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Southern News Group

People gather as they look at Notre-Dame Cathedral two days after a massive fire devas-



Inside C2

Sunday, June 23, 2019

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China state media urges U.S. to drop win-at-all-costs trade stance

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Instead of waging a trade war with China, the United States should drop its win-at-all-costs mentality and consider the interests of its own people as well as the global community, the official People's Daily said an editorial on Saturday.

The Chinese Communist Party's newspaper urged the United States to cancel all tariffs on Chinese goods, saying the only way to resolve trade issues was through "equal dialogue".

Hopes that the two sides can rekindle negotiations were raised in the run-up to a meeting next week between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Donald Trump in Japan, where they will both attend a Group of 20 summit.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is holding seven days of hearings from manufacturers and other businesses likely to be affected by a new round of tariffs on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

The People's Daily said all previous hearings had shown "overwhelming" opposition to tariff increases from all walks of life, but it had made no difference.

"It seems that some people in the United States are waving the tariff stick in order to strengthen their so-called 'industrial competitive advantage'," it said.

"They do not consider public opinion, do not consider national conditions, and do not take the international economic order into account. They just want the renown as 'winners' but cannot understand the fact that they basically cannot win."

The U.S. National Retail Federation (NRF) said on Friday that the proposed tariff extension on Chinese goods, including cellphones and computers, could cost U.S. consumers an additional \$12.2 billion each year.



The label reading "Made in China" on a sweatshirt is seen over another shirt with a U.S. flag at a souvenir stand in Boston, Massachusetts January 18, 2011. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

Iran says it will confront any U.S. threat, Trump eyes new sanctions "crushing" response if attacked. "Anv mistake by Iran's enemies in particular.

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran said on Saturday it would respond firmly to any U.S. threat, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported, amid escalating tension between Tehran and Washington over the shooting down of an unmanned U.S. drone by the Islamic Republic.

On Thursday, an Iranian missile destroyed a U.S. Global Hawk surveillance drone. Tehran repeated on Saturday that the drone was shot down over its territory. Washington said the incident happened in international airspace.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he called off a military strike to retaliate because it could have killed 150 people, and signaled he was open to talks with Tehran.

"Regardless of any decision they (U.S. officials) make ... we will not allow any of Iran's borders to be violated. Iran will firmly confront any aggression or threat by America," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told Tasnim.

RELATED COVERAGE

Trump eyes more Iran sanctions; military action still

on table

Iran foreign minister tweets map with detailed coordinates of drone

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Speaking in Washington on Saturday before heading to the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David, where he said he would deliberate on Iran, Trump said the U.S. government was imposing new sanctions on Tehran.

"We are putting additional sanctions on Iran," Trump told reporters. "In some cases we are going slowly, but in other cases we are moving rapidly." Military action was "always on the table." the president added, but he said he was open to reversing the escalation and could quickly reach a deal with Iran that he said would bolster the country's flagging

economy. "We will call it 'Let's make Iran great again," Trump said.

Worries about a confrontation between Iran and the United States have mounted despite Trump saving he has no appetite to go to war with Iran. Tehran has also said it is not seeking a war but has warned of a

"Any mistake by Iran's enemies, in particular America and its regional allies, would be like firing at a powder keg that will burn America, its interests and its allies to the ground," the senior spokesman of Iran's Armed Forces, Abolfazl Shekarchi, told Tasnim on Saturday.

A senior commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards struck a similarly defiant note, in comments quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

"This is our response to a violation of Iranian space and if the violation is repeated then our response will be repeated," said Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh, head of the Guards' aerospace division. "It's possible that this infringement of the Americans was carried out by a general or some operators."

The purported wreckage of the American drone is seen displayed by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Tehran, Iran June 21, 2019. Tasnim News Agency/Handout via REUTERS A Pentagon spokeswoman, Commander Rebecca Rebarich, said on Saturday: "We stand by where we said the aircraft was operating in international airspace."

