

# Sam vows targeted approach in improving residents' well-being

Tony Wong

The Liaison Office in Macau yesterday held a briefing session about the spirit of this year's "two sessions", during which Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai pledged that his government will adopt a more targeted approach to improving residents' well-being, while Liaison Office Director Zheng Xincong raised three points concerning the national and local development.

Yesterday's 1½-hour briefing session hosted by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) at its headquarters in Zape came after the closing meetings of the annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in Beijing on Tuesday and Monday respectively.

Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Macau's first chief executive and now a vice-chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, said during yesterday's session that with the aim of ensuring effective market forces, the local government should not assume every task and duty, adding that



Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah (centre) speaks during yesterday's briefing session at the headquarters of the Central People's Government Liaison Office in Zape about the spirit of this year's "two sessions" while Macau Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (right) and Liaison Office Director Zheng Xincong look on.

civil society should not require the government to meet all its needs.

In addition to Sam, Zheng and Edmund Ho, four other guests sat on the rostrum for the briefing session, namely the two other former chief executives, Fernando Chui Sai On and Ho Iat Seng, as well as Lao Ngai Leong representing Macau's

12 NPC deputies, and Chui Sai Cheong, a Macau member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee.

The session was attended by about 240 guests such as Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In, Court of Final

Appeal (TUI) President Song Man Lei, as well as local government top officials, NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members from Macau, and other community leaders.

## Sam raises 6 points

During yesterday's session, Sam raised six points that he said



he has "learned" from the spirit of this year's "two sessions", i.e., six aspects of tasks that his government will place special emphasis on.

Firstly, Sam said that the local government will resolutely ensure the implementation of the spirit of President Xi Jinping's important speeches during his inspection visit to Macau in December last year as well as the central authorities' decisions and strategies concerning Macau, with the aim of opening up new horizons for development and continuously creating new glories.

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## Trump says Putin's Ukraine comments 'promising' but 'not complete'

WASHINGTON, DC – US President Donald Trump yesterday said that Russian President Vladimir Putin had made "a very promising statement" on a possible Ukraine ceasefire, but added that "it wasn't complete."

Trump's comments came after Putin said he backed the idea of a 30-day ceasefire but had serious questions about it that he wanted to discuss with his US counterpart.

"He put out a very promising statement but it wasn't complete," Trump, who was meeting NATO chief Mark Rutte at the White House, told reporters when asked about Putin's remarks.

"I'd love to meet with him or

talk to him. But we have to get it [a ceasefire deal] over with fast."

Trump, whose special envoy Steve Witkoff arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks on Ukraine, added that it would be "a very disappointing moment for the world" if Russia rejects the peace plan.

"A lot of the details of a final agreement have actually been discussed. Now we're going to see if Russia is there and, if not, it will be a very disappointing moment for the world," Trump said.

Trump also gave a glimpse of the negotiations for a longer-term peace after any ceasefire, including what territory Ukraine would have to give up to Russia.

Russia launched its "special military operation" in Ukraine in February 2022.

"We have not been working in the dark. We've been discussing with Ukraine land and pieces of land that would be kept and lost," he said.

He added that there was also "a very big power plant involved – who's going to get the power plant?"

Trump did not name the plant nor give any specifics but the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, currently held by Russia, is on the front lines of the fighting. It is Europe's largest nuclear power station.

–AFP



US President Donald Trump (right) and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte share a laugh before speaking to the press in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday.

–AFP

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### Chinese researchers plan to create 'digital kidney'

Researchers from Peking University have launched the "Kidney Imageomics Project" to develop a "digital kidney" – a comprehensive digital atlas of the organ – using multi-modal imaging technology and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms. – Story on p. 7

### Netanyahu slams 'false' UN finding on Gaza 'genocidal acts'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday condemned as "false and absurd" a UN investigation that found Israel had committed "genocidal acts" in the Gaza Strip. – Story on p. 10

### Meta tests 'Community Notes' to replace fact-checkers

Social media giant Meta yesterday announced it would begin testing its new "Community Notes" feature across its platforms next Tuesday, as it shifts away from third-party fact-checking towards a crowd-sourced approach to content moderation. – Story on p. 11



# Sam vows targeted approach in improving residents' well-being

Continued from p.1

Sam underlined that since his government took office in December last year, it has been leading various segments of Macau's civil society to thoroughly study the spirit of Xi's speeches, adding that his government is extensively gathering opinions from different segments of civil society for drafting its first policy address scheduled to be delivered later this year.

