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Bernie Sanders hires Beto O'Rourke critic as top aide in 2020 race



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## China's top diplomat calls for U.S. restraint on trade, Iran

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China's senior diplomat Wang Yi told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday that recent U.S. words and actions had harmed the interests of China and its enterprises, and that Washington should show restraint, China's foreign ministry said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (not pictured) at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China, May 17, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter/Pool

Speaking to Pompeo by telephone, Wang said the United States should not go "too far" in the current trade dispute between the two sides, adding that China was still willing to resolve differences through negotiations, but they should be on an equal footing.

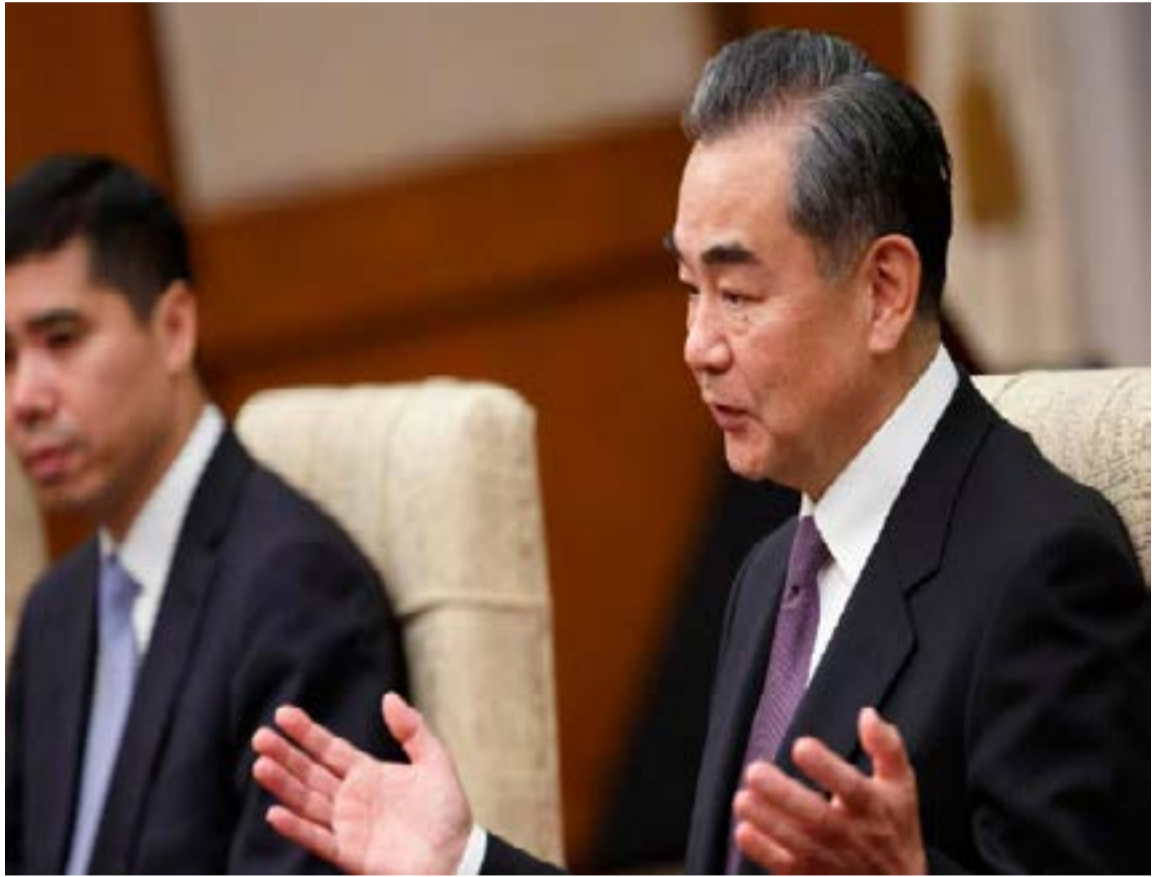
On Iran, Wang said China hoped all parties will exercise restraint and act with caution to avoid escalating tensions.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement that Pompeo spoke with Wang and discussed bilateral issues and U.S. concerns about Iran, but gave no other details.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have increased in recent days, raising concerns about a potential U.S.-Iran conflict. Earlier this week the United States pulled some diplomatic staff from its Baghdad embassy following attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf.

China struck a more aggressive tone in its trade war with the United States on Friday, suggesting a resumption of talks between the world's two largest economies would be meaningless unless Washington changed course.

