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U.S. deploying carrier, bombers to Middle East to deter Iran



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Southern News Group

Trump tariff hike leaves U.S.-China trade deal in limbo as markets fall

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to increase tariffs on Chinese goods left prospects for a deal to end a trade war between the world's two largest economies in limbo on Monday, casting uncertainty on plans for more talks this week.

Stocks around the world tumbled and oil prices hit a one-month low after Trump tweeted on Sunday that he would raise tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods to 25 percent from 10 percent by the end of the week, and would "soon" target the remaining Chinese imports with tariffs.

The announcement abruptly ended a five-month truce in a trade war that has cost the two countries billions of dollars, slowed global growth and disrupted manufacturing supply chains and U.S. farm exports.

Trump's comments on Sunday came as a surprise after he and members of his team had repeatedly said the two sides were making progress on a deal.

U.S. says China reneging on trade commitments, talks continue
Explainer: Who pays Trump's tariffs, China or U.S. customers and companies?
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His shift in tone came after U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told him that Chinese negotiators had pulled back from some prior commitments in talks last week in Beijing, people familiar with the talks said.

Specifically, the Chinese side was seeking to deal with any policy changes through administrative and regulatory actions, not through changes to Chinese law as previously agreed, one person with knowledge of the talks said.

"It undermines the core architecture of the deal," the person said, adding that not codifying the concessions would make it difficult to verify and enforce China's compliance.

Speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the talks, the person said that under China's system in which the Communist Party has ultimate control, changes in law are the only way to get even a small measure of certainty.

Another source familiar with the situation said Trump had reiterated to advisers in recent days that he would walk away from a trade deal with China if it was not strong enough.

This person said that there was "irrational exuberance" about the talks and Trump's move "shouldn't be that big of a shock" as the president had originally planned to raise tariffs on Chinese goods in January. It was unclear on Monday whether Chinese Vice Premier Liu He would travel as planned to Washington for talks scheduled to start on Wednesday — negotiations that some had viewed as potentially leading to a deal announcement.

A Chinese delegation was still preparing to go to the United States for trade talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said earlier on Monday in Beijing, without saying whether Liu would be part of it. Queries about the talks to China's embassy in Washington were not answered.

"The atmosphere of the negotiations has changed," said a Chinese official with knowledge of the talks, and how they would proceed was being re-evaluated.

"All that depends on the attitude of the United States," the official said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Trade Representative's office did not immediately respond to a query about the status of the talks in Washington and Liu's attendance.

The United States is demanding sweeping changes to China's economic policies, including better protection of U.S. intellectual property, ending forced technology transfers and cyber theft of American trade secrets.



The United States is demanding sweeping changes to China's economic policies, including better protection of U.S. intellectual property, ending forced technology transfers and cyber theft of American trade secrets.



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Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

WORLD NEWS

U.S. deploying carrier, bombers to Middle East to deter Iran

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Trump administration is deploying a carrier strike group and bombers to the Middle East in response to troubling "indications and warnings" from Iran and to show the United States will retaliate with "unrelenting force" to any attack, national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday.

With tensions already high between Washington and Tehran, a U.S. official said the deployment has been ordered "as a deterrence to what has been seen as potential preparations by Iranian forces and its proxies that may indicate possible attacks on U.S. forces in the region." However, the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States was not expecting any imminent Iranian attack.

Pompeo says U.S. sees activity indicating possible 'escalation' from Iran

U.S. carrier, bombers sent to Middle East on 'credible threat' by Iran: Pentagon chief

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Bolton - who has spearheaded an increasingly hawkish U.S. policy on Iran - said the decision, which could exacerbate problems between the two countries, was meant to send a "clear and unmistakable message" of U.S. resolve to Tehran.

Though he cited no specific Iranian activities that have raised new concerns, Iran has recently warned it would block the Strait of Hormuz if it was barred from using the strategic waterway. About a fifth of the oil consumed globally passes through the strait.

"The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or regular Iranian forces," Bolton said in a statement.

It marked the latest in a series of moves by President Donald Trump's administration aimed at ratcheting up pressure on Iran in recent months.

Washington has said it will stop waivers for countries buying Iranian oil, in an attempt to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero. It has also blacklisted Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps, taking the unprecedented step of designating it as a foreign terrorist organization, which Iran has cast as an American provocation.

The Trump administration's efforts to impose political and economic isolation on Tehran began last year when it unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal it and other world

powers negotiated with Iran in 2015.

"The United States is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the U.S. Central Command region to send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force," Bolton said.

Bolton did not provide any further details.

A U.S. Navy statement issued early last month said the aircraft carrier and its accompanying convoy of ships had steamed out of Norfolk, Virginia, on April 1 "for a regularly scheduled deployment", but it did not give any destination at the time.

While it is not rare for the United States to have aircraft carriers in the Middle East, Bolton's language could increase tensions.

The threat late last month from the IRGC to close the Strait of Hormuz followed a U.S. announcement that it would end exemptions granted last year to eight buyers of Iranian oil and demanding they stop purchases by May 1 or face sanctions.

European governments have opposed Washington's reinstatement of sanctions on Iran.

A senior Trump administration official said at the time that any aggressive move by Iran in the strait would be unjustified and unacceptable.

Iran has made threats to block the waterway in the past, without acting on them.