Sam said that as the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle has entered a new stage, the local government will correctly grasp the principle's new important direction for its continued implementation, firmly safeguard the nation's sovereignty, security and development interests, build a strong barrier for safeguarding national security, and maintain social harmony and stability.

Sam also said that the government will ensure the full implementation of the "patriots governing Macau" principle, particularly by ensuring the smooth conduct of this year's legislative election, the first one since amendments to the local national security law took effect in 2023.

**Secondly**, Sam pledged that his government will deepen public administration reform and strengthen cross-departmental coordination, with the aim of enhancing governance capability.

Sam noted that his government has set up several working groups aiming to enhance cross-departmental coordination in different aspects, adding that his government would, if necessary, possibly establish other new interdepartmental coordination mechanisms with the aim of resolving the issues of poor communication, coordination and even "blame-shifting" among different public entities.

Sam also pledged that his government will revamp its systems for licensing different businesses, such as by streamlining its approval procedures, with the aim of making it easier for residents to launch and run their business.

Sam stressed that public servants and officials must adopt a broader perspective, demonstrate responsibility and commitment, collaborate effectively, and uphold integrity and honesty. They must balance their core duties with innovative reforms, think boldly, and innovate courageously, he said.

Moreover, Sam said, public servants and officials must also handle the correct relationship between strict adherence to the law and the effective and proper use of their discretionary powers, based on which his government will ensure that they do not use legal compliance as an excuse for inaction.

**Thirdly**, Sam said that his

government will accelerate the development of the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, by using legal and institutional innovation as a breakthrough, with the aim of achieving the Macau-Hengqin integrated development.

Sam underlined that advancing the zone's development is an important responsibility and obligation of his government, which he said will better leverage Macau's leading role in developing the zone.

Sam also said that on the premise of not violating the legal principles of the nation's Constitution and the Macau SAR Basic Law while also upholding the red line of national sovereignty and security, his government will boldly reform, explore, innovate, and break new ground in advancing Hengqin's development.

**Fourthly**, Sam pledged that his government will inject new impetus into Macau's economic growth and plan for its long-term development while making concrete achievements in its appropriate economic diversification campaign.

Sam acknowledged that Macau's economic development is currently facing complex internal and external environments while the city is also being affected by its economic structural problems and global economic uncertainties.

Sam also said that with the city's ongoing slowdown in its

post-pandemic economic recovery, which is partially attributed to the changing consumption patterns by locals and visitors alike, this year's government revenues would possibly be less than initially forecast.

While consolidating Macau's economic recovery, Sam said, the government will intensify its efforts to advance its appropriate economic diversification drive while also addressing the city's unbalanced economic development.

**Fifthly**, Sam said that his government will adhere to its people-centred approach by effectively addressing the issues affecting residents' well-being, with the aim of continuously enhancing their sense of gain, happiness, and security.

Sam said that his government will put residents' interests first while also having to implement social welfare measures in a sustainable way. The government will adopt a more targeted approach in its policy of improving residents' well-being, such as by more precisely helping those in need and allocating more welfare resources to the elderly, children, those with disabilities, and others in vulnerable groups.

**Sixthly**, Sam said that his government will consolidate and enhance Macau's unique advantages and deepen international exchanges, with the aim of enabling

Macau to play a greater role in the international community and better integrate into and serve the nation's overall development.

## Zheng voices 3 opinions

During yesterday's session, Zheng voiced three opinions concerning the national and local development.


**Firstly**, Zheng said that this year's "two sessions" have boosted confidence in the nation advancing Chinese modernisation.

Zheng said that last year was an extraordinary year of the nation's economic development, adding that with complex internal and external environments, the central authorities continued to deepen reform and advance high-quality development, thereby being able to complete its main socioeconomic development goals.

