

China ready to fight till end if US is bent on tariff war: FM spokesperson

BEIJING – China is ready to fight till the end if the United States is bent on waging a tariff war or trade war, a foreign ministry spokesperson said in Beijing yesterday when commenting on the US threat of an additional 50 percent tariff on Chinese imports.

In response to a relevant query at a daily press briefing, spokesperson Lin Jian said that the indiscriminate imposition of tariffs by the United States seriously violates the legitimate rights and interests of other countries, seriously violates the

rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), seriously damages the rule-based multilateral trading system, and seriously impacts the stability of the global economic order.

“It is typical unilateralism, protectionism, and economic bullying, and has been widely opposed by the international community,” Lin said, noting that China strongly condemns and resolutely opposes it.

Pointing out that no winners emerge in trade wars and tariff wars, and protectionism leads nowhere, Lin said the Chinese

people do not cause trouble, but they are not afraid of trouble either. Pressuring, threatening and blackmailing are not the right ways to deal with China.

“China will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its lawful rights and interests. If the United States ignores the interests of the two countries and the international community and insists on fighting tariff wars and trade wars, China will surely fight till the end,” said the spokesperson.

– Xinhua

China will resolutely take countermeasures if US escalates tariff measures: commerce ministry

BEIJING – China will resolutely take countermeasures to safeguard its rights and interests should the United States escalate its tariff measures, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said in Beijing yesterday.

The comments were made by a spokesperson for the ministry after the United States threatened to impose an additional 50-percent tariff on Chinese imports, which the spokesperson said China firmly opposes.

The US so-called “reciprocal tariffs” against China are groundless and a typical practice of unilateral bullying, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson noted that the countermeasures China has adopted are entirely legitimate actions aimed at protecting its sovereignty, security, and development interests, as well as maintaining a normal international trade order.

The US tariff escalation threat against China compounds its mistake and further exposes its nature of blackmail, which China will never accept, said the spokesperson.

“China will fight till the end if the US side is bent on going down the wrong path,” the spokesperson noted.

China reiterates that there is no winner in a trade war and protectionism leads nowhere, said the spokesperson, adding that pressuring and threatening are not the right way to engage with the country.

China urges the United States to immediately correct its wrongdoings, cancel all unilateral tariff measures against China, stop its economic and trade suppression, and settle differences with China properly through equal-footed dialogue on the basis of mutual respect, the spokesperson said. (More on the tariffs on pages 2, 6, 7, 10 & 11)

– Xinhua

CPC Publicity Department praises Macau's patriotic education achievements



This handout photo released yesterday shows Hu Heping (centre), the executive deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Macau Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam (sixth from left), and other officials from the two sides posing for a group photo on the sidelines of their meeting in Beijing on Monday last week.

– Photo: Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture

Tony Wong

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam has recently paid a four-day working visit to Beijing where Hu Heping, the executive deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, acknowledged the significant achievements Macau has made in its patriotic education, according to a statement by O's office last night.

O led a delegation comprising officials under her portfolio to the national capital between March 29 and April 1 where they visited the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee as well as the Ministry of Education.

During his meeting with O, the statement said, Hu underlined that his department has been supporting the development of Macau's cultural undertakings, adding he expects to further strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the social and cultural fields with the Macau government, encouraging Macau compatriots to uphold the fine tradition of patriotism and love for Macau, to make good use of

Macau's advantages in the blending of Chinese and Western cultures to engage in international cultural exchanges, and to actively integrate Macau's social and cultural undertakings into the nation's overall development.

Moreover, the statement said, O's delegation also visited the Ministry of Education where they met Wu Yan, a vice-minister, who voiced the ministry's continued support for the development of Macau's education sector.

Wu said he expects Macau to make its own contributions to the nation's ongoing efforts to promote the integration of education, technology and talent.

According to the statement, Wu also urged Macau's higher education institutions to pursue high-quality development and integrate their development into the nation's overall development.

According to the statement, the delegation also visited the Museum of the Communist Party of China and the National Centre for the Performing Arts. The statement said that the Macau government is exploring further cooperation with the two facilities in the nation's capital. ■

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China to work with EU to promote sound development of relations – Premier Li

Premier Li Qiang said in a phone conversation with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen yesterday that China is ready to work with the European side to promote the sound and steady development of China-EU relations.

