looking at figures comparing the number of private and public shows in 2019 and 2024 in Macau, there were three times as many shows in the latter year, while there has been a huge increase in the number of seats and venues in the city.

Baxley noted he believes that Macau has an oversupply of venues and a shortage of actual audience members, adding that although there is money to be made from shows, particularly on those by K-pop groups, there are also a lot of doing shows in Macau that lose money, at least in ticket sales.

"I think that what really needs to happen is we need to equalise that", Baxley said, adding: "Until we actually knit up the Greater Bay Area [GBA] into a single region entertainment-wise, I think you're going to see this huge shortage of audience members, people buying tickets"

Baxley underlined that having Macau's venues is a big step forward in becoming an entertainment hub, along with having a number of shows, but also said he hopes to see more diversification in show content such as by having more in the comedy or hip-hop genre. Moreover, he remarked that the city currently seems to have a bifurcated market wherein there are K-pop shows that mostly appeal to the younger generation and shows that resonate more with older groups, but no middle ground geared towards those in their 20s and 30s.

Adding to this, Lo then gave his thoughts on the trends of Macau as an entertainment hub, noting that the city now has a lot more shows of different types as entertainment

encompasses areas such as theatre, which he thinks is growing in popularity, shows and gaming. Adding it all up, the city offers extra seats to the market, along with venues that vary in size based on the scope of demand, noting that not all events are necessarily large, there are smaller ones as well.

Lo also pointed out Macau's higher accessibility with factors like visa policies and connectivity from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB). And with higher accessibility comes the potential to make it easier for the city not only to draw in more visitors, but carry out more shows and show types and entertainment, creating synergy, he said.

In terms of the international market, Baxley and Lo also remarked on whether Macau can support the focuses on both the mainland market and international guests. Lo noted though it can be difficult, it is something that needs to be done, requiring effort from the whole industry to entertain both sides and that focusing on one market is not ideal.

Baxley commented on the trend of rising artistes' fees and the development of more venues in Hong Kong. He stressed that he would like a live-house scene to develop in Macau, which could be a positive development for Macau and the mainland. ■

China, Russia to enhance coordination to counter US 'double containment'

MOSCOW – China and Russia will enhance coordination and cooperation to resolutely respond to the "double containment" policy pursued by the United States, the two sides said in Moscow yesterday.

They made the announcement in a joint statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era that was signed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Both sides firmly oppose the act of inciting other countries around the world to take hostile positions towards China and Russia and smear China-Russia collaboration, said the statement.

In the statement, both sides also expressed deep concern over the confrontational policies adopted by certain countries and their allies as well as the related remarks they made, calling for ending the acts of interfering in other countries' internal affairs,

undermining the existing security architecture in various regions around the world, and artificially drawing lines among countries and advocating camp confrontation.

Both sides pointed out that the United States and its allies are attempting to advance NATO eastward into the Asia-Pacific region, creating a "small circle" in the region, and enticing countries in the region to implement their "Indo-Pacific Strategy," thereby undermining regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Both sides voiced opposition to the establishment of a "nuclear-sharing" military alliance against China and Russia, the arrangement of deploying nuclear weapon systems in the region under the pretext of strengthening "extended deterrence," and the deployment of global anti-missile systems and land-based medium-range missile systems that undermine strategic stability, according to the statement.

— Xinhua

China, Russia oppose unilateral restrictive measures on trade, finance

MOSCOW – China and Russia firmly oppose unilateral and unlawful restrictive measures such as trade and financial restrictions, said the two sides in Moscow yesterday.

They made the declaration in a joint statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era that was signed by President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday.

Both sides pointed out that certain countries and their allies have imposed such measures, significantly increased tariffs, and used other non-market-oriented means of competition, which have had a negative impact on the world economy, undermined fair competition and hindered international cooperation in addressing common challenges facing all mankind, including hindering the maintenance of global food security, energy security and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The two countries condemned the shameless acts of bypassing the UN Security Council to implement measures that violate the Charter of the UN and international law, obstruct justice and violate the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

China and Russia will continue to join hands to deal with the downward pressure on the world economy, and facilitate the participation of more Global South countries in international and regional trade.