The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) transits the Strait of Gibraltar, entering the Mediterranean Sea as it continues operations in the 6th Fleet area of responsibility in this April 13, 2019 photo supplied by the U.S. Navy. U.S. Navy/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Clint Davis/Handout via REUTERS

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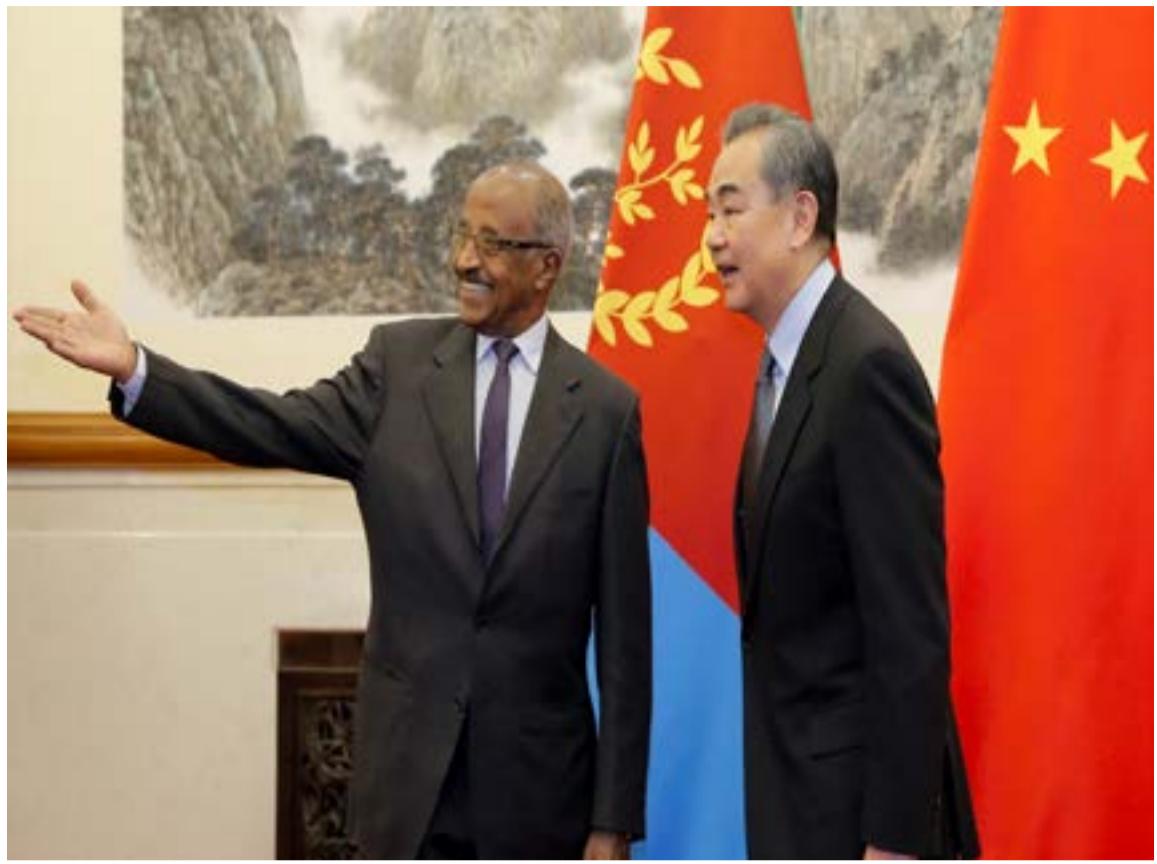
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FILE PHOTO: Sequoia Capital China founder Neil Shen speaks at an event of tech incubator Hong Kong X in Hong Kong



Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh Mohammed meets his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing



An investor walks past a screen displaying stock information at a brokerage house in Shanghai



FILE PHOTO: A Benjamin Franklin U.S. \$100 banknote and a Chinese 100 yuan banknote with late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong are seen in this picture illustration in Beijing, China



FILE PHOTO: Chinese and U.S. flags are set up for a meeting during a visit by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao at China's Ministry of Transport in Beijing



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Trump answers a question during an Oval Office meeting with Slovakia's Pellegrini at the White House in Washington



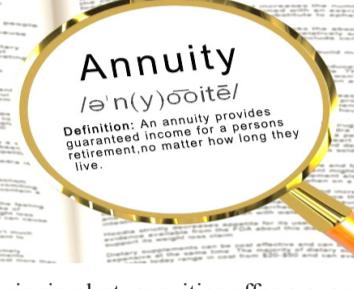
U.S. Energy Secretary Perry speaks during a joint news conference with EU Energy Commissioner Canete in Brussels



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, and U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad talk after concluding their meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing

A friend of mine, "Mr. H.", suggested that I write a simple article on annuities. He bought an annuity awhile back which made him enough money that had him worrying about tax-related questions. So let's see if we can point him to some good resources, since there really is no such thing as a "simple annuity!"

Simply and generally speaking, annuities are not investments, but rather more like insurance. Insurance companies started the annuities business as a product and outsourced the sales. I attended several free seminars in the past that were presented by financial advisors, and they almost always wound up suggesting annuities as the central part of any retirement strategy. Why? Because the financial advisors get paid handsomely to sell annuities. According to the Insured Retirement Institute, the 2016 sales of annuities were \$211.4 billion.



At their simplest, annuities offer a guarantee. If you invest money in an annuity, you'll be guaranteed to get a regular check for a certain period of time starting at a certain point. How much of the guaranteed money you receive will depend on which type of annuity you picked; i.e., Fixed, Variable or Indexed, as well as whether the starting point of payments to you are immediate or deferred. The products get confusing and complicated very fast. The website <https://www.investopedia.com/university/annuities/> has an excellent primer on it. For now, let's tackle some questions.

So, when should you consider annuities? If your combined pensions, social security and other income can support your monthly expenses and you have some extra cash laying around to afford one. The website <https://money.cnn.com/2016/11/16/retirement/retiree->

What Are Annuities?



By Guest Writer Abraham Mathis

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

ment-savings/index.html suggested in 2016 that a 65 year old man investing \$100,000 would expect to receive \$525 a month for his lifetime. In future articles, we will go into other options.

So what happens if I suddenly need some or all of my money back? Remember, there are hefty penalties and fees for withdrawing any amounts. How much commission that the financial advisor receives will partially determine these fees and penalties. See the problem with the sales?

Remember Mr. H's questions about his taxes? Taxes are very complicated and situation-dependent. The website <https://www.irionline.org/government-affairs/annuities-regulation-industry-information/taxation-of-annuities> will get you pointed in the right direction for your questions on taxes.