– Story on p. 7

Indian police arrest 'fake doctor' linked to 7 deaths

Indian police arrested a man yesterday accused of impersonating a respected London-based cardiologist, days after a probe into the deaths of seven patients.

– Story on p. 9

World's 'exceptional' heat streak lengthens into March

Global temperatures hovered at historic highs in March, the EU agency that monitors climate change said yesterday, prolonging an unprecedented heat streak that has pushed the bounds of scientific explanation.

– Story on p. 11

Bazooka may be needed to avoid economic nuclear winter



US President Donald Trump is well known for his bombastic style but his unashamedly hegemonic tariff policy announcement last week surpasses all that he has done so far on the global stage.

In Macau, Trump's "Liberation Day" – what a misnomer! – statement on April 2 – hard on the heels of All Fool's Day pranks – was initially met with sheer bewilderment but quickly turned into great concern that even our tiny territory, which as a special administrative region (SAR), free port and separate customs territory of China could be affected sooner or later by his strong-arm trade policy.

Looking superficially at the predicament, the "good news" for Macau is that the United States accounted for a mere 1.4 percent of the SAR's total value of exports in the first two months of the year. No big deal, or so it seems. But that's a rather naïve way of looking at the issue. Obviously, the crux is that China is, quite obviously, the main target of his "Liberation Day" scheme – and Macau, as an integral part of the Chinese nation, can expect to be affected one way or the other by Trump's China policy.

Historically, Macau has played an important role in China's complicated – and often unfair – trade ties with the United States. The Treaty of Peace, Amity and Commerce between the United States and China was signed in Macau on July 3, 1844 at Kun Iam Temple of all places. It was the first of various unequal treaties imposed by the United States on the enfeebled Qing Dynasty. It was in force until the signing of the 1943 Sino-American Treaty for the Relinquishment of Extraterritorial Rights in China.

The study of history is important because it helps us understand the present and prepare for the future. While Trump may not have the time, interest and patience to study the complex history of China-US relations, some of his White House staffers and supporters should explain it to him, at least a brief

summary – such as the painful history of bullying by the US and other Western powers that China and many other countries in what nowadays is known as the Global South have had to endure for centuries.

Even some of Trump's diehard endorsers such as American billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman have voiced their fears about his sledgehammer tariff policy. Responding to the "Liberation Day" announcement, Ackman wrote that "the President has an opportunity on Monday to call a time out and have the time to execute on fixing an unfair tariff system"... "alternatively, we are heading for a self-induced, economic nuclear winter, and we should start hunkering down."

Well, Monday has passed and, as perhaps even Ackman expected, not only has Trump not changed his mind but he has meanwhile even doubled down on his coercive trade policy by threatening China with additional tariffs of 50 percent – a move that would drive the overall levies on Chinese goods to a nonsensical 104 percent.

As one would expect from a nation that has endured bullying by the West since the 19th century, Beijing yesterday vowed, understandably, to "fight to the end" against "blackmailing" by the US, reaffirming that it would "never accept" Trump's usurious tariffs.

Commentators in the United States and elsewhere have even likened Trump's tariffs to "economic terrorism" – certainly a term that comes across as shrill but, nevertheless, hits the nail on the head. Mitchell A. Sobieski, a journalist for the *Milwaukee Independent*, wrote in an article headlined "Milwaukee braces for trade shockwave after Trump uses 'Liberation' tariffs to attack global economies", published on Saturday*, that "the comparison of Trump's tariffs to 'economic terrorism', a term with no formal legal definition but used in global policy discourse," is beginning to surface in policy analysis and media commentary.

"In this framing, the defining traits are intentional disruption of economic stability, broad civilian harm, and coercive policy aims."

According to Sobieski, "the

definition of economic terrorism, in this context, refers to the deliberate use of state economic power to destabilise markets, inflict civilian hardship, and exert political pressure without military engagement.... it describes a pattern of intentional, disproportionate disruption designed to cause financial suffering, provoke retaliation, and collapse cooperative structures."

His article underlines that "when policies are deployed not to solve economic problems but to manufacture a crisis for strategic gain, they cease to be governance and enter the territory of coercion. This is not a trade policy. It is a doctrine of economic violence."

I am quoting his article at length because I couldn't agree more.

It also reaffirms my belief – and fear – that future wars will not only be fought with military means but also, or even mainly, with economic means", i.e., the idea that armed conflicts will involve not just traditional military strategies but will increasingly rely on economic strategies as well. Of course, artificial intelligence (AI) has already joined the fray...