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WORLD NEWS

France asks: should Notre-Dame's spire be rebuilt as it was?

PARIS (Reuters) - France will open the redesign of Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral's historic spire to international architects after Monday night's catastrophic blaze that gutted the centuries-old roof and sent the towering spire crashing through the vaulted ceiling.

The government's announcement on Wednesday added to a question many are asking as France grieves for its damaged national symbol - whether the familiar outline at the heart of the capital should be restored exactly as it was or given a modern twist.

President Emmanuel Macron pledged in a prime-time address to the nation on Tuesday that Notre-Dame would be rebuilt within five years. Tycoons, international firms, local authorities and individuals have promised financial and expert help - with a total of nearly 900 million euros pledged by Wednesday.

The cathedral was built over nearly 200 years starting in the middle of the 12th century, although it was only in the mid 1800s that architect Eugene Viollet-le-Duc added the lead-covered spire during restoration work.

"The international competition will allow us to ask the question of whether we should even recreate the spire as it was conceived by Viollet-le-Duc," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said.

"Or whether, as is often the case during the evolution of heritage, we should endow Notre-Dame with a new spire that reflects the techniques and challenges of our era."

Monday's inferno devastated a world treasure, prompting an outpouring of collective sorrow and soul-searching in France over whether to recreate the destroyed oak-framed roofing and

spire or adapt the cathedral to the 21st century.

As Philippe spoke, firefighters were working to stabilise a fire-ravaged pinnacle that houses one of Notre-Dame's 13th-century stained-glass rose windows.

There was no immediate danger that the structure would topple but statues were also being removed to reduce the risk of movement, the fire service's spokesman said.

"Today, there is no risk of collapse. Our priority is to stabilise the pinnacles which are weakened, since they are no longer held up by the roof and its frame," Lieutenant-Colonel Gabriel Plus told Reuters.

People gather as they look at Notre-Dame Cathedral two days after a massive fire devastated large parts of the gothic structure in Paris, France, April 17, 2019. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier

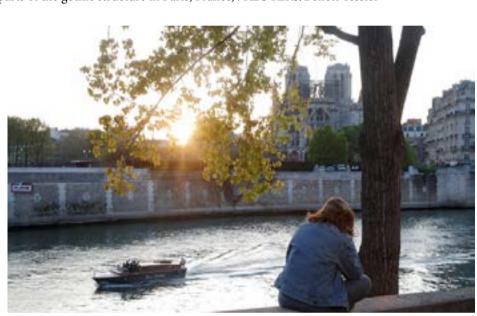
REPLICATE OR RESHAPE?
It was not yet known what caused the blaze.

The city's public prosecutor, Remy Heitz, said on Tuesday there was no sign of arson and it was likely to have been the result of an accident. Some 50 people were working on what would be a long and complex investigation, he said.

Passers-by laid flowers on bridges crossing the Seine River as Parisians gave thanks to see the bell towers standing valiantly after the fire. Notre-Dame is not the first French cathedral to suffer a devastating fire. Among past catastrophes, a 1972 fire engulfed the roof of Saint-Pierre-et-Saint-Paul de Nantes. Concrete was used in the subsequent reconstruction of gables and roof beams.



People gather as they look at Notre-Dame Cathedral two days after a massive fire devastated large parts of the gothic structure in Paris, France, . REUTERS/Benoit Tessier





Sunday, June 23 2019 **C3**



Editor's Choice



Umbrellas are placed to block security cameras outside a police headquarters, during a demonstration demanding Hong Kong's leaders to step down and withdraw the extradition bill, in Hong Kong



Protest against the climate change near Garzweiler open cast brown coal mine near Rommerskirchen



Supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders try to chant louder than supporters of candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren outside of Jim Clyburn's World Famous Fish



Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un take a walk in Pyongyang



SailGP Team Great Britain skippered by Dylan Fletcher capsizes ahead of race one of day one of competition in the SailGP global sailboat racing series in New York harbor, New York, U.S., June 21, 2019. REUTERS/Mike Segar TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Fishermen try to tow a dead Bryde's whale in Surat Thani province