Annuity contracts can also be daunting to read and understand. Some important questions to ask include the following: What are all the circumstances under which I might not get back my money? What part of the contract might limit or change how much money I eventually receive? What can change during the term of the contract?



While inflation is supposedly officially low right now, the dollar store is now \$1.49 from \$1.09 in one year! Is there any possibility that payments could increase with inflation? What are the options of taking the payments? What are tax implications (see link above).

The biggest "pro" of an annuity is the guaranteed income stream, but there are many "cons." Taxes: You will pay more in taxes than on other investment types, especially if you choose a variable annuity. Your heirs will also pay more taxes in any amount left in the annuity at your death. All income is taxed as ordinary income (the link above on taxes has more information). Annuities are also not liquid, remember the penalties and fees? Annuities are a viable financial option if you are not sure you have the skills to manage your retirement portfolio and want to be certain you won't run out of funds during your lifetime. I have been given slick pamphlets with all kinds of graphs on annuities, but rarely was I given straight answers in simple language. You should demand simple written answers to your questions. For your annuity related questions, you can contact me at moderator@juststreetsense.com with your feedback and questions. Note that I am not a financial advisor sales person, but am rather an academic who has studied the field of finance.

Related

2018 Annuity Sales Up 10%, Beacon, Morningstar Find

"Fixed indexed annuities continue to set

records, providing consumers with an instrument that can help them diversify their portfolios, protect principal, and provide guaranteed lifetime income," said Beacon Research CEO Jeremy Alexander, "and we expect all fixed annuity product types to continue showing robust growth in 2019 as millions of Americans seek solutions that can help them feel secure during retirement."

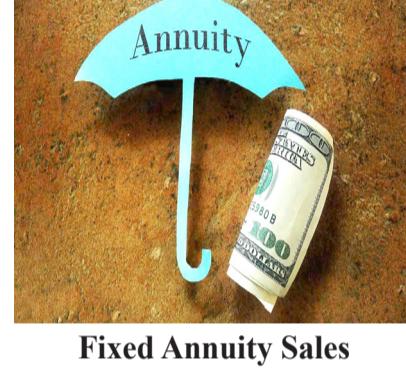
From Staff and Wire Reports

Overall annuity sales rose 9.7 percent in 2018, with the combined sales of fixed and variable annuities reaching \$218 billion, according to the Insured Retirement Institute (IRI), which today announced final 2018 market data for the U.S. annuity industry based on data reported by Beacon Research and Morningstar.

The highlights:

Total Annuity Sales

- \$58.8 billion - industry-wide annuity sales in the fourth quarter of 2018
 - o 7.1 percent increase from sales of \$54.9 billion in the third quarter of 2018
 - o 23.5 percent higher versus fourth quarter of 2017 sales of \$47.6 billion
- \$218.0 billion - full year 2018 total annuity sales
 - o 9.7 percent increase versus 2017 total annuity sales of \$198.6 billion



Fixed Annuity Sales

- \$35.9 billion - 2018 fourth quarter fixed annuity sales
 - o 12.7 percent increase over third quarter sales of \$31.8 billion
 - o 51.6 percent higher versus 2017 fourth quarter sales of \$23.7 billion
 - o \$125.0 billion in fixed annuity sales is an increase of 17.0 percent over 2018 fixed annuity sales of \$106.8 billion

Variable Annuity Sales

- \$22.9 billion - 2018 fourth quarter variable annuity total sales
 - o Down 0.7 percent versus 2018 third quarter sales of \$23.0 billion
 - o 4.3 percent lower than 2017 fourth quarter VA sales of \$23.9 billion
 - o \$92.9 billion in 2018 sales is an increase of 1.2 percent over 2017 VA sales of \$91.8 billion

"It's encouraging to see annuity sales rising, particularly as we continue to witness large numbers of the baby boom generation retire each day," said IRI President and CEO Wayne Chopus. "These products offer retirees and near retirees the ability to create secure, guaranteed lifetime income from their investments – protection that is both sorely needed and unavailable in any other retirement product."

According to Beacon Research, fixed annuity sales were robust across all product types.

About The Author

Abraham Mathis has had varied and concurrent careers that span four decades in several industries. He achieved his goal to retire early. He was a USAF officer, worked as an Investment Banker, Chief Information Officer for a publicly traded Engineering company, executive product development and marketing positions in the software industry, and Business Unit Manager at a Semi-Conductor manufacturer. He had licensed Real Estate and Mortgage brokerages and an Insurance consulting company. He is a founder of a Veteran non-profit support organization, as well as the creator of www.JustStreetSense.com. He has several advanced degrees including Aerospace, Industrial Technology, Military Sciences and Health Care administration. He is currently working on several new books including one entitled, "Where Have All The Good Men Gone?"



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WASHINGTON (MarketWatch) - The economy generated a stronger than expected 263,000 new jobs in April, helping to drive down the unemployment rate to a 49-year low of 3.6%. The increase in new jobs easily topped the 217,000 MarketWatch forecast. The jobless rate slid from 3.8% in March to hit the lowest level since December 1969. The average wage paid to American workers rose 6 cents, or 0.2%, to \$27.77 an hour. The 12-month rate of hourly wage gains was unchanged at 3.2%. Hours worked each week fell 0.1 hour in April to 34.4. The government revised the increase in new jobs in March to 189,000 from a preliminary 196,000. February's gain was raised to 56,000 from 33,000. The increase in hiring was concentrated at white-collar businesses, construction and health care. The only sector to suffer a big drawback was retail, whose employment fell for the third straight month.

The unemployment rate, meanwhile, slipped to 3.6% from 3.8% in March, marking the lowest level since December 1969, the Labor Department said. The decline in April stemmed from nearly a half-million workers dropping out of the labor force, but by the any measure, layoffs and unemployment are scraping a 50-year low.

While hourly pay is rising at the fastest pace in nearly a decade, the increase in wages appears to have leveled off. That ought to ease any worries at the Federal Reserve about rising wages triggering a sharp increase in inflation.

What happened: Professional and business services added 76,000 jobs, continuing a torrid streak under which total employment has risen by more than a half million in the past year.