Well, that's where the call for the so-called "bazooka" response to Trump's tariff threats by a growing number of EU politicians, namely from France, Spain and Germany, comes in.

The "bazooka" is a type of portable, shoulder-fired anti-tank weapon that fires rockets. It was first developed by the US during World War II and is able to penetrate armour. It was effectively deployed first by the US and later also by the German army.

In EU jargon, the "bazooka" is the bloc's anti-coercion instrument (ACI), which aims to punish any country using economic threats to exert pressure on the EU once diplomacy fails. Within the Trump tariff context, it gives Brussels potentially far-reaching powers such as restricting US companies from public tenders and limiting trade on services. Export-dependent Germany, the world's third largest exporter after China and the US, has said that the EU should be prepared to deploy the "bazooka" if diplomacy fails to deliver.

I am all for it. If push comes to shove, Trump needs to feel the heat in order to convince him to get

back on the right track of economic diplomacy.

I also think that Beijing, the other BRICS members, Brazil in particular, Brussels, the major European capitals (Berlin, Paris, London, Rome, Madrid) and many others should coordinate their response to Trump's coercive tariffs that are indications of his outdated hegemonic thinking at a time when the world needs globalisation more than ever before so that it can tackle TOGETHER the many issues that our world is facing – poverty, climate change, pandemics, hunger, housing, education, etc.

Trump lives in the past. Even the United States as the world's (still) top economy needs globalisation to succeed.

Tariffs per se are not always wrong – but those resulting from coercive trade policies certainly are.

Unlike strategic tariffs imposed to protect fledgling industries or punish targeted violations, as Sobieski rightfully points out, Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs function more as a sweeping disruption mechanism. April 2 was not a "Liberation Day" for the United States, but the opposite, it was its subjugation to outdated economic concepts such as hegemony and isolationism.

"Their impact is already inflicting pain far beyond political elites or offending firms. It is landing first on consumers, labourers, and small businesses. That alone shifts the moral framework of the policy," Sobieski wrote.

As an eternal optimist (I always believe that the glass is half full, not half empty, a view that I share with my local media colleague José Carlos Matias whose latest editorial about Macau's economic development is titled "The glass is... still half-full") but also as a diehard realist, I do hope that Trump and his retinue will soon realise that their tariff threats are the wrong way to "Make America Great Again" (MAGA). I do not have any problem with his attempt to make his country great again, but please do it always based on the age-old principle of treating others the way you want to be treated. I am sure that all the world's philosophical systems and creeds are on agreement on this principle for the simple reason that it is an expression of common sense.

Coercive and hegemonic tariffs make no sense at the beginning of the 21st century.

Besides, in a radio address to the nation on September 7, 1985, the then US president, Ronald Reagan, famously said that "American exporters and American workers deserve a fair shake abroad, and we intend to see they get it. Our objective will always be to make world trading partnerships freer and fairer for all. So, while we will use our powers as a lever to open closed doors abroad, we will continue to resist protectionist measures that would only raise prices, lock out trade, and destroy the jobs and prosperity trade brings to all. There are no winners in a trade war, only losers."** I wonder whether Trump is aware of his fellow Republican's wise remarks.

For the benefit of the whole world, I hope that China-US trade ties get back on track sooner rather than later. We all would benefit from it – even us here in tiny Macau.

What we need is cool-headed politics, i.e., rational decision-making and composure under pressure – while President Xi Jinping has made a name for himself as an imperturbable and indefatigable leader, Trump has widely been described as headstrong, emotional and impetuous. Well, their different character traits shouldn't be an impediment for both heads of state to steer the boat of China-US relations safely back into harbour – TOGETHER.

The aim should be that, ultimately, there will be no need to deploy bazookas to prevent an economic nuclear winter.

– Harald Brüning

* <https://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/explainers/milwaukee-braces-trade-shockwave-trump-uses-liberation-tariffs-attack-global-economies/> - Milwaukee braces for trade shockwave after Trump uses "Liberation" tariffs to attack global economies - Posted by Mitchell A. Sobieski | April 5, 2025

**<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/radio-address-nation-free-and-fair-trade> - Radio Address to the Nation on Free and Fair Trade by Ronald Reagan

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Locals reveal why they choose to leave Macau or not at weekends: Vox pop

Rui Pastorin

Leading up to the weekend, it is not uncommon to hear about plans to go for a quick trip outside of Macau. Whether it's Zhuhai or elsewhere nearby, people have different reasons, and the *Post* was keen to understand what they might be through street interviews yesterday.