In the statement, the two countries noted the growing risks of global trade fragmentation, discriminatory measures and unlawful trade restrictions.

Certain countries, under various pretexts, have arbitrarily imposed tariffs on their trading partners, seriously infringing upon the legitimate rights and interests of other countries, gravely violating WTO rules, severely undermining the rules-based multilateral trading system, and profoundly disrupting the stability of the global economic order, said the statement.

Both sides firmly oppose illegal unilateral bullying and unilateral protectionist measures such as arbitrary imposition of tariffs and abuse of export control, which seriously disrupt the international economic and trade order, and have a profoundly negative impact on global industrial and supply chains.

China and Russia are willing to actively promote an open, inclusive, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, support the efforts to keep WTO rules up to date, and promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment.

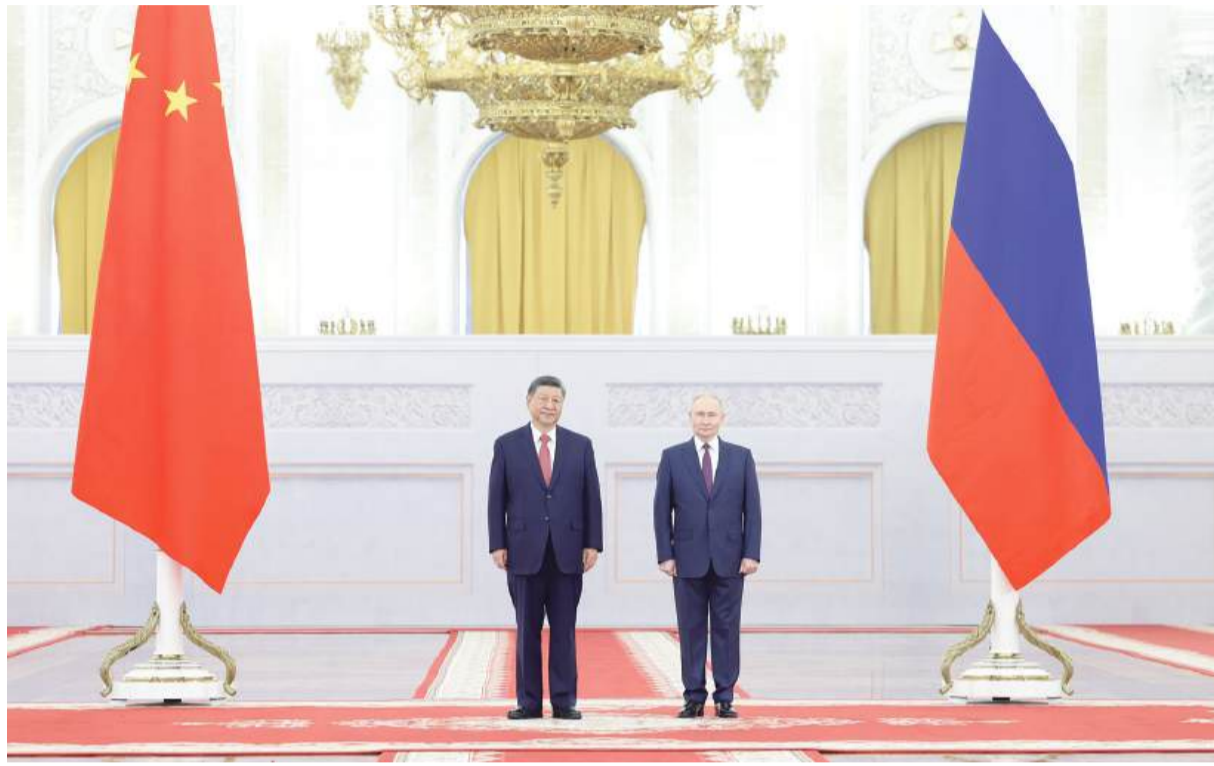
Meanwhile, Xi also said it is important to take seriously all countries' legitimate security concerns and to eliminate the root causes of Ukraine crisis. He also said that China looks forward to a peace deal on the Ukraine crisis accepted by all relevant parties through dialogue. — Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

