

China takes firm countermeasures against US tariff bullying

Additional tariffs on US products raised to 84 pct

BEIJING – China has taken swift, firm countermeasures following the latest US tariff hike on Chinese imports, in a move to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

The central government announced yesterday that it will raise additional tariffs on products imported from the United States to 84 percent, add six US firms to its unreliable entity list, and place 12 US entities on its export control list.

These steps – all in effect from 12:01 p.m. today – came after the government pledged to take countermeasures with “firm will” and “abundant means” following the United States’ decision to raise its so-called reciprocal tariffs on Chinese imports from 34 percent to 84 percent.

China has also filed a case against

the United States with the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism over the latest tariff hike.

The State Council Information Office yesterday released a white paper to clarify the facts about China-US economic and trade relations, and to elaborate on China’s position on relevant issues.

China-US economic and trade relations are mutually beneficial and win-win in nature, and cooperation benefits the two sides while confrontation harms both, the white paper said.

Recently, the United States has launched several rounds of tariff hikes on Chinese imports, and China has responded to these protectionist moves with forceful countermeasures.

“I want to emphasize that there is no

winner in a trade war, and that China does not want a trade war. But the Chinese government will by no means sit by when the legitimate rights and interests of its people are being hurt and deprived,” an official of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said in a statement yesterday.

The official said that the United States’ use of tariffs as a weapon to exert maximum pressure and pursue its self-interests is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying.

Under the guise of pursuing “reciprocity” and “fairness,” the United States is engaging in zero-sum games and, in essence, seeking “America First” and “American exceptionalism,” the official said.

China is willing to communicate with

the US side on key bilateral economic and trade issues, address their respective concerns through dialogue and consultations on an equal footing, and jointly advance the steady, healthy and sustainable development of China-US economic and trade relations, the official noted.

“If the United States really seeks to resolve the issue through dialogue and negotiation, it should demonstrate an attitude of equality, respect and reciprocity,” foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a daily news briefing yesterday.

“If the United States is bent on waging a tariff war or trade war, China is ready to fight to the end,” Lin said, noting that China has the capability and confidence to cope with various risks and challenges. – Xinhua



WASHINGTON – US President Donald Trump abruptly backed down yesterday in his global trade war with a 90 day pause for most countries – but slapped even more levies against China in what has become a full-scale confrontation between the world’s two largest economies.

Following days of global market turmoil, Wall Street stocks surged in reaction to Trump’s announcement.

“I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE” on higher tariffs that took effect on Wednesday, Trump said on his Truth Social network, saying he took the decision after more than 75 countries had reached out to negotiate

and did not retaliate against the United States.

Only a flat rate of 10 percent tariffs on all countries that took effect on Saturday will remain in place. This marked a stunning reverse from often punishing levies that hit even many of the closest US allies.

But Trump accused China of still “ripping off” his country.

“Based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World’s Markets, I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to China by the United States of America to 125 percent, effective immediately,” Trump said.

Trump had only hours earlier ramped

up the duties on Chinese goods to a giant 104 percent. China then retaliated by rising tariffs on US imports to 84 percent.

“At some point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A, and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable,” Trump said.

The European Union had earlier launched its own counterattack, announcing measures targeting some US products from Tuesday in retaliation for US duties on global steel and aluminum exports.

The 27-nation bloc, which Trump has accused of being created to “screw” the

United States, will hit more than 20 billion euros’ worth of US products, including soybeans, motorcycles and beauty products.

But the EU notably did not retaliate against the 20 percent US tariffs that came into effect a minute after midnight yesterday.

Trump announced a week ago on what he called “Liberation Day” that he would impose a 10 percent baseline tariff on all countries that took effect on Saturday, with additional rates for economies including China and the EU with a large trade surplus with the United States that took effect yesterday. (More on tariffs on pages 5 – 8, 10 & 11) – AFP

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China-led telescope project secures global partners for cutting-edge cosmic research

A revolutionary, China-led telescope project has secured two further international partnerships, accelerating humanity’s quest to witness and understand the universe’s most cataclysmic events. – Story on p. 6

Germany ‘back on track’ says Merz, unveiling new coalition

Germany’s next leader, the conservative Friedrich Merz, vowed yesterday to “move the country forward again” by boosting the economy and defence as he presented a deal to launch his coalition government by early next month. – Story on p. 10

7.7 million in S Sudan face ‘crisis’ hunger levels: UN

Almost 7.7 million people in South Sudan face crisis levels of hunger, the United Nations said yesterday, many located in the country’s restive northeast rocked by recent clashes. – Story on p. 12

Police bust 4 illegal currency exchange dealers

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police separately arrested four men from the mainland on Tuesday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during a special press conference yesterday.