**Secondly**, Zheng underlined the nation's great potential for development, adding that the historical process of advancing the building of a strong country and national rejuvenation through Chinese modernisation has become irreversible.

**Thirdly**, Zheng said that Macau should make special contributions to promoting the nation's overall development, urging the city to thoroughly study Xi's important speeches, advance its appropriate economic diversification drive, and firmly safeguard national security and ensure Macau's stability. ■

In Loving Memory of  
*Arnaldo R.F. Monteiro*  
January 11, 1957 - March 10, 2025



Tribute & Funeral Service

March 16, 2025, Sunday  
Viewing time: 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Mass at 8:00 pm

March 17, 2025, Monday  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

*And the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*  
Ecclesiastes 12:7

## Wushu event to take place over weekend: SJM

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts said in a statement on Wednesday that the two-day "The 5th Greater Bay Area Martial Arts Scholar Championship and The 1st Asia Pacific Chinese Wushu Cultural Festival" are slated to take place over the weekend.

The event, held at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre, is title-sponsored by the integrated resort operator and co-organised with the Hong Kong Tai Chi Youth Charitable Foundation and the Macao Institute of Traditional Chinese Martial Arts.

The statement noted that over a hundred young athletes from Hong Kong and Macau will exchange martial arts techniques with their peers from the nine Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities. Health and wellness activities and martial arts demonstrations are to be featured.

The statement said that the "Greater Bay Area Martial Arts Scholar Championship" marks its fifth edition since 2018 and this year focuses on "National Fitness, National Well-being" and

features complimentary seminars, interactive experiences and cultural performances.

Meanwhile, the statement said that there will also be themed activities at Grand Lisboa Palace in Cotai including Tai Chi Health & Wellness and Nan Quan classes. The resort's participating restaurants will also be offering "wellness-focused dishes", while organisers have also created a "Macau Cultural and Health City Walk" map that guides participants through Macau's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

SJM Managing Director and the event's chairperson Daisy Ho Chiu-fung was quoted by the statement as saying: "Beyond its appeal as a spectator sport and its cultural significance, martial arts also play a key role in integrating "Tourism + Health," attracting international enthusiasts and sport tourists to Macau".

Ho was also quoted as saying: "The event is not just a competition but a collaborative effort between Hong Kong and Macau to promote national fitness and foster youth



This image downloaded from the Grand Lisboa Palace website last night shows the integrated resort's Jardim Secreto ("Secret Garden").

exchanges within the Greater Bay Area. The event brings together renowned martial arts masters from China and Japan, featuring captivating martial arts demonstrations such as Baduanjin and Tai Chi, attracting visitors from across regions to Macau for this grand occasion."

Moreover, former world Tai Chi champion, Hong Kong Tai Chi Youth Charitable Foundation Chairperson and the event's Organising Committee Executive Co-chairperson Li Fai was quoted as saying: "We always want to break the stereotype about martial arts - it's not just about contests but a path to health and wellness". ■

## Repair work for water pipe burst at Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in Taipa completed

[The Macao Water Supply Company Limited] Macao Water completed the repair work on the burst pipe at Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in Taipa around 5:30 p.m. yesterday and normal water supply is gradually being restored. For enquiries, customers may contact the Customer Hotline at 2822 0088.



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### Macau Weather

**CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.**  
**MIST AT FIRST.**  
**A FEW LIGHT RAIN PATCHES.**  
**FORCE 2 TO 4 EAST TO SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 99%.**



21°C~26°C

Source: SMG





## Outdoor skatepark to open at Lisboeta

*Kristina Vallesteros*

LISBOETA SKATEPARK will have its soft opening tomorrow at the Lisboeta Macau H853 Outdoor Event Space in Cotai, marking the introduction of Macau's first outdoor extreme sports facility within the integrated resort, according to a statement provided by the hotel and entertainment complex.