'A natural escape'

Chan likes to go to the mainland twice a month for a haircut and to watch a movie at a cinema, likening those moments to an escape from her busy work life in Macau. "It's a different experience", said the 28-year-old, adding that the activities offered there are not the same as in Macau, while Zhuhai offers a bigger and more "dynamic" space.

A different scene was particularly highlighted by Chan, pointing out: "Macau's activities are also nice, even with haircuts, there's no big difference, but it gives us a different landscape at the weekend because we work in Macau every day and it's so crowded", noting that it is not always the most ideal place to live in for that reason.

"It's a natural escape, I would say. As human beings, we cannot be in the same place looking at the same landscape [all the time]", noted Chan, who works in the F&B industry.

In terms of how this could affect local spending, Chan said she has observed that there has been "a recycling of F&B ideas", such as cake and coffee shops, over the last two years. "Everything has been strung in this dynamic". But in another two to three



Pedestrians walk past shops in the city centre yesterday. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

years, the inclination for something new and finding other inspirations will pop up, she said. It will be up to the local shops to find a new way to bring something different and stimulate local interest, Chan said, adding that she was optimistic that the F&B industry will eventually discover a way to capture that.

Expanding options

Che, 35, said she likes to go to Zhuhai's Gongbei border town around two to three times a month, with the area having comparatively many more shops and dining options, offering a place to walk around to buy things and hang out with friends.

When it comes to Macau, Che, who works in the education sector, said that local people only have a few options when it comes to going out. And in terms of shopping, there are many things that can already be bought online. "For me, I think there are not many places to go" in Macau, she added, noting that although there are the integrated resorts to visit in Cotai that have many shops, "everything is so expensive, I'm not so eager to spend".

Without people staying, shops might face difficulties

For 50-year-old Chan, a businessowner, the dining options on offer is a big reason he

goes to the mainland at weekends. "There are more things to eat. The selection, particularly in terms of food, is a lot more compared to Macau. The environment and service are also better". Pricewise, he said it is also much cheaper.

Chan did note he thinks this is a situation that could affect local consumption in Macau, adding that on Friday nights, locals start leaving, greatly affecting Macau during weekends. He added he believes that this could affect small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) a lot as without Macau people staying to spend here shops may find it difficult, Chan said.

Understanding why some choose to spend elsewhere

Another business owner, a woman surnamed Si, said that she does not go to Zhuhai too often, at most once or twice a month to eat and walk around, among other things. Most of the time, however, she prefers to stay and spend in Macau.

The 29-year-old thinks that other people probably go there to relax, and as long as people aren't leaving to spend elsewhere as frequently, then Macau's consumer landscape may not be affected as badly as some locals might fear. She said that as a shop owner, her business is neither influenced too much or too little by the situation, but she stressed that she understood why some locals choose to spend outside Macau as prices can be quite high here. ■

UTM, SJM host culinary masterclass featuring chef José Avillez



A culinary demonstration workshop takes place on Thursday at the Macao University of Tourism's (UTM) Mong Ha Campus with Portuguese chef José Avillez (centre). – Photo: UTM

Rui Pastorin

A culinary demonstration workshop was hosted on Thursday at the Macao University of Tourism's (UTM) Mong Ha campus, with the event joined by over 30 Year 4 students from the public university's Bachelor of Science in Culinary Arts Management programme, featuring José Avillez, the first chef who garnered two MICHELIN Stars in Lisbon.

The event, according to a UTM statement yesterday, was co-hosted by the tertiary education institution in conjunction with industry partner SJM Resorts, S.A.

During the workshop, Avillez talked about his culinary journey, inspirations behind dishes at "Mesa by José Avillez" at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, where he is the "culinary visionary", and insights into culinary creativity, business

challenges and successful strategies, the statement noted.

The statement said that Avillez also demonstrated his signature "Bacalhau à Brás"* dish, as well as talked about its evolution, techniques and how "tradition can be presented in a modern context".