HK stocks close 0.37 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.37 percent to close at 22,775.92 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose by 0.7 percent to end at 8,300.25 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index increased by 0.56 percent to end at 5,228.91 points. — Xinhua

China, Russia express concerns over attempts to subvert post-war int'l order



Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a welcome ceremony for President Xi Jinping at the Grand Kremlin Palace's St. George's Hall in Moscow yesterday. — Xinhua

MOSCOW – China and Russia expressed concerns in Moscow yesterday over attempts to subvert the post-war international order.

The concerns were voiced in a bilateral joint statement on further deepening China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era released yesterday.

The two sides pointed out that they are concerned that in pursuit of hegemonic interests, certain countries and their allies are attempting to distort the outcomes of the victory of World War II, subvert the principles of the post-war international order, and weaken the core role of the United Nations in maintaining global peace and security.

The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to abiding by international law, resisting any attempt to distort the basic principles of international law.

In the statement, the two sides noted that it's the major trend of the times to build the order for a fairer and sustainable multipolar world.

Certain countries are indulging in hegemonism and neo-colonialism, wantonly implementing aggressive policies, restricting the sovereignty of other countries and suppressing the economic, technological development of other countries in order to secure their own privileges, the statement pointed out, stressing that this goes against the trend of world multipolarization and democratization of international relations.

As independent forces in the process of building a multipolar world, the two sides pledged in the statement to fully tap the potential of bilateral relations, uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and push the realization of an equal and orderly multipolar world as well as the democratization of international relations.

Both sides vowed to support engaging in extensive and equal dialogues on the basis of protecting the diversity of civilizations and achieving

a balance of strength and interests among countries, exploring ways to make the international landscape more adaptable to the process of world multipolarization in the 21st century.

They emphasized that China's proposal to build a community with a shared future for mankind and a series of global initiatives are of great positive significance. The destinies of the people of all countries are intertwined, and no country should seek its own security at the expense of other's.

The two sides believed that bypassing the UN Security Council to implement unilateral coercive measures, including economic sanctions, violates international law such as the UN Charter and harms international security interests.

They firmly opposed unilateral coercive measures that have no basis in international law and are not authorized by the UN Security Council, and condemned the use of intimidation, restrictions and coercion to exert pressure on other countries. — Xinhua

China, Russia support UN's central role in AI governance

MOSCOW – China and Russia expressed support yesterday for the United Nations to play a central role in the governance of artificial intelligence (AI).

In a joint statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era that was signed by President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday, the two sides emphasized the importance of respecting national sovereignty and adhering to the laws of each country as well as the UN Charter during the process.

They reiterated their commitment to jointly promoting the good,

universal and beneficial development of AI, believing that machine learning is conducive to promoting the economic and social development of all countries and should not become a geopolitical tool for certain countries to maintain hegemony.

Both sides opposed the politicization of science and technology issues and the negative practice of maliciously disrupting the stability of the international AI industrial chain and supply chain.

In the statement, Russia expressed appreciation for China's efforts in promoting the UN General Assembly's unanimous adoption of the resolution on Enhancing

International Cooperation on Capacity-Building of Artificial Intelligence, and welcomed China's proposal of the AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All.

The Russian side also expressed willingness to actively engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation based on platforms such as the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-Building and the China-BRICS AI Development and Cooperation Center.

Both sides pledged to support each other in hosting the 2025 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance and the Global Digital Forum. — Xinhua

China, Russia pledge to defend victorious outcome of WWII

MOSCOW – China and Russia agreed in Moscow yesterday to firmly defend the victorious outcome of the World War II (WWII).

The two sides made the pledge in a joint statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era that was signed by President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday.