In the first case, there are three suspects. Chong identified the suspects as a 31-year-old man surnamed Wang who told the police that he is a worker, a 34-year-old man surnamed Shao and a 34-year-old man surnamed Zhuang who both told the police that they're jobless.

According to Chong, on Tuesday afternoon, PJ officers on patrol noticed Wang engaging in an illegal currency exchange deal with a male gambler in a casino in Cotai. Wang presented a QR code for the gambler to transfer money, but the gambler attempted to transfer the money but failed. Wang then asked Shao and Zhuang to assist the gambler with the transaction. The gambler also sought help from a female gambler for the transfer. Finally, after successfully completing the transfer, Wang handed over HK\$10,000 in chips to the gambler. Wang, Shao, Zhuang,



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the three hooded illegal currency exchange suspects to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

and the two gamblers were caught red-handed, and the two gamblers agreed to act as witnesses in the case. During questioning, Wang admitted to participating in illegal currency exchange activities, but only this month, claiming to have earned over 500 yuan in total. Shao confessed to having engaged in illegal currency activities since last month. He told the police that he had earned HK\$1,000 in total. Zhuang also admitted to having engaged in illegal currency activities since the

beginning of this month, claiming a total profit of 1,000 yuan. The police confiscated HK\$75,000 in chips, HK\$16,000 in cash, and three mobile phones from the trio.

In the second case, Chong identified the suspect as a 39-year-old man surnamed Qu, who told the police that he is jobless.

According to Chong, the police received a report about illegal currency exchange activities from a casino in the central district on Tuesday. The police monitored



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded illegal currency exchange suspect to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. – Photos: Ada Lei

Qu at the casino and arrested him after he had struck in an illegal exchange deal with a gambler. Qu approached the gambler and offered to exchange chips worth HK\$5,000 for 4,900 yuan. The gambler agreed and transferred the money after scanning a QR code provided by Qu. Both Qu and the gambler were apprehended at the scene, with the gambler cooperating as a witness in the investigation. Under questioning, Qu admitted to having engaged in illegal currency

exchange activities since June 2024, claiming to have earned HK\$150 for every HK\$10,000 exchanged, amounting to a total profit of HK\$300,000. The police seized two mobile phones, HK\$146,000 in chips, and HK\$20,000 in cash from Qu, along with the HK\$5,000 in chips from the gambler.

The four suspects in the two cases were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing illegal currency exchange charges. ■

Police arrest Filipino cleaner for sexually harassing student

Ada Lei

A Filipino was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly sexually harassing a student in the street, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a male non-resident worker (NRW) in his thirties, surnamed Itorma, who works as a cleaner. The victim is an 18-year-old local female student.

According to the victim's statement to the police, while she was walking along Rua do Comandante João Belo (筷子基北街) on Monday, Itorma suddenly slapped her hip and then fled the scene. The victim immediately reported the incident to the police.

Itorma was intercepted on Tuesday in Rua do Almirante Sérgio (河邊新街). During questioning, Itorma denied sexually harassing the victim. However, Cheong pointed out that the police have gathered evidence, such as CCTV footage, showing that Itorma committed sexual harassment.

Itorma has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a sexual harassment charge, Cheong noted. ■



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

Police nab female mainlander for theft by finding

Ada Lei

A woman from the mainland was arrested on Monday for theft by finding after stealing chips worth HK\$15,000 that had been left on a toilet cistern, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a woman surnamed Xu, who is in her forties. She told the police that she 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 March 17 from a mainland woman who said that her HK\$15,000 in chips which she had forgotten to pick up from the top of a toilet cistern after using the toilet at a casino in Cotai had disappeared. She returned to the

toilet a minute later to search for the chips but could not find them. She told the police she remembered that when she had left the toilet, a woman was entering the facility. She suspected that someone had taken her chips, and reported the incident to the police.

Cheong noted that through the city-wide CCTV network and the casino's surveillance footage, the police identified Xu as the suspect and intercepted her at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge checkpoint on Monday.