The tough talk capped a week that saw Beijing unveil fresh retaliatory tariffs, U.S. officials accuse China of backtracking on promises made during months of talks, and the Trump administration level a potentially crippling blow against one of China's biggest and most successful companies. The United States announced on Thursday it was putting Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the world's largest telecoms equipment maker, on a blacklist that could make it extremely hard to do business with U.S.



FILE Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (not pictured) at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China, May 17, 2019. REUTERS/Thomas Peter/Pool

## Iran dismisses possibility of conflict, says does not want war

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran's top diplomat on Saturday dismissed the possibility of war erupting in the region, saying Tehran did not want a conflict and that no country had the "illusion it can confront Iran", the state news agency IRNA reported.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have increased in recent days, raising concerns about a potential U.S.-Iran conflict. Earlier this week the United States pulled some diplomatic staff from its Baghdad embassy following attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf.

"There will be no war because neither do we want a war, nor has anyone the idea or illusion it can confront Iran in the region," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told IRNA before ending a visit to Beijing.

Donald Trump has bolstered economic sanctions and built up U.S. military presence in the region, accusing Iran

of threats to U.S. troops and interests. Tehran has described those steps as "psychological warfare" and a "political game".

"The fact is that Trump has officially said and reiterated again that he does not want a war, but people around him are pushing for war on the pretext that they want to make America stronger against Iran," Zarif said.

He told Reuters last month that Trump could be lured into a conflict by the likes of U.S. national security adviser John Bolton, an ardent Iran hawk.

Salami, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards, said on Saturday that Iran had nothing to fear from the United States, which he said was in decline, the semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

"The U.S. political system is full of cracks. Though impressive-looking, it has osteoporosis. In fact, America's



FILE PHOTO: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (C) meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (not pictured) at Diaoy-

story is like the World Trade Center towers that collapse with a sudden blow," Salami, known for his fiery rhetoric, was quoted as saying. He was referring to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

**REGIONAL TENSIONS**  
In a sign of the heightened tension across the region, Exxon Mobil evacuated foreign staff from an

oilfield in neighboring Iraq after days of saber rattling between Washington and Tehran. Bahrain warned its citizens against traveling to Iraq or Iran due to "unstable conditions".

In Washington, officials urged U.S. commercial airlines flying over the waters of the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to exercise caution.

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## O'Rourke holds rally near Mexican border that Trump threatens to shut

EL PASO, Texas (Reuters) - Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke held a major rally in El Paso, Texas, on Saturday, a city thrust to the center of America's immigration debate by President Donald Trump and the U.S government this week.

O'Rourke, a former congressman from El Paso, kicked off a series of three rallies in Texas in his bid to become the Democratic nominee a day after Republican Trump threatened to close the U.S. border with Mexico as soon as next week.

Speaking in El Paso, a few hundred yards from the border with Mexico, O'Rourke decried the Trump administration's immigration policies and the president's call for a border wall.

"We'll find security not through walls," he declared to cheers from several hundred supporters as he officially launched his presidential campaign.

Before switching to Spanish to finish his speech, O'Rourke denounced what he called Trump's policies of "fear and division" and accused the president of seeking "to keep us apart and to make us afraid of one another."

"Let's remember, every single one of us are fellow human beings and deserve to be treated like fellow human beings," he said.

O'Rourke's rally in El Paso was long-planned, but the city became central to America's immigration debate this week.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan told reporters in El Paso on Wednesday the southern border system was at breaking point because of the number of

illegal immigrants crossing the border each day.

Trump, who is still determined to build a barrier along parts of the southern border, said on Friday: "There's a very good likelihood that I'll be closing the border next week, and that will be just fine with me."

Trump has repeatedly said he would close the U.S. border with Mexico during his two years in office. His latest threat had workers and students who frequently cross the border worried about the potential disruption to their lives.

Trump and O'Rourke held dueling rallies in February in El Paso, which is already divided from Mexico by steel fencing.

Trump wants it reinforced and hundreds of miles of additional fencing built along the border. O'Rourke opposes any new border structures and opposition to Trump's border wall and immigration policies has been a centerpiece of his campaign.

"We are safe not despite the fact we are a city of immigrants and asylum seekers - we are safe because we are a city of immigrants and asylum seekers," O'Rourke said in El Paso on Saturday.

O'Rourke, who announced his White House campaign on March 14, shot to national prominence last year in an unexpectedly close race against incumbent Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz.