The park is managed by the Macau Skateboarding Sports Culture and Development General Association (MSSCDGA), a collective of four skateboarding associations, including the Macau Association of Skateboarding Culture, Macau Association of Skateboarding Development, Macau Association of Skateboarding Exchange and Learning, and Macau Skateboarding Association. The current board members of the associations are engaged in skateboarding and have witnessed the growth of skateboarding in Macau since the 1990s, according to the statement.

The statement noted that the associations aim to provide a "safe and professional exercise venue for both locals and travellers."

The statement said that skateboarding has been around since the 1940s and gained global popularity over time. It was officially recognised as an Olympic sport during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The partnership between the integrated resort and MSSCDGA seeks to attract enthusiasts from the Greater Bay Area (GBA), offering "professional training and events."

The GBA comprises nine cities in Guangdong Province and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau. ■

## Sands China launches illustrated booklet on Rua das Estalagens

*Rui Pastorin*

Integrated resort operator Sands China has launched a bilingual (Chinese and English) booklet entitled "In Search of Its Roots – An Illustrated History of Rua das Estalagens".

The company announced the launch in a statement on Wednesday.

The publication, produced in partnership with the Macau Artist Society, was authored by Siguo Chen and illustrated by Shirley Lu. The statement said that the book, which also had other contributors for design, photographs and printing, is aimed at reintroducing the "ancient and contemporary aspects of Rua das Estalagens [草堆街] to Macau's residents and visitors, preserving the invaluable deeds of its inhabitants". The booklet has been sent to public libraries and local primary and secondary schools.

The statement added that through conversations with associations, business entities and residents in the area, Chen has "encapsulated the characters and historical moments from the street's past through oral history".

Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "It is our hope that both local residents and visitors will embrace the allure of Rua das Estalagens through our book, as it showcases the rich tapestry of the street's history. We are delighted that this publication has been [stocked] by schools and public libraries in Macau, inspiring future generations with real-life stories and strengthening the community's connection to Macau's heritage".

The street's Portuguese name means "Street of Inns". Its Chinese name means "Street of Haystacks".

The statement said that a digital version can be viewed and downloaded on <https://assets.sandsresortsmacao.cn/ebook/SCL/revitalization-of-rua-das-estalagens/index.html>.

Meanwhile, Sands China's other revitalisation efforts at Rua das Estalagens also include the "Entrepreneurship Recruitment Programme for Rua das Estalagens", which was launched in April last year, the statement said, adding that seven businesses chosen by the programme have been opening in phases. Another revitalisation project is the beautification of the shopfronts, noting that the company has been collaborating with the Macau Artist Society to invite young artists Lei Chek On and Sit Ka Kit to paint the street's historic shops.

金沙中國片區活化項目 Sands China's Community Revitalization Programme



This image provided by Sands China on Wednesday shows the front cover of "In Search of Its Roots – An Illustrated History of Rua das Estalagens".

The statement quoted Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man as saying that apart from the launch of the recruitment programme, the bureau was glad to see Sands China's partnership with the Macau Artist Society to beautify the street and publish the publication "in a thoughtful effort to broaden the discussion around its preservation and revitalisation to include its wider significance to society". ■

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# Fantasia shows 17 artistic expressions from Huaqiao University grads

*Kristina Vallesteros*

The “17 Art Languages” exhibition is currently being held on the top floor of 10 Fantasia Gallery, showcasing the artistic expressions of 17 master’s degree graduates from Huaqiao University’s School of Fine Arts\*.

The exhibition, which runs until March 29, aims to explore the complex emotions and their understandings of life through art, according to the statement.

The exhibition officially opened on March 8. It highlights a variety of styles and themes, with each artist contributing unique perspectives shaped by their experiences. Through this collective showcase, the artists use art as a language to convey their feelings and reflections, emphasising that “art originates from life, and life is integrated into art”, the statement said.

The statement also noted that the exhibition highlights the importance of cultural exchange, stating that it features works that reflect “both local Macau heritage and the fusion of

Eastern and Western artistic influences”. Each piece serves as a testament to the artists’ journeys, showcasing their “exploration of artistic language and the imprints of their life experiences”, the statement added.

The venue is located in Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷). Exhibitiongoers may find the exhibits at 10 Fantasia gallery’s rooms C01 and C02. Free admission is from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Mondays.