Construction companies boosted payrolls by 33,000, the second straight solid gain. Health-care providers hired 27,000 people and employment in social assistance climbed by 26,000.

Manufacturers added a scant 4,000 jobs after no increase in March. Hiring has been very weak this year as companies struggle with stagnant exports and the effects of U.S. trade tensions with China.

Government jobs rose by 27,000. The federal government is already starting to hire

workers for the 2020 Census.

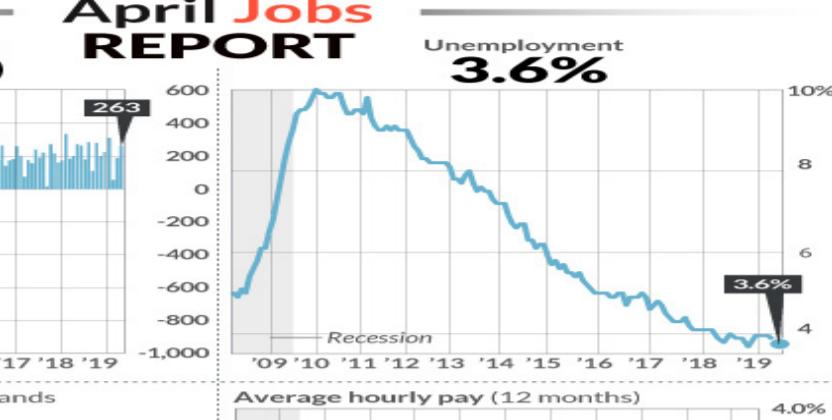
Retailers, on the other hand, cut 12,000 jobs as traditional brands continue to lose ground to internet rivals.

Although the economy is still pumping out plenty of new jobs, the rate of hiring has slowed. The U.S. added an average of 169,000 jobs in the past three months, down from a three-year high of 232,000 in January.

Still, the U.S. is on track to add 2 million new jobs for the ninth straight year.

Unemployment rate
Seasonally adjusted

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics via FRED



Big picture: The economy got off to a rocky start in 2019, but growth appears to have picked up with spring underway. The most muscular labor market in arguably half a century is the chief reason why.

The record number of people working has supported a steady increase in demand for goods and services, giving businesses little reason to cut staff, especially with skilled workers so hard to find. Open jobs exceed the number of Americans classified as officially unemployed by more than 1 million. The result is a steadily expanding economy that will set a record for longest expansion ever at the end of June despite some pockets of weakness. At the same time, inflation remains under control even as wages rise, perhaps because of a long-sought increase in productivity.

What they are saying? "Another astonishingly strong month of jobs growth shows the continued strength of this recovery,"

said Martha Gimbel, director of economic research at Indeed Hiring Lab. "That being said, we shouldn't expect eye-popping jobs numbers like this to continue throughout this year."

Related

From: "Rodriguez, Juan J - OPA" <Rodriguez.Juan@dol.gov>

Date: May 3, 2019 at 08:45:55 CDT

To: "Rodriguez, Juan J - OPA" <Rodriguez.Juan@dol.gov>

Subject: Statement by U.S. Secretary of Labor Acosta on April Jobs Report

Both adult men and adult women saw declines in their unemployment rate with adult men at 3.4% and adult women at 3.1%, which was the lowest rate for adult women since 1953.

"We continue our work toward increasing labor force participation and this month's report further underscores the importance of the administration's efforts expanding skills training so that more Americans can find family-sustaining career opportunities."

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News Statement



U.S. Department of Labor |

May 3, 2019

Statement by U.S. Secretary of Labor Acosta on April Jobs Report > WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta today issued the following statement regarding the April 2019 Employment Situation report:

"Today's jobs report announced a 3.6% unemployment rate, the lowest unemployment rate since 1969.

"America's economy added 263,000 jobs in April and a net 16,000 additional upward adjustment in February and March. This brings the total to 5.4 million jobs added since January 2017.

"America's workforce continues to see their paychecks grow, with year-over-year wage growth reaching 3.2%. The year-over-year average hourly earnings have grown at or exceeded 3.0% for nine straight months. Wage growth has not risen this fast since 2009.

"For 14 consecutive months, the unemployment rate has remained at or below 4.0% and this month included widespread good news: the unemployment rate reached record lows for Hispanic-Americans, Americans with disabilities, and Gulf War II veterans, and matched record lows for Asian Americans and all veterans.

"Both adult men and adult women saw declines in their unemployment rate with adult men at 3.4% and adult women at 3.1%, which was the lowest rate for adult women since 1953.

"We continue our work toward increasing labor force participation and this month's report further underscores the importance of the administration's efforts expanding skills training so that more Americans can find family-sustaining career opportunities."

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主題公園開露天秀 high 爆



香港文

匯報訊（記者

吳文釗）台灣樂隊

五月天3日晚在香港主

題公園露天停車場舉行六

場《JUST ROCK IT 五月天

藍 BLUE 演唱會 2019》，適逢今

年是五月天出道 20 年，演唱會主題以

初出道時的“藍色三部曲”作主打，並邀

請內地男團 TFBOYS 的隊長王俊凱演

出串場電影。五月天帶樂迷回到

20 年前，經典歌一首接一

首，阿信更感嘆五月天不

知不覺現在已走到一

半的人生，感謝歌

迷陪他們走到

這裡。

■五月天邀來 20 歲的王俊凱（右三）演出演唱會串場電影極具意義。

■五月天走到小舞台與歌迷近距離接觸。

■熒幕上展現香港街景。

五月天

跟港迷時光倒流 20 年

唱會一開始，大熒幕即倒數代表時間倒流回到初相識五月天的年代，連唱多首歌曲後，冠佑表示以前到香港被叫“靚仔”（帥哥）會感到不好意思，但現在唱回 20 年前的歌就當之無愧。阿信笑指拍檔搞亂了主題，由藍色變成“靚仔”，又跟歌迷打招呼道：“好開心今年又見到大家，歡迎大家來到五月天的藍色三部曲。”石頭也懷念在露天場地演出，雖然夜無星空，但見到歌迷已很滿足。