His Texas rallies will be watched via livestream at more than 1,000 locations across America, according to his campaign.



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke poses for a photo with supporters during a kickoff rally on the streets of El Paso, Texas, REUTERS/Lucas Jackson



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# Editor's Choice



Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó attends a meeting with supporters in Caracas



People react as a tear gas canister lands behind a stage as supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who many nations have recognised as the country's rightful interim ruler, gather in Caracas, Venezuela. REUTERS/Manuere Quintero



Supporters of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro protest against opposition leader Juan Guaidó in Caracas, Venezuela. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado



U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) speaks to members of the media following a televised town hall event in New York



Mourners attend the funeral service for the victims of a truck that crashed into a crowd of people in Nahuala



People pose together for a selfie photo in front of a blossom tree in bloom near the White House in Washington



A pro-Brexit protester with a face mask looks on at the March to Leave demonstration in London, Britain. REUTERS/Toby Melville TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Participants attend military patriotic games at a stadium in rebel-held Donetsk



White House Launches Tool For Social Media Censorship Complaints



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

The White House launched a tool on Wednesday that will allow any U.S. citizen to submit a complaint if they think they were unfairly censored on social media platforms.

Why it matters: Social media bias has become a major talking point for President Trump and conservatives who argue that Silicon Valley companies are biased against their viewpoints.

Be smart: This attitude demonstrates a complete reversal of the president's stance toward social media platforms since he was inaugurated in 2017.

At that time, the president told Axios that he liked platforms like Twitter and Facebook because they allowed him to reach voters in an unrestricted way, unlike the mainstream media.

Today, Trump uses Twitter as his main communications vehicle, often sending dozens of tweets in a single day.

Details: The new form begins by asking users to submit basic information about themselves, like their first and last names. It then asks users if they are citizens.



President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media on the South Lawn of the White House on Tuesday. (Photo/AP)

If a user clicks "yes," the form continues. If a user clicks "no," a screen pops up saying: "Unfortunately, we can't gather your response through this form. Please feel free to contact us at WhiteHouse.gov/contact."

The tool asks users to click which platform they've experienced bias on: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube or Other. It asks users to link to the suspected post and post a screenshot from the platform, if applicable, of the rule violation notification.

No matter your views, if you suspect

political bias caused such an action to be taken against you, share your story with President Trump, the White House tells Americans.

The White House is inviting all Americans to complain directly to the Trump administration about social media bans and suspensions that may be evidence of "political bias" with a new online tool launched Wednesday.

"The Trump Administration is fighting for free speech online," the official White House account tweeted Wednesday while unveiling the new reporting tool, which also asks people to sign up to receive Trump's email newsletters so they can stay up to date on his "fight for free speech."

No matter your views, if you suspect political bias has caused you to be censored or silenced online, we want to hear about it!



The White House announcement calling on Americans to open up about their social media experience stops short of singling out Twitter or Facebook but appears to frame large tech companies as a public threat, warning that "too many Americans" have had their "accounts suspended, banned, or fraudulently reported for unclear 'violations' of user policies."

The website prompts users to fill out an information form that asks for their first and last name, zip code, phone number, and whether or not they are a U.S. citizen, also promising to keep those who provide their email address "posted on President Trump's fight for free speech" with newsletters. The form then asks for the users' social media account username, what exactly happened to their account, whether a specific post was involved, and on which platform the "bias" took place.

publican and conservative voices on social media in recent months, but this appears to be the first time the White House has sought to build a case for his claims. Trump has declared that he and the White House would be "monitoring and watching" the situation closely.



"Social Media & Fake News Media, together with their partner, the Democrat Party, have no idea the problems they are causing for themselves," he tweeted earlier this month. "VERY UNFAIR!"

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump How can it be possible that James Woods (and many others), a strong but responsible Conservative Voice, is

banned from Twitter? Social Media & Fake News Media, together with their partner, the Democrat Party, have no idea the problems they are causing for themselves. VERY UNFAIR!

164K 1:31 PM - May 4, 2019 Twitter Ads info and privacy 79.4K people are talking about this

Skeptics were quick to point out that the online form was not very sophisticated and could be easily gamed by anyone who wanted to troll the administration. For example, the "captcha" response test used at the end of the survey to determine if the respondent is a bot asks users to type the year the Declaration of Independence was signed. "I tried it with '1945,' it cleared it. You just need to type four numbers," tweeted Quentin Hardy, head of editorial at Google Cloud.