Under questioning, Xu admitted to taking the chips out of greed. She told the police that she had meanwhile gambled away all the stolen chips.

Xu 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.

Postmark cancellation service to be offered for National Security Education Day

Rui Pastorin

Commemorative postmark cancellation services will be available next week for the "National Security Education Day".

The National Security Education Day is annually held on April 15.

According to a recent statement from the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT), a temporary post counter offering the service will be set up at the General Post Office's Philatelic Shop in Largo do Senado on that day.

The temporary counter will provide the service from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the statement said.

The statement added that commemorative envelopes will also be distributed to members of the public on that day. ■



This image recently provided by the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) shows the commemorative envelope for next Tuesday's "National Security Education Day".

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
MIST AND FOG IN THE MORNING AND AT NIGHT.
A FEW LIGHT RAIN PATCHES.
FORCE 2 TO 3 SOUTHERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 100%.



21°C~26°C

Source: SMG

Govt launches tender for new stalls selling light meals, cultural products at Taipa Market



This photo taken last month shows taxis driving past Taipa Market. – Photos: Tony Wong



This photo taken last month shows meat stalls and a seafood stall operating in Taipa Market.

Tony Wong

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday launched a public tender for the lease and operation of 20 stalls slated to sell light meals or cultural and creative products at the Taipa wet market building, the revamp of which is scheduled to get off the ground later this month.

Taipa Market, the island's sole wet market, is located just next to Taipa Village's Rua do Cunha, a pedestrianised street featuring restaurants and shops selling local snacks and delicacies which has become one of Macau's most popular tourist attractions.

Taipa Market currently sells fresh and live food, with several stalls selling traditional groceries.

Over recent years, the bureau has been carrying out a campaign aiming to revitalise the operations of the city's wet markets.

Since Coloane Market was closed for good in December last year, Macau currently has a total of eight wet market buildings, comprising seven in the Macau peninsula and one in Taipa.

The bureau made the announcement about the public tender for the 20 stalls at Taipa Market in a statement yesterday. Potential bidders are required to submit their tenders by 1 p.m. on May 23.

The current wet-market law took effect on January 1, 2022, according to which the lease and operation of stalls must be granted by public tender except in special circumstances, a change from the previous practice in which available stalls were simply allocated by lucky draw.

The bidding process for the 20 stalls at Taipa Market announced yesterday will be the second one since the new law took effect.

The bureau also published details of its tender for the 20 stalls at Taipa Market in an announcement in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday.

Yesterday's announcement came after the bureau announced in a press conference last month its upcoming project to revamp Taipa Market as well as a public tender to be launched for the lease and operation of some of its revamped stalls.

According to last month's announcement, the renovation will reduce the total number of stalls to 52 from the current 66.

The bureau announced last month that the renovation project would commence in April and was scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter this year when the 20 stalls up for tender can start their trial operations.

The bureau said last month that about half

of the current 66 stalls are operating while the other half are vacant. The renovation will expand the size of some stalls and set up four dining areas on the first floor because of which the number of stalls will be reduced.

The future 52 stalls will comprise 28 on the ground floor, 23 on the first floor, and one on the rooftop.

Currently, there are no stalls on the rooftop.

After the revamp, according to last month's announcement, all stalls on the ground floor will continue to be operated by the current stallholders selling fresh and live food as well as traditional groceries, while 19 of the 23 stalls on the first floor will be run by new operators selling light meals or cultural and creative products to be chosen by a public tender. Moreover, the renovation will set up a stall on the rooftop to be used for a café, the operator of which will also be chosen by the tender. Consequently, 20 stalls will be up for tender.

After the renovation, the current vegetable stalls on the first floor will be relocated to the ground floor, while the stalls currently selling fruit on the first floor will remain there.

According to yesterday's statement and the gazette, the size of the 19 available stalls

up for tender on the first floor of Taipa Market will range between 8.1 square metres and 30.9 square metres, with their monthly rent ranging between 486 patacas and 1,854 patacas.

The stall earmarked for the café on the rooftop up for tender is the biggest one, covering 34 square metres, with a monthly rent of 2,040 patacas, according to yesterday's announcement.

According to yesterday's gazette, the operators of the stalls up for tender will not be allowed to cook food with gas hobs; they can only use electric hobs.