Binali Yildirim, Istanbul mayoral candidate of the ruling AKP, is surrounded by his supporters his supporters during an election rally in Istanbul



Horse Racing - Royal Ascot - Ascot Racecourse, Ascot, Britain - June 21, 2019 Britain's Queen Elizabeth arrives at ascot Action Images via Reuters/Matthew Childs TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



COMMUNITY

Jeff Bezos Unveils Lunar Lander To Take Astronauts To The Moon By 2024



Blue Origin's "Blue Moon" lunar lander.

Overview

Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos unveiled the company's "Blue Moon" lunar lander on Thursday, as well as a new BE-7 rocket engine.

"I love Vice President Pence's 2024 lunar landing goal," Bezos said, adding that Blue Origin can meet that timeline "because we started this three years ago."

Bezos invests more than \$1 billion in Blue Origin each year. through sales of his Amazon shares.

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

WASHINGTON — Jeff Bezos, chairman of Amazon and founder of Blue Origin, unveiled his space company's lunar lander for the first time last Thursday.

"This vehicle is going to the moon," Bezos said during an invite-only presentation to media and space industry exec-

"We were given a gift — this nearby body called the moon," Bezos said. He added that the moon is a good place to begin manufacturing in space due to its lower gravity than the Earth. Getting resources from the moon "takes 24 times less energy to get it off the surface compared to the Earth," Bezos said, and "that is a huge lever."

The Blue Moon lander can bring 3.6 metric tons to the lunar surface, according to Bezos.

Bezos also unveiled the company's BE-7 rocket engine at the event. The engine will be test fired for the first time this summer, Bezos said. It's largely made of "printed" parts, he added.

"We need the new engine and that's what this is," Bezos said



Michael Sheetz

□@thesheetztweetz

Bezos unveils the @blueorigin BE-7 engine, which he says will fire for the first time this summer

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"It's time to go back to the moon and this time stay," Bezos said.

Blue Origin, established nearly two decades ago, has remained relatively quiet about the rockets, engines and capsules it is developing. With its Latin tagline of "step by step, ferociously," Blue Origin has been working on multiple space systems at the same time. Bezos invests more than \$1 billion in the company each year, through sales of his Amazon shares

Vice President Mike Pence earlier this year directed NASA to return U.S. astronauts to the surface of the moon within the next five years. NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine answered by saying the agency will meet the White House's directive, which represents an acceleration of NASA's existing lunar exploration timeline. NASA's fiscal 2020 budget request included a massive increase in funding of the the Advanced Cislunar and Surface Capabilities (ACSC) program. Under ACSC, the agency would first send robots to the surface without crews, later following up with astronauts. Despite internal hesitancy, NASA is considering commercial alternatives such as Blue Origin for getting astronauts to the moon's surface.

"I love Vice President Pence's 2024 lunar landing goal," Bezos said, adding that Blue Origin can meet that timeline "because we started this three years ago."



Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos

Ahead of the event, Blue Origin tweeted a cryptic photo of famed explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship and a date, May 9, in the caption. A teaser for Thursday's event, the photo appeared to hint that Bezos' announcement would focus on sending cargo and even astronauts to the south pole of the moon. That's because Shackelton lends his name to a crater on the moon's surface, which NASA named after the explorer in 2006 due to its potential as a lunar outpost. Located at the moon's south pole, the Shackleton crater is believed by many to have deposits of frozen water.

Bezos offered only few details two years ago about Blue Origin's lunar ambitions. In a program the company called "Blue Moon," it would send a couple tons of cargo to the surface of the moon, to begin building the infrastructure of a lunar base. The first mission was proposed for 2020, in partnership with government programs like the Boeing-built NASA Space Launch System (SLS) rocket. But in May of last year, Bezos indicated Blue Origin may develop Blue Moon on its

Blue Origin's most visible program has been its New Shepard rocket system, which the company is developing to send tourists to the edge of space for 10 minutes. New Shepard has flown on 11 test flights, with its capsule, built to carry six passengers, reaching an altitude of more than 350,000. The capsule features massive windows, providing expansive views of the Earth once in space.