*\* Huaqiao University’s School of Fine Arts is one of the academic units within Huaqiao University, a comprehensive institution of higher education in China. The School of Fine Arts is dedicated to nurturing creative talents in the fields of fine arts and design, offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Huaqiao University (華僑大學 – “Overseas Chinese University”) has multiple campuses, and the School of Fine Arts is primarily located on the Quanzhou campus in Fujian Province. – DeepSeek*

– Photos: Kristina Vallesteros





# 17<sup>th</sup> MICHELIN Guide HK & Macau awards 19 local restaurants, incl 4 newcomers



MICHELIN Guide mascot Bibendum, aka the "Michelin Man", waves to guests and attendees at yesterday's 17<sup>th</sup> MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong & Macau at Grand Lisboa Palace in Cotai last night. — Photos: Rui Pastorin



The awardees from Macau pose with SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu-fung (11<sup>th</sup> from right) and Macau Government Tourism Acting Director Ricky Hoi Io Meng (12<sup>th</sup> from right).

**Rui Pastorin**

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong & Macau took place yesterday at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, with Macau seeing one restaurant promoted to two-MICHELIN stars, while four restaurants were each awarded one MICHELIN star for the first time.

There were a total of 95 restaurants recognised with MICHELIN stars in yesterday's ceremony, 19 of which are in Macau. Chef Tam's Seasons at Wynn Palace

was this year promoted to two MICHELIN stars, while Macau's four new one-Michelin star-rated restaurants are Zuicho at GLP, Aji at MGM Cotai, Mizumi at Wynn Palace, and Sushi Kissho by Miyakawa at Raffles.

Meanwhile, 8½ Otto e Mezzo BOMBANA and Lai Heen at Galaxy Macau, Zi Yat Heen at Four Seasons Hotel Macao, MGM's Five Foot Road, Pearl Dragon at Studio City and Sushi Kinetsu at City of Dreams (COD), as well as Ying at

Altira Macau have all maintained their ratings.

Alain Ducasse at Morpheus, Starworld's Feng Wei Ju, The Eight at Grand Lisboa, The Huaiyang Garden at The Londoner Macao, and Wynn Macau's Wing Lei all retained their MICHELIN two-star ratings.

Lastly, City of Dreams' Jade Dragon and Robuchon au Dôme at Grand Lisboa have both maintained their MICHELIN three-star ratings.

Other awards presented yesterday were the MICHELIN

Green Star recognition, with the Macao University of Tourism (UTM) maintaining the award. Moreover, the MICHELIN Guide Service Award was awarded to Wing Lei's Winnie Zhang.

In total, this year's full selection comprises 260 restaurants, with 206 in Hong Kong and 54 in Macau, encompassing the Starred, Bib Gourmand and Selected. MICHELIN Guide International Director Gwendal Poullennec delivered a video message where he noted: "This remarkable

selection underscores the incredible diversity and dynamism of these two gastronomic hubs, offering some of the most unique and exciting dining options in the world".

SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu-Fung said in her speech at the event that "having this pinnacle culinary event in our city is a testament to Macau's standing as a global dining mecca, one that continuously attracts culinary talent, innovation and recognition at the highest levels". ■

金沙中國片區活化項目  
Sands China's Community Revitalization Programme

## PHILIP COLBERT

# 澳門MACAO

## ART TOUR 藝術之旅




**2025**  
**15.01**  
**16.03**

Limited-Time CNY Activities at Former Iec Long Firecracker Factory and Taipa Houses

- 1 Check out Philip Colbert's Macao Edition and Signature Sculptures
- 2 Free lobster themed Fai Chun written by calligrapher on site  
2025.01.25-26 15:00-18:00  
 Former Iec Long Firecracker Factory
- 3 Chinese instrumental performances  
2025.02.01 - 02.02 16:00-18:00  
 Former Iec Long Firecracker Factory

More details on Sands China's Community Revitalization Programme



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# GEG title-sponsors 'PGA Tour Dreams, Macau'

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort operator Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) said in a statement yesterday that training for its title-sponsored "Galaxy Entertainment Group Presents: PGA Tour Dreams, Macau" has recently kicked off at the Macau Anglican College and Escola Oficial de Seac Pai Van.