With the aim of preventing the stalls up for tender from selling food and goods similar to the ones sold by shops in the neighbourhood, they will not be permitted to sell food and goods such as beef offal, food souvenirs and pharmaceutical products, according to yesterday's gazette.

According to yesterday's statement and the gazette, the bureau will assess submitted bids based on five main criteria, namely the potential bidders' proposed operation and marketing plan, their experience in running similar businesses, their proposed operating hours, the level of diversity of their goods, and the availability of various payment methods that shoppers can choose. ■

2nd Macau Int'l Comedy Festival kicks off in Hengqin

Tony Wong

The 2nd Macau International Comedy Festival kicked off yesterday when its opening ceremony was held at the Hengqin Culture and Art Centre.

The five-day festival is being held until Sunday with comedies, film screenings, forums, workshops and other related activities at cultural facilities in Macau including the public Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape and those run by three of Macau's six gaming operators – MGM, Sands and Melco, as well as in Hengqin.

The 2nd Macau International Comedy Festival is jointly organised by mainland-based comedy production company Mahua FunAge and cultural communication company Damai, both headquartered in Beijing, with the Macau government's Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and Hengqin In-depth Cooperation Investment Group, a public enterprise, as co-organisers.

Last year, the festival was held for eight days in March when its activities were also held at several cultural facilities in Macau and Hengqin, but with its opening ceremony in Macau.

The Hengqin Culture and Art Centre is a newly completed facility there, which started operating at the end of last year.

After the new Hengqin Culture and Art Centre started operating, Beijing-based Mahua FunAge also launched its operations in part of the facility, known as Mahua FunAge Hengqin Theatre.

The comedy festival was launched yesterday afternoon by a performance of a play adapted from Peppa Pig, a British children's cartoon.

After the performance at the Hengqin Culture and Art Centre, the festival's opening ceremony was held there.

The Chinese version of the play is directed by mainland director Zhang Kai.

The opening ceremony was attended by guests such as Zhang Kai, Mahua FunAge CEO Han Mei, Guan Xiaojing, a manager of Hengqin In-depth Cooperation Investment Group, and Su Kun, a deputy director of the executive committee of the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

The in-depth cooperation zone was set up in 2021 with the aim of deepening collaboration between Macau and Guangdong. ■



Guests such as Su Kun (fourth from right), a deputy director of the executive committee of the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, Mahua FunAge Founder and President Zhang Chen (second from right), Mahua FunAge CEO Han Mei (first from right), Guan Xiaojing (third from right), a manager of Hengqin In-depth Cooperation Investment Group, and Zhang Kai (second from left), the director of Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out, pose for a group photo during yesterday's opening ceremony of the 2nd Macau International Comedy Festival.



Children watch a Chinese-version play adapted from British children's cartoon Peppa Pig, known as Peppa Pig's Fun Day Out, at the Hengqin Culture and Art Centre yesterday afternoon.

– Photos: Tony Wong

GalaxyArt presents MPU works at 'The Scrolls of Stars' exhibition

Interviews by Rui Pastorin

A new exhibition kicked off yesterday at Galaxy Macau's "GalaxyArt" in Cotai, presenting the works of over 20 artists from the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) who are each presenting how they perceive Macau and its local aspects through art.

Co-hosted by the integrated resort operator and MPU, "The Scrolls of Stars – Macao Polytechnic University Art Exhibition" features work such as paintings, digital art and multisensory installations created by the public university's teachers, alumni and students from its Faculty of Arts and Design.

Acting Dean and Associate Professor of the Faculty of Arts and Design at MPU Lai Mei Kei told the *Post* that the exhibition, which features artists from Macau and the mainland, and the university's cooperation with Galaxy are meaningful, hoping to promote Macau's art. "I think it's a really meaningful opportunity for us, for the alumni, teachers and students, that we can exhibit our artwork to the public".

Lai added that each work incorporates Chinese culture

and common local aspects such as the lotus flower, the city's history and cityscape, and integrated resorts, and the artists' perceptions. "It's all about how we connect each other through different art mediums and the artwork", according to Lai.

The lotus is the official emblem of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Perspective of a local student

Among the many artists showcasing their works is local third-year student Lam Kai Weng, who hopes those looking at his 2024 painting can ask and discuss the question "Have you ever been a sheep in a flock?".

His titular work is an oil painting that incorporates glazing, a method that uses a thin layer of oil paint, Lam told the *Post*. He added that having many transparent layers can create a deep reflection of light.