"The event underscores UTM and SJM's commitment to nurturing Macau's culinary talent by bridging industry leaders with emerging professionals", the statement noted. ■

* *Bacalhau à Brás is a classic Portuguese dish made with shredded salted codfish (bacalhau), thinly fried potatoes, onions, eggs, and black olives, all bound together in a flavorful mixture. It is often garnished with fresh parsley and served with a side of salad or crusty bread. – DeepSeek*

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This file photo shows Lam Chak Seng playing the saxophone.

This file photo shows Ted Lo posing.

Jazz duo Lam Chak Seng, Ted Lo to present 'Möbius's Trip'

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Interview by William Chan

On Saturday night, local saxophonist Lam Chak Seng and Hong Kong jazz pianist Ted Lo will perform together in Lam's original project "Möbius's Trip" at Hong Kong's Muse Gallery in Lai Chi Kok, Lam told the *Post* in an online interview last week.

Ted Lo, who graduated from the Berklee College of Music in the United States in 1976, was the first Chinese graduate of the institution. He began his career as a freelance jazz pianist in the 1970s, collaborating with numerous renowned musicians, including Astrud Gilberto and Herbie Hancock, and has performed in numerous jazz festivals.

Lam, a regular featured artist in the *Post*,* is a jazz musician who also plays the flute and the piano. He is one of the top jazz musicians in Macau and is currently based in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). He studied at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague in the Netherlands as a master's degree student on a full scholarship.

Möbius's Trip

"Möbius's Trip" is an original composition by Lam, which records his life experiences in recent years, and the duo will perform these works together in the concert. "The 'Möbius's Trip' project stems from my speculation about the Möbius strip.* It is a surface with only one side and one boundary, an interface that appears to be an infinite loop from the inside. With infinite possibilities of what it is, this metaphor is almost the same as life and improvisation; how can we find a breakthrough in our music-making process?"

In a previous interview, Lam mentioned that his music is constantly evolving alongside his life experiences and ongoing musical explorations. "I tend to let things emerge naturally, just like in improvisation. We don't write down a song ahead of time; improvising will never sound exactly the same the next day or even in different sets." He emphasised that this process is a valuable opportunity for musicians to understand themselves better and reflect on their life journeys amidst the rush of everyday life.

"Beyond drawing experiences from music, we also need to seek opportunities and freedom in life. These experiences, both musical and personal, constantly shape my music, representing a transition from 'Steps Forward,' my previous album, to 'Möbius's Trip,'" he added.

The Hong Kong-Macau duo

Lam's first collaboration with Ted Lo occurred in the band for Russian jazz trumpeter Alex Sipiagin's concert in Hong Kong a few years ago. More recently, during the hush! music festival on Hac Sa Beach last year, Lam invited Ted Lo to be a special guest to perform with his quintet.

He remarked, "While Ted is perhaps more well-known for his collaborations with Hong Kong pop stars such as Eason Chan, Janice Vidal, and Jacky Cheung, we jazz musicians definitely look up to his impeccable history of playing with legends like Ron Carter and Herbie Mann." Lam emphasised that Ted Lo has influenced generations of musicians not only in Hong Kong but also in neighbouring regions like Macau. "As a local musician, I often have sought inspiration from nearby jazz musicians, and I am grateful to have been inspired by a top player like Ted Lo. Over a decade has passed, and I am thrilled to collaborate with him again in a concert."

The performance will take place at Muse Gallery on Saturday, April 12. Muse Gallery's manager, pianist Ison Cheung, will also perform as a special guest. Tickets are priced at HK\$280. For more information, visit the Muse Gallery Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/musegalleryhk/>

*The Möbius Strip, discovered by German mathematician August Möbius, is a mind-bending geometric shape with only one side and one edge. It's a classic example of a non-orientable surface. - DeepSeek

**<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/20893>
<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/15994>



Local saxophonist Lam Chak Seng (right) and Hong Kong jazz pianist Ted Lo perform last November at hush! music festival on Hac Sa beach. – All photos provided by Lam

Fire alerts drop 15 pct in Q1

Tony Wong

The Fire Services Bureau (CB) announced yesterday that the number of fire alerts in the first quarter of this year dropped by 15.35 percent to 215 from the same period of last year.

The bureau held its quarterly press conference yesterday at its headquarters next to Sai Van Lake, near Macau Tower, where Wong Si Tim, acting chief of the bureau's Education Campaigns and Public Relations Division, announced the bureau's statistics on fire alerts, ambulance call-outs, and other rescue incidents for the first three months of this year.