瑪莎就親民地用廣東話介紹自己，表示難得在香港有一個戶外地方，讓大家又唱又跳不會被人抗議，坦言想不到可以重遊舊地演出，笑稱雖然主打唱舊歌，但歌迷不用擔心他們仍像 20 年前的幼稚。阿信再問台下有哪位歌迷只有 20 歲，又有誰 20 年前已聽過五月天的歌，即時推高現場氣氛。之後他們唱出多首台語歌，並走到小舞台與歌迷近距離接觸。

阿信笑石頭當爹辛苦

轉眼間 20 年，阿信表示五月天當中三人已做了爸爸，笑問冠佑、石頭及瑪莎現在感覺還好吗？石頭雖然回答很好，但阿信就笑指他為了照顧寶寶搞到黑眼圈愈來愈大。

安哥環節後，阿信有感而發道：“如果五月天可以唱到 80 歲，不知不覺現在已走到一半的人生，感謝大家陪我們走到這裡。”

五月天笑稱都想加班，藉機宣傳月底上映的演唱會電影《五月天人生無限公司》，阿信說：“如果票房不好，明年就不來香港。”已連續多年赴港開秀的五月天，阿信稱每次心情都像拔河，因為他們一直很愛香港，但又怕觀眾會看得多覺煩厭，所以見到大家時都會緊張，但承諾明年會再來煩大家，隨即贏得一片掌聲。



倫永亮自揭單身 跟梅艷芳有關

香港文匯報訊 “音樂才子”倫永亮接受香港電台第一台《舊日的足跡》節目主持車淑梅訪問，分享與白雪仙合作的軼事及與梅艷芳最後一次合作的感受。

4月份剛過了 62 歲生日的倫永亮，身邊總有很多要好的女性朋友，其中一位正是（5 月 5 日，農曆四月初一）迎來 91 歲壽辰的前輩白雪仙（仙姐），倫永亮將在仙姐壽辰當日一如既往為她送上蘭花。倫永亮憶述當年在華星唱片公司工作，任姐（任劍輝）、仙姐最愛在文華酒店喝下午茶，他與兩位前輩經常在那裡碰面。後來任姐在 1989 年過身，仙姐想在粵語歌唱電影《李後主》加插配樂，倫永亮和仙姐開始熟絡起來。他續道：“有次仙姐問我會不會打牌，我多口說會，她就約我逢星期四去打台灣牌。我其實不太懂的，更加不知她那麼認真，好嚴謹！我唯有抱住陪長輩的心情參與。仙姐是我非常敬重的藝術工作者，不過後來她嫌我慢，踢我出局。仙姐牌品點？OK 啦！哈哈哈！”

倫永亮身邊向來不乏女性知己，如陳潔靈、林憶蓮、葉麗儀等，但倫永亮依然單身，原來這和梅艷芳（阿梅）有莫大關係。倫永亮解釋，他的初戀發生在美國來 band 的時候，對象是樂隊裡的女歌手，後來倫永亮回港後一切以事業為重，直至他與阿梅常往外地登台。“她（阿梅）會好多佛學，講了好多發人深省的佛偈，她說一段感情或者工作，都會隨住時日改變，日常生活所有事情都會改變，是無常的！她經常叫我‘放下，放下’，如果那段感情不適合自己就要放下，現在我看好多佛書，發覺一個人一樣可以好開心。”

提起梅艷芳，倫永亮至今依然感到心痛：“2003 年，阿梅最後的演唱會，是我



一輩子人做那麼多演唱會最不開心的一個，八場每一晚都不開心，因為我在下面彈琴，我聽到台上的歌者是一個病人的聲音，有時沙啞，有時不夠氣……”倫永亮難掩傷心之情，坦言最難忘是每一晚阿梅總是拖着長長的婚紗，走上長長的梯級，然後，那道門關上。那個出口正是紅館一個角落的入口，阿梅要走過很多樓梯才可返回後台，每一次倫永亮都會在樓梯下等阿梅：“我好心痛，她每一次都是用盡力氣，筋疲力盡，我同她講要好好休息……”到了現在，倫永亮也不明白為何病重的阿梅還要堅持開show，他喃喃自語：“可能是要留給歌迷一份最深、最真摯的禮物！”他說手上那張演唱會 DVD，自己只看了兩首歌，時隔 16 年，他還是不忍心再看下去。

做孝順女陪媽媽打牌 黎燕珊幾乎輸清光

香港文匯報訊（記者 梁靜儀）黎燕珊與媽咪、文雪兒與兩名女兒 Christy 及 Jennifer，以及楊玉梅與媽咪 4 日出席創世電視主辦的母親節佈道會，珊姐透露母親已 82 歲，母親節將會與女兒三代同堂吃飯慶祝。

珊姐表示女兒今年專誠請假陪她及外婆食飯慶祝，兒子則在英國準備考試，叫他千萬不要回港，努力讀書更好，因供他讀書很貴。

珊姐表示很感激媽當年在她離婚成為單親媽後，幫她照顧一對子女；“當時我做保險，媽咪經常幫我照顧子女，深感母愛不會受任何困難阻攔。”她笑指媽咪最愛打麻雀。

此外，文雪兒透露女兒長大後首次帶她們出席公開活動，27 歲的大女 Christy 是土木工程師，早前由英國回流香港工作；小女 Jennifer 現年 23 歲，快將傳媒系畢業，但兩個女兒皆無意入行。她又笑言期待女兒給家用，再幫她們儲起做首期。



黎燕珊很感激媽咪當年幫她照顧子女。



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香港文匯報訊 韓國女星宋慧喬（喬妹）近日獲邀到美國出席品牌初春系列裝時裝展，喬妹化上煙燻妝上陣，穿上連身裙優雅亮相。

至於喬妹老公宋仲基最近拍的新劇《阿斯達年代記》，和張東健、金智媛、金玉彬等人對戲，眾人圍讀劇本會議的影片最近公開，片中見穿着藍白條紋襯衫的宋仲基看來有些發福，左手有戴婚戒，用行動闢婚變傳聞。