Between the lines: The White House says the tool is meant to help people share stories about ways they were unfairly targeted by social platforms for free speech, but the online form where users can submit requests also appears to be an email collection mechanism.

"We want to keep you posted on President Trump's fight for free speech," the form states after a few questions. "Can we add you to our email newsletters so we can update you without relying on platforms like Facebook and Twitter?" The White House launched the tool just hours after it broke with more than a dozen world leaders and top technology companies in an international call to action around the rise of online extremism on social platforms.

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Trump's Message To H-1B Visa Holders: 'Path To Citizenship' Could Be Coming Soon

President Trump recently indicated plans to change policies for visa holders, tweeting that a "path to citizenship" for H-1B holders was potentially possible under his administration.

In a tweet posted as the president returned from his trip the day before to the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump declared that the U.S. desires to see "talented and highly skilled people" immigrate to the U.S. and pursue careers.

"H-1B holders in the United States can rest assured that changes are soon coming which will bring both simplicity and certainty to your stay, including a potential path to citizenship," Trump said.

"We want to encourage talented and highly skilled people to pursue career options in the U.S.," he continued.



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

trying to transition from F-1 student status to H-1B work visas on route to a green card. Each year, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) opens a total of 85,000 such visas — 65,000 for those applicants who have a bachelor's degree or equivalent, and 20,000 for those with a master's degree or higher. The USCIS begins accepting applications on the first business day of April each year. Within the first week, the visa allocation is exhausted. This year is the sixteenth year in a row that the H-1B program has experienced such an overload of applicants. In the first week of this fiscal year, nearly 200,000 petitions were received. To cope with this excessive demand for the work visas, the USCIS has employed a lottery to choose successful candidates.

Nearly half of Fortune 500 companies were founded by first or second-generation immigrants and no doubt, many were former H-1B visa holders. According to a recent report, U.S. tech giants like Amazon, Microsoft, Google and Intel are among the top 10 employers of approved H-1B applicants. Amazon itself, was the second highest guarantor of H-1B visas in 2017 with 2,515 such visas, sharply up from the previous year. U.S. educators have established without doubt that the entry of foreign-born scientists and engineers remains an unmatched source of "strength and vitality" for the country's tech industry.



According to an NFAP source, "Employers report the time lost due to the increase in denials and Requests for Evidence has cost millions of dollars in project delays and

contract penalties, while aiding competitors that operate exclusively outside the United States."



On November 19th, 2018 the U.S. Department of Labor began requiring that employers of H-1B applicants use a new Labor Condition Application form (LCA), ETA 9035. Critics claim the new form is designed to elicit internal information from employers and increase government pressure upon H-1B employed companies, with the intended possibility of negative attention from the press.

The new labor conditions could deter tech companies from hiring skilled graduates abroad lest they fork out too much in annual wages, and could compel them to "hire American" in line with Trump's new order. Alternatively, if companies cannot source adequate American-born employees, the new conditions may result in selected foreign employees being appointed at much higher salaries. The true effects of this new LCA form have yet to be seen.

From the perspective of both foreigners and international students, the uncertainty of such U.S. policies and denials, can be overwhelming. These U.S. restrictions impact Indian and Chinese nationals most because they account for the vast majority of these visas. For example, they accounted for 82 per cent of H-1B visas in 2016. Indian workers specifically are known to specialize in IT-related jobs, helping fill the gaps in the tech industry.

However, not all U.S. initiatives regarding H-1B visas have necessarily been bad. A change in the way the USCIS conducts its lottery may benefit some H-1B applicants. In particular, international students graduat-

ing from US colleges with master's degrees (and other advanced degrees) may soon have a much better chance of receiving an H-1B visa in the United States. The proposed new policy changes the rules of the lottery system used to determine who will receive the H-1B visa as follows:

- 1. USCIS will reverse the order by which USCIS selects H-1B petitions under the H-1B cap and the advanced degree exemption. This will increase the number of selected H-1B beneficiaries with a master's degree or higher from a U.S. institution of higher education up to 16% (or 5,340 workers).
2. USCIS will require petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions to first electronically register with USCIS. The employers will not need to send in the H-1B petitions and supporting documentation before the cap selection process. This will ease the amount of work required to apply for the H-1B visas.



USCIS expects that shifting to electronic registration would reduce overall costs for petitioners and create a more efficient and cost-effective H-1B cap petition process for USCIS.