According to Wong, the bureau attended to 13,207 incidents in total in the first quarter of this year, a decrease of 6.32 percent from the 14,098 recorded in the same period of last year. Among the 13,207 incidents, 11,409 involved ambulance call-outs, down 3.1 percent year on year.

The 13,207 incidents recorded in the first quarter of this year included 215 fire alerts, a decrease of 15.35



Flanked by other senior officers, Wong Si Tim (centre), acting chief of the Fire Services Bureau's (CB) Education Campaigns and Public Relations Division, addresses yesterday's press conference at the bureau's headquarters next to Sai Van Lake. — Photos: Tony Wong

percent from the 254 recorded in the same period of last year.

According to Wong, 155 cases of the 215 fire alerts recorded in the first three months of this year were the ones where firefighters did not need to extinguish the fire with a fire hose after arriving at the scene, accounting 72.09 percent of the total.

Wong said that forgetting to turn off the stove, leaving behind still unextinguished items, burning of

joss sticks or papers, short circuit of electrical wires, and malfunction of machinery or equipment continued to be the most common causes of fire in the first quarter of this year, with a total of 137 cases, accounting for 63.72 percent of the total number of fire alerts.

Wong also said that the year-on-year decline in the number of ambulance call-outs in the first quarter of this year was mainly due



This photo taken yesterday shows fire engines and an ambulance parked in the Sai Van Lake fire station, which is also the Fire Services Bureau's (CB) headquarters.

to a decrease in the number of cases involving minor discomforts such as fever and shortness of breath.

Overall, Wong said, dizziness, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, vomiting and fever, as well as various types of injuries and wounds were the major causes of using an ambulance in the first quarter of this year.

Meanwhile, Wong also said that in the first quarter of this year,

firefighters conducted 1,601 fire safety inspections in buildings in which 26 were fined for violating the Law on Fire Safety of Buildings and Premises.

Since the law took effect in August 2022, Wong said, the bureau has fined 109 offenders for breaching the law, mainly involving the parking of motorcycles and the placing of miscellaneous items in passages used for evacuation. ■

Police bust illegal currency exchange dealer

Ada Lei

A woman from the mainland was arrested on Monday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Chong identified the suspect as a 37-year-old female surnamed Huang who told the police that she is jobless.



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. — Photo: Ada Lei

According to Chong, the police received a report about an illegal currency exchange activity from a casino in Cotai on Monday. Security staff of the casino discovered that Huang was engaged in an illegal currency exchange deal to a gambler. Huang was apprehended by the security staff and transferred to the police. The police later found the gambler in the casino who cooperated as a witness in the investigation.

Under questioning, Huang admitted to exchanging chips worth HK\$1,500 with the gambler for 1,500 yuan. She also admitted to having engaged in illegal currency exchange activities since the beginning of this month. Huang said that she had earned HK\$60 for every HK\$1,000 exchanged. She told the police that she had made a total profit of HK\$130. The police seized a total of HK\$120,000 in cash and chips and a mobile phone from Huang.

Huang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an illegal currency exchange charge, according to Chong. ■

Police arrest mainlander for casino loansharking

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a man from the mainland on Monday for engaging in casino loansharking activities, PJ spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Chong identified the suspect as a 36-year-old man surnamed Li who told the police that he is jobless.

According to Chong, police officers on patrol received a report about an illegal loansharking activity from the security department of a casino in Cotai on Monday. A middle-aged female gambler from the mainland was approached by Li on Friday while she was gambling in the casino. Li offered to lend her money. She agreed and negotiated

the loan terms with Li. They agreed on a loan of HK\$50,000, with each bet ranging from HK\$1,000 to HK\$5,000, with a maximum limit of HK\$10,000. For each time she won, HK\$500 would be taken as "interest" for a HK\$1,000 bet, and HK\$2,000 would be taken as "interest" for any bet over HK\$5,000, along with her passport as collateral.

Afterwards, Li called in an accomplice to monitor and to collect "interest" from her. Li and the accomplice collected a total of HK\$35,000 in "interest," within five hours. After five hours of gambling, the victim had gambled away all the borrowed money. Li and the accomplice took her to a guestroom to discuss repayment. They left after the victim paid them HK\$15,000

but didn't return her passport. The victim arranged to meet with Li again at the casino and requested he give her back her passport. However, Li claimed that she had not repaid all her debts and refused to return the passport. The victim immediately sought assistance from a security guard. Li gave her back the passport afterwards. The police officers arrived later and arrested Li. They confiscated HK\$400,000 in chips and two mobile phones from Li.