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管虎新作《八佰》

1500人共鑄戰爭史詩

2019年最受期待華語戰爭巨制、《老炮兒》導演管虎又壹力作《八佰》，在殺青周年之際，回顧影片三度重啟克服萬難，499天籌備建組之路。耗時18個月搭建場地、1比1還原蘇州河兩岸戰場原貌，所有武行演員軍訓7個月學習82年前的軍事動作……從管虎1個人到全組1500人，《八佰》從來不是壹個人的戰鬥，歷時多年只為真實還原這場已漸漸被遺忘的戰爭。

十年前，導演管虎便產生了拍攝《八佰》的想法，因為男人的戰爭大片情結，也因為這場戰役的特殊性。這部電影講述1937年淞滬會戰的最後一役，彼時中日激戰兩個半月，上海淪陷在即，第88師524團1營的420余名官兵誓死守護最後的防線——四行倉庫。因為戰場和公共租界僅隔一條蘇州河，這場持續4晝夜的鏖戰，對於租界民眾來說就是臺場“現場直播”，它也因此成為戰爭史上首次有觀眾的戰爭。

為了將想法搬上大銀幕，管虎前後改稿40次。開始建組後，卻遇到了沒有想到過的阻礙。找不到合適的拍攝場地、演員時間發生衝突、連遇雨季和寒冬導致場地無法施工……從2013到2017年，《八佰》被迫三度重啟。好在，金馬獎班底的幕後核心主創團隊——攝影指導曹郁、美術指導林木、錄音指導富康，寧願不接新片，也堅持陪在導演身邊。

這是臺次中國中生代電影人眾志成城的壯舉。作為亞洲首部全程使用IMAX攝影機拍攝的商業電影，曹郁耗費大量時間前期調試機器，並拍攝了試片片段，這在國產影片中是很罕見的。為了保證1比1還原戰場，林木帶著美術組提前進行了縝密的三維虛擬場景搭建。這是中國電影工業流程的新突破，也是中生代電影人“士為知己者死”的戰友情流露。

作為前所未有的華語戰爭巨制，《八佰》的幕後團隊在499天的籌備期裏，做到了每一個細節都精益求精。由於1937年的軍事動作和現在完全不一樣，所有武行演員都要軍訓7個月重學動作；爆破團隊測試3個月模擬所有效果，保證劇本呈現的同時做到安全可靠；服裝組耗費4道工序，為上百名演員制作戲服，只為真實呈現“戰士穿過的痕跡”；化妝組亦要根據每個演員的不同狀態和身份，定點還原角色面貌……

從冬到夏，再從夏到冬，《八佰》從來不是壹個人的戰役。回望籌備之路，管虎感慨萬千：“克服所有困難，居然慢慢成型了！不太像拍電影，但可能這真的就是拍電影。”所有幕後制作人員回歸初心，他們不只是為了拍攝臺部電影，更為了對得住82年前英烈們的犧牲和自己的信仰。“望不負期待，所有的付出都可以驕傲提及”是管虎對《八佰》的希冀。

電影《八佰》已定檔7月5日全國上映。

賈樟柯監制《半邊天》

新劇照曝光

金磚五國合作首部女性題材影片《半邊天》，將於5月10日全國上映。該片由賈樟柯監制，中國、巴西、俄羅斯、印度、南非五國優秀女導演合作執導。這是金磚五國首次以“女性”為題材，通過五種不同文化的故事講述，展示了女性魅力，關註女性的價值體現，尊重女性權利。

影片以短片集錦的形式，展現了五個不同國家的故事。巴西篇《歸鄉》由巴西女導演丹尼拉·托馬斯執導，她作為巴西著名導演沃爾特·塞勒斯的繼任編劇，與其聯合執導過《海洋對岸》、《午夜驚魂》、《越位》、《巴黎，我愛你》等多部影片，最新獨立執導的電影《瓦贊蒂》更是入選2017年柏林電影節。該篇故事講述了五十多歲活力充沛的瑪麗亞·海倫娜，獨自住在巴西大城市聖保羅壹處破舊公寓裏。得知母親病危後，海倫娜鼓起勇氣踏上睽違數十年的返鄉之路，回到偏遠老舊的村莊，借此旅面對及療愈過去家庭帶給她的傷害。

該篇與其他四部短片不同的是，導演啓用了故事原型來演繹。導演在採訪時說到：“在籌備《瓦贊蒂》時，我遇到了瑪麗亞·海倫娜·迪拉茲·曼特加。她來自巴西偏僻地區，她向我介紹她的家人和巴西邊緣社會的各種民俗故事，《歸鄉》的靈感就來自於其中壹個故事。”

巴西作為壹個古舊與現代並存的國家，因經歷長期戰亂，壹半家庭是由女性支撐起來的。同時，在很多地區依舊是父權社會，給當地不少女性帶來了不可磨滅的傷害。故事中，瑪麗亞·海倫娜就曾被原生家庭深深傷害過，而再次回到曾經拋棄自己的家人身邊，她將如何與厭惡的家人和解，與自己和解，成為了這個故事最大的看點。

《半邊天》將於5月10日登陸全國院線。



半边天

监制：贾樟柯
Produced by Jia Zhangke

《港珠澳大橋》曝預告

中國龍保駕護航

由閩東導演執導，中央廣播電視總臺、港珠澳大橋管理局、中國電影股份有限公司、廣東廣播電視臺、珠海廣播電視臺、珠海文廣傳媒有限公司聯合出品的紀錄電影《港珠澳大橋》自宣布於5月1日上映以來獲得了業內外的高度關注。

今日，影片重磅發布了壹款海報和壹款預告，海報以手繪風格呈現出了港珠澳大橋的宏偉壯闊，而預告則以獨特的紀錄片形式詮釋了建造這座跨海大橋幕後的工作者專業與付出，同時也展現了這個大型跨海工程的偉大發展史，令人激動。