The programme is organised in conjunction with the Macau Professional Golfers Association (MPGA). It is designed for students aged six to 12, while physical education (PE) teachers from participating schools are also set to receive training from Professional Golfers Association (PGA) certified coaches, according to the statement.

The teachers, guided by certified coaches, will then deliver a seven-week golf curriculum for participating students. The statement added that the equipment used is designed for beginners. Competitions and award ceremonies are set to be hosted by the organisers upon the programme's completion.

The programme is aimed at promoting golf in local schools, stimulating the next generation's interest and understanding of golf, and contributing to the development



This undated handout photo provided by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) yesterday shows students taking part in training sessions in the "Galaxy Entertainment Group Presents: PGA Tour Dreams, Macau" programme.

of young sporting talents in Macau, the statement noted.

According to the statement, the training sessions at the Macau Anglican College and Escola Oficial de Seac Pai Van has PGA-certified professional coaches providing 140 lessons to 200 students and teachers from both schools throughout the year.

The first training session recently held at Escola Oficial de Seac Pai Van had students learn golf fundamentals, followed by foundational training using

customised, beginner-friendly golf equipment, the statement said. The statement quoted MPGA representative and PGA certified coach Geoffrey Sou, who was among the attending guests at the event, as noting that the programme provides local students with more opportunities to engage in golf. "We look forward to working alongside GEG to cultivate Macau's young sporting talents and to further broaden the range of sports accessible to local teachers and students", Sou added. ■

# Toxic tariff policy heralds US recession and greater uncertainty for world trade

China Daily Editorial

It is Washington's firm belief that the United States only stands to win in the tariff war it is waging against the rest of the world. That has made it addicted to weaponizing tariffs in a bid to "make America great again".

But that conviction is nothing but wishful thinking, as in the interconnected world no economy can sustain its growth by inflicting pain on others, as evidenced by the boomerang effects the tariff war has had on the US economy.

After the market saw the US leader would not change his mind at the last moment and the US would go ahead with a 25 percent additional tariff on all imported steel and aluminum on Wednesday, all three major US stock indices fell by a large margin. On Tuesday, the S&P 500 index fell 9.3 percent from its historical high in February, while the Nasdaq fell 13.6 percent from its historical high in December.

The negative effect on relevant industries will be felt soon, not to mention the impacts on other US sectors, including agriculture, as a result of the retaliatory tariffs to be imposed by other parties. Take the steel and aluminum tariff hikes as an example. They cannot boost steel and aluminum production in the US or create more jobs, instead they will harm downstream US companies and US consumers. Their effects will be felt in the automotive, electrical machinery, and construction equipment industries, among others, weakening the global competitiveness of US products in these markets.

If the US puts its president's "reciprocal" tariff threat into practice next month, it will further fuel the market panic and turn inflation in the US from a concern to a practical challenge.

Even some insiders of the economic and financial policymaking circle in the US have expressed their collective concerns about the possible impacts of the administration's tariff war on the US economy.

Conscious of that, the US president and his senior advisers met with leading US business figures at the White House on Monday to comfort the market, during which several CEOs of high-tech companies expressed concerns about the administration's tariff

policies, warning that imposing tariffs would be detrimental to the US technology industry.

The US business community and lobbying groups have called senior officials such as the White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles suggesting that the US leader leave room for negotiations to lower tariffs and develop a "more predictable tariff agenda" to calm market tensions.

But US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said in an interview on Tuesday that even if the US economy eventually falls into recession, the US president's tariff policies will be "worth it", claiming that the tariff policies are "the most important thing America has ever had".

That was in stark contrast to Lutnick's remarks in an interview with the media on Sunday, when he said emphatically that the US would not experience an economic recession, adding that US people "should never" prepare for it. Regarding the criticism from the outside world that the US' tariff policies are inconsistent, Lutnick said "anybody who bets against Donald Trump probably is a fool".