China and Russia also vowed to resolutely crush any act that attempts to tamper with WWII history, smear the historical achievements of China and Russia in WWII, or tarnish the image of the liberators. The two sides strongly condemn the acts to desecrate or damage memorial facilities of WWII martyrs.

In the statement, the two countries described WWII as an unprecedented catastrophe in human history, noting that China and the Soviet Union were the main battlefields in Asia and Europe, and served as the mainstay of resistance against militarism and fascism.

The Chinese people and the Soviet people have made great historical contributions to safeguarding human dignity and restoring world peace, it added.

In today's world, China and Russia shoulder a shared responsibility and mission of

maintaining a correct historical perspective on WWII and the two sides will always remember the just feat of the two peoples in maintaining world peace, said the statement.

Both sides, according to the document, are committed to preventing the resurgence of anti-humanity Nazism and racial supremacy, and will continue to jointly resist the glorification of the Nazis and their accomplices, the rise of neo-Nazism, the restoration of militarism, as well as the promotion of various forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

The two countries call on the international community to respect and defend the fundamental principles established by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, which aim to prevent attempts to wage war, and commit genocide, war crimes and other crimes against humanity, said the statement.

It added that the rulings of two tribunals are the cornerstones of contemporary international law and international order, which are unshakable and allow no doubt.

China and Russia also agree to continue holding education and commemoration events in various forms. — Xinhua

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Both sides pointed out that certain countries and their allies have imposed such measures, significantly increased tariffs, and used other non-market-oriented means of competition, which have had a negative impact on the world economy, undermined fair competition and hindered international cooperation in addressing common challenges facing all mankind, including hindering the maintenance of global food security, energy security and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The two countries condemned the shameless acts of bypassing the UN Security Council to implement measures that violate the Charter of the UN and international law, obstruct justice and violate the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

China and Russia will continue to join hands to deal with the downward pressure on the world economy,

and facilitate the participation of more Global South countries in international and regional trade.

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Both sides firmly oppose illegal unilateral bullying and unilateral protectionist measures such as arbitrary imposition of tariffs and abuse of export control, which seriously disrupt the international economic and trade order, and have a profoundly negative impact on global industrial and supply chains.

China and Russia are willing to actively promote an open, inclusive, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, support the efforts to keep WTO rules up to date, and promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment. — Xinhua

Xi says China, Russia to shoulder special responsibility as major countries

MOSCOW – In face of the countercurrent of unilateralism and the act of power politics and bullying in the world, China will work with Russia to shoulder the special responsibility as major countries of the world and permanent members of the UN Security Council, President Xi Jinping said here yesterday.

Xi made the remarks while holding talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his state visit to Russia. The two leaders exchanged in-depth views on China-Russia relations and major international and regional issues, reaching consensus on unwaveringly deepening strategic coordination and promoting the stable, healthy and high-level development of China-Russia relations. The two leaders also called for promoting the correct historical perspective on World War II, maintaining the authority and status of the United Nations, and safeguarding international justice and fairness.

Following a grand welcoming ceremony for Xi, the two leaders held small-group and large-group talks successively.

In recent years, China-Russia ties have enjoyed stable, healthy and high-level development thanks to joint efforts from both sides, Xi said, hailing long-term good-neighborly friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation as distinct features of bilateral ties.

The political mutual trust between the two countries has grown ever deeper, the bond of practical cooperation ever stronger, while people-to-people exchanges and local interactions have flourished with increasing vitality, Xi said, noting that China-Russia relations have grown more confident, stable and resilient in the new era.

Xi said that history and reality have fully proved that continuing to develop and deepen China-Russia relations is integral to carrying forward the friendship between the two peoples from generation to generation, adding that it is an inevitable choice for both sides to achieve mutual success and promote their own development and revitalization.