此次發布的這款海報採用手繪風格呈現出了“港珠澳大橋”的全貌。海報以白色為主色調，藍綠色橋身為輔助色，橋身表面看似“港珠澳大橋”，實際是依附在壹條綠色的巨龍身上，非常有創意且大氣磅礴。而底下的小船與巨大的龍身產生的強烈反差，更顯“港珠澳大橋”的雄偉壯闊，中國龍的設計也體現了濃厚的中國風和祖國的強大，視覺上盡顯高大上。

據了解，港珠澳大橋是“壹國兩制”下粵港澳三地首次合作共建的超大型跨海交通工程，被譽為“新世界七大奇跡之一”。習近平主席都曾親自表示，港珠澳大橋是國家工程、國之重器。而影片則是以港珠澳大橋最後壹節沈管E30沈放安裝過程為敘述主線，全面回顧了

港珠澳大橋自2009年開工建設以來，中國橋梁建設者們自力更生、艱苦卓絕的奮鬥歷程，將焦點聚集在這些普通建橋人身上，突出人文情懷，塑造新時代中國橋梁人的群體形象。

這款預告片則是主要展現了建造“港珠澳大橋”幕後的工作者的心酸與付出。預告壹開始就以壹句“人努力，天幫忙，很多東西不是妳能夠控制的”，隱約表達了這座大型跨海大橋當初建造的難度。預告中的每個技術人員都及時奮鬥在壹線，那壹張張疲憊臟亂的臉觸動人心，他們打磨，研究，討論，數據精確到毫厘之間，充分體現了中國建橋人們的專業和無私奉獻。再加上音樂的渲染，建橋的場面和最終“港珠澳大橋”的全貌呈現，頓時讓人熱血澎湃。

《港珠澳大橋》是被列入中宣部、國務院新聞辦“紀錄中國”國際傳播工程項目的電影紀錄片，曾獲得了第16屆中國（廣州）國際紀錄片節“金紅棉”國際紀錄片評優單元“慶祝改革開放四十周年”榮譽特別推優紀錄片（提名），因此得到了業內外的超強關注。此外，閩東導演團隊利用多樣的拍攝手段，巧妙的剪輯手法，不僅刻畫了壹個個鮮活的人物，還以獨特的視角呈現了“港珠澳大橋”的壯麗景色，展現了祖國“壹國兩制”下的飛速發展，促進兩地人民關係，十分有意義。

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許氏參場 新鮮花旗參上市 空運保鮮 母親節獻孝心首選

〔本報訊〕由許氏參業集團所屬的許氏參場，即日起將全面供應新鮮花旗參，數量有限，售完為止。由於新鮮花旗參的養分比一般市面的乾參多出百分之十四，而且食用起來帶有難得的清香氣息，一般花旗參的採收為每年十月秋季時分，而春參受限於農場運作，數量不多，往往一上市即售完，適逢母親佳節，不妨送媽媽一份新鮮參當禮品。

春季萬物萌生，正是調養身體的時機。尤其初春早晚氣溫變化大，易感受春寒染病，花粉過敏、蕁麻疹、鼻炎、眼疾患者大幅增加。現代藥理已證明人參對人體代謝有廣泛的調節作用，並對增強免疫功能及調節內分泌系統有效，花旗參屬於溫補，與亞洲參刺激神經系統的熱屬不同，故花旗參是四季皆宜的補品。

位於美國威州沃沙市的許氏花旗參農場，成立於1974年，為美加首家華人花旗參農場，也是目前全美最大的專業專職花旗參種植公司。其轄下擁有五大農場，涵蓋擁有超過1000多英畝的種參處女地，全年產銷量佔全美國的20%以上，同時以〔產銷一條龍〕的方式遍及五大洲，被公認為〔花旗參的正規軍〕。種參經驗豐富，被業界尊

為〔花旗參教父〕的許氏集團許忠政總裁強調：「道地的美國花旗參品質獨步全球，但產量有限，近來市場仿冒貨充斥，消費者吃虧上當的情形層出不窮，買到真正威州花旗參的機率不到十分之一，而光憑外觀，實在難以辨別真偽，因此唯有認清品牌，才不會吃虧上當，消費者一定要小心選購。」而許氏參業擁有自營參場，不經中間商代理，自產自銷，用心經營四十六年的信譽，價位有保障，而且品質完全合乎美國農業部檢驗標準，絕對值得消費大眾的放心信賴。

針對此次新鮮春參上市，具有農夫憨厚本質的許總裁更欣喜的表示：「新鮮參的成分濃郁，功效加倍，但保存不易，受限季節性。每年特別保留部分參場收成，當天採收，隨即以空運方式到全美各地，並以特價供應，藉以回饋四十六年來支持許氏的消費大眾！」許總裁還特別強調：「唯有自產自銷，才有新鮮春參上市！」

歡迎大家到各許氏指名經銷商、各大超市及許氏參活購物網選購。許氏服務專線1-800-826-1577，網站www.hsuginseng.com。



休士頓龍舟園遊會 台灣傳奇開幕式強強滾

第19屆休士頓龍舟園遊會由全美龍舟協會會長 David Mandell 主辦於5月4日在城中區 Bayou 隆重登場。休士頓台灣傳奇第二度被邀請於開幕式中表演舞龍和原住民舞蹈。

台灣傳奇會長羅茜莉率領理事們金俊家、羅秀娟、鄧曉林、劉美玲、陳秀芳、鄭逸卉、楊文珍、辜千慈、周志謙以及兩大表演團體義工於5月4日大清早七時在僑教中心廣場集合，隨後大巴士浩浩蕩蕩前進城中區。

全美龍舟協會會長 David Mandell 於開幕式致辭時感謝台灣傳奇鼎力協助，助興舞龍和原住民舞蹈開場演出，當天共有三十餘組的龍舟隊參賽。舞龍體現團結力，奮發開拓的精神面貌，龍隊表演時，貴賓中休士頓大學城中區校長 Juan Sanchez Munoz、全美龍舟協會會長 David Mandell 和台灣傳奇會長羅茜莉均贈