All of which has served to intensify the market's panic that the administration is suggesting a recession is inevitable, without explaining how it will end it and in what way that heralds a brighter future.

Although the World Trade Organization said in the latest issue of its "Goods Trade Barometer", released on Wednesday, that the global goods trade sentiment index remains almost unchanged from December last year, it pointed out that the increasing uncertainty of trade policies and the prospect of new tariffs may put pressure on midterm trade, warning that the increase in trade policy uncertainty may temporarily promote trade, as businesses and consumers will import ahead of possible measures, which may reduce demand later this year.

It will take time for the systemic impacts of the US' tariff policies to be manifest in the global economy. But history has and will continue to prove tariff wars have no winners. If the US administration relies on extortion, bullying and coercion as its art of a negotiated deal, it is not going to make America great again.

— Courtesy of China Daily

## Fairness and respect is the guidance to talks

China Daily Editorial

A question a Western media outlet threw at Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning in a recent news conference clearly indicates how some in the West underestimate China's resolve to safeguard its core interest in the tariff war the US administration is waging against it.

"We have sources telling us that Chinese officials are having difficulty getting guidance from the US side on how to stop President Trump from increasing tariffs. Can I get a reaction from you?" she was asked.

Although China remains open to work together with the United States to resolve their trade disputes through negotiations, it has never implored the US side for any "guidance" as to how it can lessen the latter's tariff blows.

While being entreated no doubt panders to the United States' sense of entitlement, China's relations with all countries are based on mutual respect and an equal footing, and on issues of right and wrong it always upholds the principle of fairness.

As the country that has been targeted by the US' tariff attacks since 2018 during Trump's first term, China's countermeasures have always been prompt, precise and effective. If there is anything China would ask of the US regarding the tariff war, it is that it come back to its senses over the lose-lose nature of its arbitrary move, which has neither brought back jobs to the US

nor helped reduce its trade deficit against China.

The excuse the Trump administration has found during its second term to justify the tariffs it imposes on China is, to put it mildly, absurdly overstretched, as the fentanyl crisis in the US is the result of domestic regulatory problems.

It would also be ridiculous to ask for "guidance" from the US administration, as even its senior trade and commerce officials have no idea what the US president is going to do from one hour to the next, as shown by his flip-flop-flip on Canadian tariffs.

Such unpredictability is undoubtedly a double-edged sword. Although it seems to give the US side an upper hand in future negotiations, the back-and-forth tariff threats sent markets sharply lower in the US this week.

The market originally expected Trump's economic policies after taking office would continue to drive economic recovery. However, his tariff wars and threats against the US' major trading partners, including China, Canada, Mexico and the European Union, which are closely linked to the US' industry and supply chains, have only fueled more uncertainty.

But what has truly triggered market panic is the possibility that the Trump administration will deliberately create an economic recession to relieve the US debt pressure by lowering interest rates. Recently, when Trump

was interviewed, he downplayed the recent sharp fluctuations in the stock market caused by his imposition and adjustment of tariffs, and said that one should not pay too much attention to the stock market. Yet when he indicates that the US would have a transition period, he is seemingly suggesting that turmoil and recession are the inevitable pains that have to be endured during the adjustment.

That being said, even the policymakers in Washington are crossing the river by feeling the stones when it comes to the resolution of the US economy's complicated structural challenges, of which tariffs are but one conspicuous part. They cannot provide any tariff-avoidance "guidance" for even the most ardent of US wooers.

As such, Mao answered the leading question by unequivocally reiterating China's consistent stance on the issue, leaving no room for any misunderstanding: "If harming China's interests is what the US wants, China will take resolute countermeasures. If the US truly wants to solve the issue, then the right thing to do is to consult with China on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit to address each other's concerns."

China is ready to offer guidance on how to reduce the US' complaints – through talks in good faith, which it has always upheld as being the right way to resolve the two sides' trade differences.

— Courtesy of China Daily

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.58 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.58 percent to close at 23,462.65 points. The Hang

Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.48 percent to 8,640.61 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 1.67 percent to 5,747.77 points.

— Xinhua