On the inspiration behind its creation, Lam said that it started while he was getting a bus from Praça de Ferreira do Amaral (亞馬喇前地). At the time, he noticed that there were a lot of tourists posing or doing the same things in

front of Hotel Lisboa, which made him ask himself if they are like a flock of sheep who are all doing the same thing and thought of it as an interesting social phenomenon. He also drew inspiration from social media as he observed that people often "check in" and post about doing the same things at local hot spots like Grand Lisboa, which he found intriguing and interesting.

Lam said he hopes that exhibitiongoers can discuss and think about things such as if they have ever been one of the sheep among the crowd and their thought process when it comes to sharing on social media. He emphasised, however, that the point is not to judge anyone, but to raise critical thinking.

The free-admission exhibition is on display until April 25 and can be visited from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Workshops will also be available. More details can be found on <https://www.galaxymacau.com>.

A concurrent exhibition, "Nature, My Muse" by local Portuguese artist Cristina Vinhas, is also being held at the same venue until April 25, showcasing a collection of her art jewellery creations.



Acting Dean and Associate Professor of the Faculty of Arts and Design at MPU Lai Mei Kei (2nd row, 6th from right) poses with artists and guests at the GalaxyArt entrance at Galaxy Macau in Cotai yesterday afternoon. — Photos: Rui Pastorin



Local artist and student Lam Kai Weng poses in front of his painting.



HKSAR gov't strongly decries US further 'reciprocal tariffs'

HONG KONG – The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government yesterday opposed the United States' further imposition of its so-called "reciprocal tariffs" and the elimination of the duty-free de minimis* treatment for goods from Hong Kong.

Noting that Hong Kong has never imposed any tariffs, a spokesperson for the HKSAR government said that the United States' so-called "reciprocal tariffs" against Hong Kong is totally illogical, ungrounded and aimed at suppressing competitors.

Hong Kong residents should be prepared to pay exorbitant fees as the United States will eliminate the duty-free de minimis treatment for postal items mailed from Hong Kong starting from May 2, said the spokesperson.

Hongkong Post will not collect any so-called tariffs on behalf of the US authorities, according to the spokesperson. It will temporarily maintain postal services to the United States until further notice.

The HKSAR government will keep in close contact with the business community to jointly respond to the unreasonable coercion of the United States, said the spokesperson. – *Xinhua*
* Latin for "about the smallest things"

USJ, SCUT ink cooperation deal



University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and South China University of Technology (SCUT) representatives pose after the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on March 27. – Photo: USJ

Rui Pastorin

The private University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the public South China University of Technology (SCUT) in Guangzhou signed a memorandum of cooperation at USJ's Ilha Verde Campus on March 27.

A delegation, led by Secretary of the Party Committee of SCUT Zhang Xichun, visited USJ's Ilha Verde Campus on March 27, the Catholic university said in a statement earlier this week, during which exchanges on

academic cooperation and the development of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), among other topics, were also discussed.

USJ Rector Prof. Stephen Morgan said in his welcome remarks that the university, as noted in the statement, is intent on becoming a "super-connector between China and Portuguese-speaking countries [PSCs] and European countries".

Zhang noted in his speech that he believes that in addition to cooperation in architecture, both parties can develop

together in more different fields, especially in international education.

The memorandum of cooperation was signed by USJ Faculty of Arts and Humanities Dean Prof. Carlos Sena Caires and SCUT School of Architecture Dean Prof. Peng Changxin. It is aimed at promoting academic exchanges, faculty and student exchange, and joint research.

The signing, the statement said, marks "a new stage of cooperation between the two institutions". ■

Two paths, shared future: China-Africa dialogue on modernization

Commentary by Peter Kagwanja

Modernity must be homegrown. Models of modernization imported or imposed without regard for local realities could have calamitous results.

In this context, the Hong Ting Forum, hosted by Xinhua News Agency Africa Regional Bureau on April 2, offered a timely platform to reflect deeply on two important concepts, important in charting a future of peaceful global development.

The first concept is dialogue. In its broadest sense, dialogue would refer to a conversation or exchange of ideas, opinions or information between people, communities, nations or civilizations with the goal of seeking mutual understanding or resolution, while the opposite of dialogue is a clash of peoples, nations or civilizations theorized by Western scholars such as Samuel Huntington.