Under questioning, Li refused to cooperate. The accomplice was still on the run at the time of the press conference.

Li was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing charges of usury. ■

Police nab mainlander for theft by finding

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Friday for theft by finding after stealing a backpack that had been left in a taxi, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a man surnamed Zhang, who is in his thirties. He told the police that he is jobless and holds an Exit-Entry Permit for Travelling to and from Hong Kong and Macau.

According to Cheong, the Public Security Police (PSP) received a report on January 6 from a mainland male student enrolled at the University of Macau (UM). The student told the police that he had left a backpack on January 5 in a taxi that had taken him from the local airport to the University of Macau campus

in Hengqin. The backpack contained a laptop, a tablet, and a power bank, with a total value of 19,000 patacas. He searched for the backpack but couldn't find it. He suspected that someone might have picked it up and reported the incident to the police the following day.

Cheong noted that through the citywide CCTV network and the taxi's surveillance footage, the police identified Zhang as the suspect and intercepted him at the Barrier Gate checkpoint on Friday.

Under questioning, Zhang admitted to taking the backpack out of greed. He told the police that the backpack was at his home in the mainland.

Zhang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of theft by finding, according to Cheong. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the suspect into a police station.

STOCK MARKETS

Hong Kong Hang Seng Index closes 1.51 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 1.51 percent to close at 20,127.68 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 2.31 percent to end at 7,430.62 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index hiked 3.79 percent to end at 4,568.38 points. — Xinhua

Entries open for Macau Grand Prix illustration contest

Rui Pastorin

Macau residents can submit entries for the “Champion Car of the First Asian Grand Prix Macau – Illustration Competition” themed around the Triumph TR2 driven by the champion of the Macau Grand Prix (MGP) in 1954, according to a statement from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

The theme will revolve around the Macau Grand Prix Museum exhibit and have it featured as the core subject.

Organised by the museum and the Macau Creations Limited, the competition is split into the “Secondary School” category for students aged between 13 and 18, and the “Public” category for those aged 19 and above. The contest invites residents to “explore the glorious history and cultural value of Macau motorsport through artistic creation”.

Entries can be submitted until April 20. The statement said that entries must be original illustrations on A3 paper, adding that digital painting or AI-generated works will not be accepted.

Public voting will make up 30 percent of the score, while 70 percent will be given by a judging panel, according to the statement. The results of the first round will be announced late this month while the final results will be unveiled on May 19.

The awards to be presented in each category consist of the first, second and third awards, merit



This poster provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) on Thursday promotes the “Champion Car of the First Asian Grand Prix Macau – Illustration Competition”.

awards, online choice awards and finalist awards, the statement pointed out.

The statement added that an award ceremony will then be held on May 23 at the Macau Grand Prix Museum in Nape. Moreover, the

statement said that the winning works will be exhibited at the museum from May 23 through September 1.

For more details, one can visit the MGP museum website on <https://mgpm.macaotourism.gov.mo/>. ■

Central authorities unveil guidelines to boost employment for college graduates

BEIJING – China has released new guidelines on building a high-quality system of employment services for university graduates.

The policy document, issued by the General Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council, outlines a comprehensive strategy to promote sufficient high-quality employment among college graduates.

It highlights six key areas of focus: optimizing the higher education training system, strengthening career guidance services, improving job-market and recruitment systems, enhancing support mechanisms for jobseekers in difficulty, innovating employment monitoring and evaluation tools, and reinforcing supports and safeguards for graduate employment.

The document sets the goal of establishing a nationwide employment services network that is inclusive, well-functioning and reliable within three to five years, laying a solid foundation for graduates to find jobs.

China’s higher education graduate population has grown steadily, exceeding 10 million annually for three consecutive years since 2022, with the number

projected to continue rising over the next decade, said a senior official from the Ministry of Education.

Stressing the urgent need to bridge the gap between higher education programs and societal needs, the official said that the guidelines propose creating a centralized talent demand database and conducting forward-looking analysis of talent supply and demand.

The government will also optimize disciplinary configurations and enhance coordination linking enrollment plans, talent cultivation, and employment outcomes, the official said.

In order to promote employment, the guideline demands supporting student entrepreneurship to encourage job creation through startups and facilitating the hiring of urgently needed talent in key sectors through supply-demand alignment programs, according to the official.