As the political landscape in Washington changes following the results of the recent 2018 election, hopefully more positive changes will be introduced to increase the effectiveness of the H-1B visa program. (Courtesy forbes.com)



The H-1B system, which allows U.S. companies to hire temporary foreign workers to fill needs not met by the U.S. workforce, is not intended as a permanent path to citizenship for immigrants coming to the United States.

Immigration reform has been a centerpiece of the Trump administration. (Courtesy https://thehill.com/blogs)

Related

What Changes Are Coming In 2019 To The H1B Visa Program?

What is the status of the current U.S. H1B visa program and what can we look forward to in 2019?

Foreigners view the H1B visa as the golden gate to furthering their career, starting a family and building a new life in America. The visa is particularly popular because you can also transition from it to a green card. Many applicants are international students



The US is set to pass a bill on immigration that seeks to prohibit companies from hiring H-1B employees if they employ more than 50 people in the US and if more than 50% of those employees are H-1B and L-1 visa holders

US Senators Chuck Grassley and Dick Durbin, who introduced the bipartisan legislation, argue that H-1B visas were only meant to fill gaps in areas that couldn't be filled by Americans. The bill, if passed, will have major implications for the \$146 billion Indian IT sector, which is the largest user of H-1B visas

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香港文匯報訊（記者 凡文）英國樂壇“大姑媽”艾頓莊（Elton John）親自監製的音樂自傳電影《搖滾太空人》在第72屆康城影展舉行首映禮，當地時間5月16日，戲中扮演艾頓莊的男星泰隆艾格頓（Taron Egerton）借艾頓莊亮相，“真假艾頓莊”同場，泰隆更跪下幫艾頓莊綁鞋帶。另目前最受華人媒體關注的是53歲影后鞏俐被爆婚訊，與交往一年多的71歲法國電子樂大師讓·米歇爾·雅爾（Jean-Michel Jarre）已再婚。



吳彥祖現身康城。新華社



泰隆艾格頓跪低為艾頓莊綁鞋帶。美聯社

# 鞏俐被爆再婚 已為米歇爾妻

## 艾頓莊甩鞋帶 泰隆跪低代綁



鞏俐日前和米歇爾手拖手現身康城。網上圖片

英國殿堂級男歌手艾頓莊傳記片《搖滾太空人》（Rocketman）在第72屆康城影展舉行首映禮，艾頓莊跟伴侶大衛（David Fumish）、戲中飾演年輕版艾頓莊的《皇家特工》男星泰隆艾格頓、扮演前經理人的理察麥登（Richard Madden）、拜絲黛麗侯活（Bryce Dallas Howard）等齊齊亮相走紅地毯。在走地毯期間，艾頓莊的鞋帶突然鬆掉，泰隆發現後即二話不說，當眾跪下替72歲的艾頓莊綁好，艾頓莊見狀即攤開雙手笑了笑，身邊人也不禁露出笑容。之後，艾頓莊與泰隆這對“真假艾頓莊”於慶功派對，更即席同台合

唱，表演名曲《Rocketman》，獲觀眾站立拍掌致敬，二人含淚表謝意。此外，當晚首映禮星光熠熠，同場除華人影星吳彥祖和李宇春捧場外，還有金像影后茉莉安摩亞（Julianne Moore）、“靚太”伊娃朗歌莉亞（Eva Longoria）、印度演員Deepika Padukone及名模Bella Hadid等也以悉心打扮走紅地毯，謀殺在場傳媒的菲林。鞏俐和讓·米歇爾·雅爾交往一年多來感情可說是相當穩定，3月兩人曾傳出婚訊，但無人證實。法國時間15日晚，米歇爾受康城電影節主席Pierre Lescure邀請抵達康城，

鞏俐親自接機，兩人全程緊緊牽手，臉上露甜笑。17日爆出兩人已不再是此前男女朋友的關係，而是夫妻關係。在新京報文娛官方微博指出：“成稿時已透過知情人士確認：是丈夫。”間接證實鞏俐再婚的消息。53歲鞏俐已與71歲法國電子樂大師讓·米歇爾再婚。這是自她與黃和祥離婚後的第二段婚姻。網友誇米歇爾顏值高，完全看不出71歲的年齡，兩人非常登對。米歇爾與影后特別有緣。米歇爾是個非常傳奇的法國音樂人，亦是大名鼎鼎的演奏家、作