予紅包，以祈平安和吉祥並合影留念；原住民舞蹈展現互為緊密結合，具有強烈即興精神；台灣傳奇所提供的舞龍和原住民舞蹈表演都榮獲滿堂彩。

台灣傳奇會長羅茜莉感性表示該團體很榮幸再度被主流團體邀請開幕式演出，尤其是舞龍和原住民舞蹈具有中華文化精髓標誌性民俗精神，相信我們的辛勤付出，讓海外僑團走入主流，更讓世界看見台灣。

台灣傳奇會長羅茜莉(左六)率領全體義工和休士頓大學城中區校長 Juan Sanchez Munoz(左三)、全美龍舟協會會長 David Mandell(左七)同框入鏡，留下歷史性的一刻。



熱烈祝賀北美青少年國樂團 第一屆《琴聲飛揚》音樂會圓滿成功



(本報休斯頓訊)贏得熱烈的掌聲與肯定，北美青少年國樂團（簡稱NAYCO）的第一屆琴聲飛揚音樂會在2019年4月28日晚成功舉辦。在這個以樂團裡每年的高中畢業生為主的年度匯演中，觀眾們欣喜地看到樂團的新成員的嶄露頭角、和飛速

的進步，也聽到樂團老成員們的精湛演繹和更上一層樓，更有樂團創辦人、著名國樂演奏家吳長璐老師出神入化的演出。

過去這一年裡，樂團排練了許多大合奏，也有不少獨奏節目，都飽含著老師的教導、孩子的勤學苦練、家長的後勤支持



，以及社會各界的關心和支持。

這些年，NAYCO 參加了許許多多的演出活動，極大豐富了社區文化，也傳播了中華文化，在華裔小演奏家們的心中播撒了傳承的種子。兩屆《傳承》音樂會的成功舉辦，第一屆《琴聲飛揚》音樂會的圓滿舉行，多次參加的亞協和春節、國慶等演出活動，連續多年成功入選休斯頓青少年音樂會(HYAC)等……NAYCO 樂團的一次次成功演出，贏得了無數的掌聲和極高的聲譽。NAYCO 樂團的卓越貢獻讓樂團成為具有審核和頒發總統義工獎(President's Volunteer Service Award)的官方認證組織(Official Certifying Organization)之一。

演出的開始，由 NAYCO 樂團創始人

、著名國樂演奏家吳長璐老師致辭。休斯頓總領館的文化參贊鄭文先生也上台發言，對樂團的貢獻和演出的意義給予了極大的肯定。

舉辦場地 Living World Lutheran Church 教堂的負責人熱情歡迎 NAYCO 樂團來此獻上精彩演出。在《經典聯奏》中

，演出拉開了帷幕。集體節目和獨奏節目穿插進行，中場還有畢業生為大家最愛的吳老師獻上禮物，是一幅吳老師在演出中的畫像，師生之間依依不捨的對話感動了

台下無數觀眾。在《千本櫻》的集體演奏中，演出順利落幕，鮮花與掌聲將演出帶向又一個高潮，台下的國際友人們紛紛表

示對演出的喜愛之情。

北美青少年國樂團(North America Youth Chinese Orchestra, 簡稱NAYCO)是一個非營利樂團組織，一個青少年國樂愛好者們專屬的音樂交流平臺。目前主要由出生在美國，年齡在8歲-17歲，熱衷於中國傳統音樂的孩子們組成。

中華音樂文化的博大精深需要堅持不懈的推廣，樂團需要飛得更高，北美青少年國樂團作為一座傳播文化友誼的橋樑，需要大家的支持和鼓勵，真誠地邀請大家一起加入，一起把樂團辦好，共襄盛舉。

歡迎大家一起關注中國傳統音樂傳承，樂團網站 <http://www.nayco.org>。



Asia Fest 推出別開生面的音樂饗宴 台灣民謡新奏 鋼琴打擊樂合力演出

(本報休士頓訊)休士頓台北經濟文化辦事處台灣書院參與亞洲協會德州中心(Asia Society Texas Center)5月11日的Asia Fest活動，演出「台灣民謡組曲」，以打擊樂及電子鋼琴合奏方式演奏「望春風」、「草螟弄雞公」、「丟丟銅」、「四季紅」4首台灣家喻戶曉的台灣民謡。

此次活動，特別邀請2位來自台灣的打擊樂演奏者李采倩、及鋼琴家邱韻庭，合力演出特別為打擊樂及鋼琴合奏之最新編曲，讓觀眾有一次別開生面的音樂饗宴。

演出中除電子鋼琴為主旋律外，將由打擊樂器進行千變萬化的協

奏，演出者將運用排鼓、木琴、小鐵琴、鑼、木魚、汽笛等等，以輕快、幽默的方式演奏台灣民謡，把台灣傳統鄉間小調夾雜著逗趣、歡笑的特質，做完美的詮釋。

打擊樂演出者李采倩，生於台灣高雄市，畢業於國立台灣藝術大學中國音樂學系主修中國擊樂與西洋擊樂。十數年來演出經歷累積百場。曾任小巨人絲竹樂團團員，台北市立青年國樂團團員、天鼓擊樂團團員。

鋼琴演出者為邱韻庭，生於台灣台北市。從小自4歲開始習琴，畢業於中國文化大學音樂學系西洋音

樂組碩士班，主修鋼琴。副修小喇叭，曾師事莊燕德、陳長伯、聶中興、葉樹涵。曾於2013年6月舉辦邱韻庭鋼琴獨奏會。2017年12月擔任休士頓玉佛寺「菩提合唱團」鋼琴伴奏。

演出將於5月11日(週六)下午2:30PM在亞洲協會德州中心演出，誠摯邀請大家前往欣賞，為台灣鄉親鼓勵打氣。該中心地址為：

1370 Southmore Blvd. Houston, TX 77004，電話：713-496-9901。

李采倩

Lee Tsai-Chien

邱韻庭

Chiu Yun-Ting