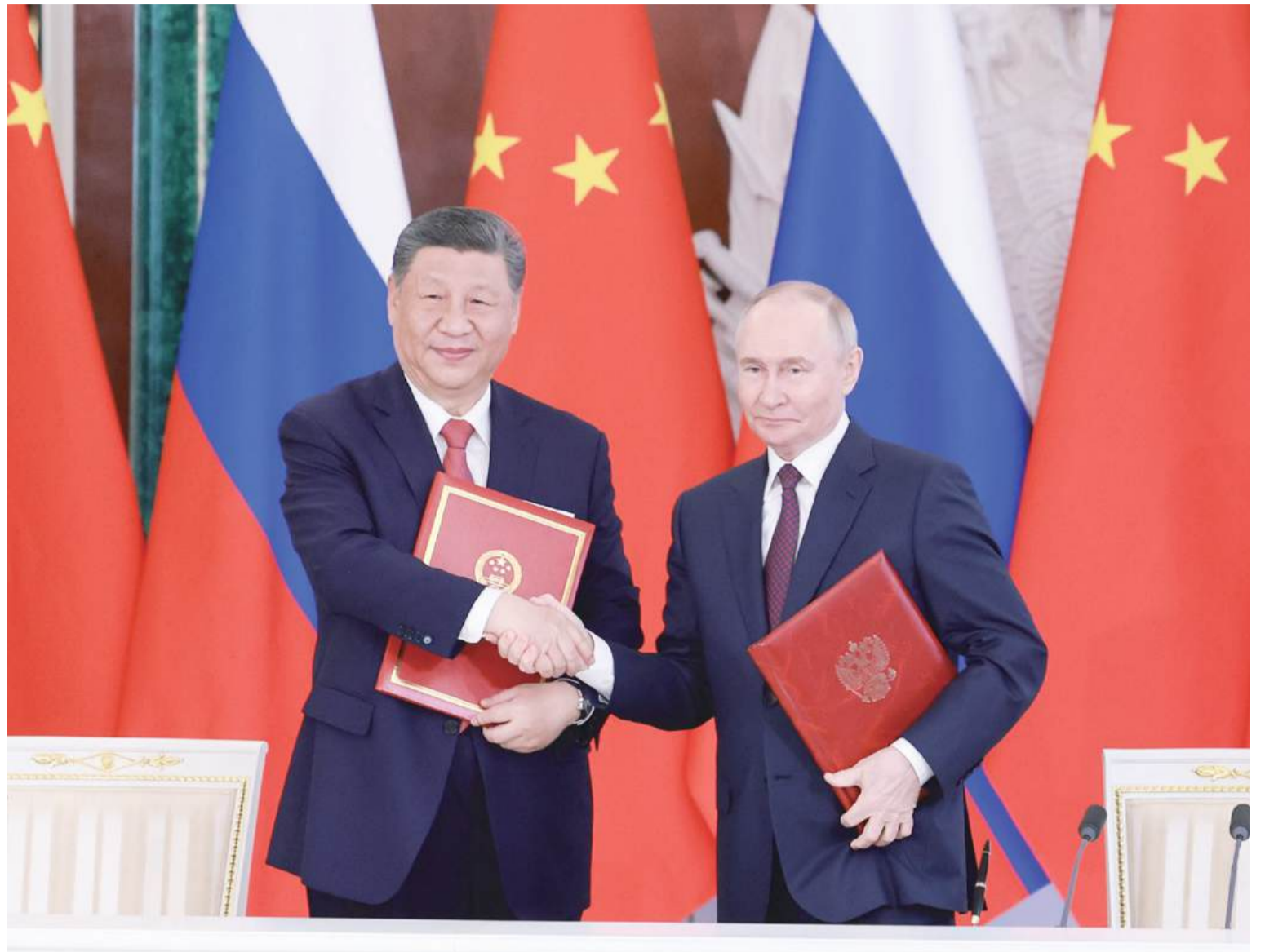
It is also the call of the times for safeguarding international fairness and justice and promoting the reform of the global governance system, Xi said.