The guideline also recommends reserving time during academic schedules for students to pursue pre-graduation job opportunities, added the official.

Official data shows that the number of college graduates in China is likely to reach 12.22 million in 2025, an increase of 430,000 from last year. – Xinhua

State assets regulator vows full support for central SOEs to ramp up share purchases, buybacks

BEIJING – The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC) said yesterday that it fully supports central state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in expanding share purchases and buybacks to safeguard shareholders’ rights and consolidate market confidence.

These remarks were made after several listed companies held by central SOEs announced share buybacks on Monday and yesterday.

The regulator will actively advise central SOEs and their

listed subsidiaries to strengthen efforts in share purchases and buybacks, and enhance corporate value, said an official with the SASAC.

The commission also pledged to intensify guidance concerning market value management for central SOEs, driving them to provide quality investment targets that are responsible, performance-driven and sustainable for investors, while making further contributions to the healthy and stable development of the capital market. – Xinhua

Tariff coercion won’t work

Editorial Flash by Li Yang

The US president’s latest tariff threat against China is further proof that the latter’s prompt, justified and resolute retaliatory measures against his April 2 “reciprocal tariff” levies have caught his trade policymaking circle unexpected.

Three days after warning China “played it wrong”, the US leader threatened yesterday to impose an additional 50 percent tariff on Chinese imports starting from today and intimidated “all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated”.

Notably, the United States has seen wide protests opposing the administration’s tariff policy that has precipitated a market shudder and soaring consumer prices since Friday.

To some extent the US leader’s latest threats toward China is part of his tactics to divert domestic attention and ease his administration’s pressure, as he has largely kept silent on the dramatic market falls and nationwide protests.

He has said that “negotiations with other countries, which have also requested meetings, will begin taking place”, while claiming to have turned his back on China. A country that has done nothing wrong, as it has only sought to

protect its own legitimate rights and interests by giving the US some of its own “medicine”. The US president also intends to add pressure on other major economies, including the European Union and Japan, that are mulling counterattacks against the US’ tariff war.

Which exposes what the US administration fears most is that there will be a united front among its tariff targets, which will all take resolute and justified countermeasures against its tariff coercion. If that happens, the US leader’s initial plan of cracking different countries one by one will be doomed.

That being said, the US, under the banner of “reciprocity”, is doing nothing but trying to advantage itself at the cost of legitimate interests of other countries, and put “America First” above international rules through hegemonic, coercive and bullying means. Such domineering behavior will inevitably face widespread opposition from the international community.

As the spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in the United States Liu Pengyu pointed out, the US leader’s latest tariff threat is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying. China has repeatedly

stressed that pressure or threats are not the right way to deal with China, and China will firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

China-US economic relations should be mutually beneficial and win-win in nature. The US should strive to work to realize the shared aspiration of the peoples of the two countries and the world for common prosperity, and, mindful of the fundamental interests of the two countries, stop using tariffs as a weapon to suppress China economically and stop undermining the legitimate development rights of the Chinese people.

As the Commerce Ministry said yesterday, trade disputes cannot be resolved, but are only aggravated by trade wars. If the US side is really willing to act with good faith to settle what it sees as an “unfair” trade “imbalance” with China, it should work with China to resolve it by talks and consultations with mutual respect and on an equal footing.

If not, China will continue to take resolute countermeasures to safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests. China does not provoke trouble, but nor is it intimidated by it. Pressure and threats are not the right way for any country to deal with China.

– Courtesy of China Daily

First postgraduate Tibetan medicine textbooks released

LHASA – The inaugural postgraduate textbook series for Tibetan medicine was yesterday unveiled in the Xizang Autonomous Region’s capital city of Lhasa, marking a milestone in the standardization and systematization of advanced talent cultivation in the field.

The collection was developed by over 60 of China’s leading experts in Tibetan medicine and traditional calendar studies.

According to Norbu Dondrup,

dean of the graduate department at the Xizang University of Tibetan Medicine, it spans 14 volumes across five key disciplines: fundamental Tibetan medical theory, classic studies, clinical practice, Tibetan pharmacology and astronomical calendar calculations.

Since the establishment of its master’s degree programs in 1999, the university has elevated its academic standing steadily, securing approval for a postdoctoral research station in 2020. – Xinhua