The second concept is modernization, a theory that envisions societies evolving through a series of developmental stages, moving from traditional to modern forms.

The history of China and Africa made it crystal clear that externally imposed models of modernization only deepen poverty and underdevelopment, often leading to cycles of conflict, destruction and death.

More blissfully, homegrown modernization could lead to the transformation of a traditional, rural and agrarian society into a more urbanized and industrial one, both qualitatively and quantitatively, paving the way for poverty eradication and laying the foundation for a more prosperous nation.

China and Africa have chosen the path of independent modernization and peaceful development, paved by dialogue as envisioned by the Global Civilization Initiative. The story of China-Africa dialogue on modernization starts with the ancient Silk Road where human civilizations met and exchanged goods, services and ideas about values, religions, cultures, economies and forms of government.

These exchanges were mutual and among equals. This story has unfolded as an epic tale of two

civilizations that met along the ancient Silk Road, joining hands and walking together as equal partners.

Both the Chinese and African dreams were cut short when the two civilizations were occupied, exploited and humiliated by external forces. Imposing western models of modernization failed tragically.

It is now clear that modernization is not equal to Westernization. However, for centuries, Western-style modernization has been used as a tool of cultural, economic and political domination.

Based on the Cold War mentality, modernization was weaponized as an instrument of foreign policy and Western global hegemony.

External modernization was extremely expensive for China. By 1978, when China adopted the reform and opening-up policy, China was one of the poorest countries in the world. The Chinese modernization has shown that poverty is not a curse for any country or civilization. In the past four decades, China has managed to lift an estimated 800 million of citizens from absolute poverty.

Imposed or imported modernization has been extremely expensive for Africa. It reached a dangerous peak during the "lost decades" from 1980 to 2000, when Africa had its worst publicity and was written off by Western investors as a "hopeless continent."

In the late 1990s, Africa embarked on a search for its own model of modernization relevant to its development aspirations.

Africa's thinkers and leaders popularized the idea of "African Renaissance" and the mantra of

"African solutions to African problems" as a call to decolonize the continent's development space.

The African Union adopted Africa's Agenda 2063 as the continent's development blueprint and a beacon light in its long walk to modernization.

In the 21st century, the story of modernization in China and Africa has increasingly become a beautiful tale of two paths, shared future. Many African countries have pursued a Look-East-look-South policy to benefit from the rapidly modernizing powerhouses in the Global South, especially China.

Today, Chinese modernization meets African modernization in the dream of "African Renaissance." China and Africa have joined hands to find synergy in their separate paths to modernity.

China-Africa cooperation in pursuit of modernization is a win-win scenario. The year 2025 marks 25 years since the inception of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000.

FOCAC has evolved as the premier forum for China-Africa dialogue on policy to create synergy between the two paths to modernity. Through the forum, China has committed to supporting African modernization, notably by contributing to the AU's Agenda 2063 and Africa's efforts to realize its Continental Free Trade Area.

Moreover, 52 out of 54 African countries participate in the Belt and Road cooperation, a salient symbol of the Chinese dream of modernization, launched in 2013.

The Belt and Road cooperation has supported investments in ports, highways and railways. Take Kenya.

China's support has led to the emergence of the fastest-growing economic belt along the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway. The railway has raised the country's GDP by 1.5 percent, and it is projected that the railway project will contribute 2 to 3 percent of Kenya's GDP by 2030.

During the FOCAC Beijing Summit in 2024, Africa and China agreed on a new deal for peaceful development woven around the Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027). The Africa Policy Institute (API) is monitoring the implementation of this blueprint hour by hour and day by day, driven by the conviction that it carries the promise of Africa's modernization and industrialization.

Evidence points to rapid growth of investments, trade, technology transfer and industrialization. Researchers at the API are also monitoring the "Outlook on Peaceful Development in the Horn of Africa," mooted in January 2022 to promote lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

The idea of "peaceful development" remains the sturdy cornerstone of sustainable modernization and global development.

That is why Africa fully supports the three global initiatives, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, as global public goods to anchor peaceful development to ensure an equitable, just and prosperous world.

– *Xinhua*
*Peter Kagwanja is a professor and the President and Chief Executive at the Africa Policy Institute.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.68 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.68 percent to close at 20,264.49 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 1.41 percent to end at 7,535.68 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 2.64 percent to end at 4,689.19 points. – *Xinhua*