Noting that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victories of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War and the World Anti-Fascist War, Xi said that 80 years ago, peoples of China and Russia made tremendous sacrifices and won great victories, making remarkable historic contributions to maintaining world peace and the cause of human progress.

China will work with Russia to take a clear stand to jointly promote the correct historical perspective on World War II, safeguard the authority and status of the United Nations, firmly defend the victory of World War II, resolutely defend the rights and interests of China, Russia and the vast number of developing countries, and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, Xi said.

The two heads of state also received briefings from respective department leaders of the two countries regarding bilateral cooperation across various sectors.

Xi pointed out that China and Russia should stick to the general course of cooperation and fend off external disruptions, so as to solidify the foundation for stable



President Xi Jinping (left) and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands after signing a joint statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era after their talks at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. – Xinhua

cooperation and ensure stronger momentum for progress.

The two countries should tap into the resource endowments of both countries and complementary advantages of their industrial systems, and expand high-quality and mutually beneficial cooperation in such fields as economy, trade, energy, agriculture, aerospace and artificial intelligence, Xi said.

The two countries should take the synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as a platform to build a high-standard connectivity pattern, he said, adding that the two countries should fully unleash the potential of the China-Russia Years of Culture, strengthen cooperation in education, film, tourism, sports and local areas, and promote deep-rooted people-to-people connectivity.

The two countries should closely coordinate and cooperate on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS, unite the Global South, uphold true multilateralism, and steer the right direction of global governance reform, Xi added.

Xi emphasized that China is comprehensively advancing the building of a strong country and the great cause of national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization, and that China possesses both the resolve and confidence to overcome all risks and challenges.

No matter how the external environment changes, China will firmly handle its own affairs well, Xi said, adding that China stands ready to work with Russia to shoulder the special responsibilities bestowed by the times, safeguard the global multilateral trading system and keep the industrial and supply chains stable and unimpeded, and

make greater contributions to promoting the development and rejuvenation of the two countries and upholding international fairness and justice.

For his part, Putin warmly welcomed Xi's state visit to Russia and his attendance at the celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War. Putin noted the visit's great significance, as it not only injected strong momentum into the development of Russia-China relations but also helped safeguard the outcomes of the victory of the World War II.

Putin said that the Russia-China relations are based on mutual equality and respect, not targeting any third party and not affected by any temporary incidents.

Unswervingly promoting the development of Russia-China relations and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation are Russia's strategic choices, Putin said, adding that the Russian side firmly adheres to the one-China principle and has always supported China's position on the Taiwan question.

Russia is ready to maintain close high-level exchanges with China, strengthen practical cooperation in such fields as trade, investment, energy, agriculture, science and technology, deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges in education, culture, youth, tourism and other areas, and expand the connotations of the Far East region cooperation.

Imposing high tariffs is senseless and illegal, and will only backfire, Putin said, adding that the two sides should enhance coordination and cooperation within multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, support the process toward a multipolar world, jointly oppose unilateralism, reject the

abuse of sanctions, resist bloc confrontation, and safeguard the common interests of the international community.

Noting that both Russia and China made great sacrifices in the World Anti-Fascist War, Putin said that under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people fought bravely and achieved a great victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, making significant contributions to the victory of World War II.

During the arduous years of war, Russia and China supported each other and forged a profound friendship, laying a solid foundation for the development of bilateral relations, Putin said, adding that both sides should safeguard the authority of the United Nations and international law, preserve the correct historical narrative on World War II, uphold international fairness and justice, and work together to create a brighter future for both countries and the world.

After the talks, the two heads of state jointly signed a joint statement on further deepening the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era. The two leaders jointly witnessed the exchange of over 20 bilateral cooperation documents, covering areas including global strategic stability, safeguarding the authority of international law, biosecurity, investment protection, digital economy, quarantine and film cooperation.

The two heads of state instructed the relevant departments of both countries to strengthen communication and coordination in accordance with the consensus reached by both sides, promote practical cooperation and achieve more concrete results.

The two heads of state also jointly met the press. – Xinhua