泰隆艾格頓跪低為艾頓莊綁鞋帶。美聯社

### 郭富城甄子丹「力」推「不要膠下去」

香港文匯報訊 60位藝人早前參與拍攝“不要膠下去”運動宣傳照，包括郭富城、甄子丹、楊千嬅等。藝人們皆傾力演出，千嬅被數十個膠水樽蓋倒在頭上也毫不介意，城城及子丹亦展現出“力”的表現，數下就把發泡膠及膠水樽打破及壓扁，袁詠儀就把膠飲管及膠餐具插在頭髮上。



郭富城 楊千嬅 甄子丹

### 數張晉八大優點 蔡少芬家有愛情銀行

香港文匯報訊（記者 吳文釗）蔡少芬（Ada）與老公張晉日前參與內地真人騷《我最愛的女人們》，由張晉帶著Ada和媽媽遊覽上海各景點，過程中兩公婆曾為行程發生了小摩擦，最終Ada乖乖地被老公收服。

Ada坦言與張晉的16年愛情長跑中，曾因為自己太霸氣講過狠話，二人差點不能走在一起，她說：“現在如果有些事情發生，我是很生氣的都不會出聲，因為以前我們拍拖的時候，我會說一些很狠的說話，狠到要分開的一個地步。後來張晉跟我說再不停這樣說，把愛情弄裂了就不再黏回來。”

Ada憶述曾有一次鬧分手，張晉送她去機場真的讓她走



張晉早前帶著蔡少芬和媽媽遊覽上海。

了，自從那次之後她就不敢再講狠話。張晉也表示記得當時情況，坦言冒相當大的險，說：“當時我跟她說‘好，就分手，你要收拾行李，我幫你收拾行李。’如果當時她真的衝動就分手了，後來想起來都有點害怕。”現在是眾人眼中的模範夫妻，Ada輕易數出張晉的八大優點，分別有帥氣、懂得打、跳舞、唱歌、剪片、脾氣好、愛護家人和接受她的過去，她說：“我以前所有的過去，他完全可以接納，我跟他說以前的事時，他不會用什麼眼光去看我，反而想去保護我，我真的很感激他。”

#### 睇劇本節走接吻戲？

至於二人如何將感情鮮，Ada笑稱拍拖時是兼職做張晉的經理人，每接一部電影前都會先看過劇本，張晉笑稱終於知道為何拍電影一直沒有接吻戲。Ada又分享他們的愛情觀，最重要是不要期待對方去改變，而是要好好尊重對方的感受，男人要尊重，女人要愛。張晉就把愛情比喻成一間銀行，情侶吵架發生矛盾時就像在花錢，平時是需要存錢的，說：“我們出去看電影、逛街、晚上坐廚房吃麵喝酒都是在存錢，我很享受這種存錢的過程，到真的發生矛盾時才有錢花，否則回憶起來全部是花錢，沒有錢怎麼辦呢？”

### 商天娥不再密密做 享受收成期

香港文匯報訊（記者 李慶全）舞台劇《謀殺啟事》將於7月公演6場，17日三位主角商天娥、倪秉郎及陳桂芬到商台宣傳。商天娥飾演謀殺案大宅的女主人，她要串連所有角色以群戲居多，記對白本身對她沒有難度，反而是演員之間對白的接位要好準確。以前飛紙仔年代，娥姐已習慣記對白，當年在深圳拍電視劇《笑看風雲》外景時，臨

場被編審要求加兩頁紙對白，要跟秋官鄭少秋做對手戲，結果記好對白，卻要先趕鄭伊健和古巨基的戲份，最後要回到香港才補拍，又要她重新多記一次。倪秉郎與陳桂芬同演偵探角色，倪秉郎大讚娥姐每次練排都早到，還提早拿劇本去了解，娥姐解釋自己並非這小說家的粉絲，所以想更了解故事，而且現階段已是收成期：“以前捱到金睛火眼，現就要去享受，會選擇適合的放長去做，不想再像以往般密密做。”她坦言近年較少拍電視劇，主要是合作的人都不太認識，認識的也都走了。



左起：倪秉郎、商天娥及陳桂芬宣傳舞台劇。

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左起：張子丰、金域假日酒店總經理魏嘉興、何浩文、文凱玲、莫何敏儀和吳雲甫出力。

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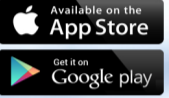
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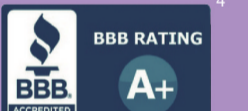


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