Shackleton crater on the moon.

The company plans to send its first humans onboard a New Shepard rocket sometime in the next year. But it has yet to begin selling tickets. Blue Origin told CNBC last year that it will only offer tourists a ride to space "after our first human flights."

Additionally, New Shepard has served as a test bed for the company to develop its own reusability system. Like SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets, the largest part of the New Shepard rocket — the first stage "booster" — comes back and lands on a concrete pad shortly after launch.

Reusing rockets is a key development in the space industry as companies look to reduce the cost of sending humans, satellites, experiments and more to space. Blue Origin is building an immense rocket system, called New Glenn. Similar to New Shepard, the company plans to land New Glenn's rocket booster on a ship in the ocean



Bezos' ultimate ambition is to help humanity expand across the solar system, with a human population of more than a trillion living and working in space. Morgan Stanley highlighted Bezos' investments in space as a "force" in the industry who brings financial muscle unlike any other. Blue Origin is one of several space companies which Morgan Stanley said "will up the ante" this year. (Courtesy https://www.cnbc.com/)



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BUSINESS

SPECIAL REPORT

Our Plastic Planet



Assembled plastic objects found on the UK coast, 1994-2019. (Photo/AP)

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

We have sipped, packaged and played our way into a global plastics crisis.

Why it matters: Activist consumer groups are pushing for less use, and to some extent, less production, while industry aims for increased recycling.

The big picture: Plastics demand is projected to only increase — and the footprint of plastic pollution with it.

•Plastics made from oil and natural gas are an integral part of our daily lives, from cell phones to shipping materials to lifesaving medical devices.

•But we use many plastics only once
— and promptly discard them.

•And there's a growing "zero waste" movement on social media.



"A lot of people are eating seafood all the time, and fish are eating plastic all the time, so I think that's a problem," says a marine toxicologist.

Microplastics — bits of plastic less than 5 millimeters in length — have been found lurking in the deep waters off California, on otherwise pristine mountain peaks in the Alps and in the gastrointestinal tracts of sea creatures large and small.

•It's quite possible that, as a legacy of our consumer habits, each of us is consuming microplastics on a regular basis as well.

•What's not yet known is whether it's taking a toll on our health.

What's happening: There are calls to ban single-use plastics and force companies to rely less on petrochemicals. That industry is taking notice, trying to stay ahead of consumer backlash by focusing on recycling.

Details: Roland Geyer, the lead author of a comprehensive 2017 study on plastic production and end use, estimates that about 9,200 million metric tons of virgin plastics have been produced since 1950.

•Geyer's study projected that by 2050 about 12,000 million metric tons of plastic waste could be in landfills or the natural environment.

•Globally, less than 20% of plastics were recycled in 2015. In the U.S., it's worse.

Just 9% of plastics were recycled that year, according to the most recent data from the Environmental Protection Agency.

•In 2018, China banned most plastics headed for its recycling processors, shutting down the U.S.'s largest recycling export market and compounding our waste problem.



Since most plastics come from fossil fuels, our plastics dependency is also exacerbating climate change.

•A recent report from an environmental group found that by 2030, plastics-related emissions could reach 1.34 gigatons per year — equivalent to the emissions released by more than 295 new 500-megawatt coalfired power plants.

Unlike with other global environmental problems, consumers have more control over how this story plays out in the future.

•Efforts to replace plastic straws and switch from single-use plastic water bottles to reusable containers can make a difference when it comes to marine pollution, says Kyle Van Houtan, chief scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related Solving the plastic problem



A sorting center in France. Photo:

Loic Venance/AFP/Getty Images

Plastics are intertwined with our lives today
— driving researchers to create plant-based versions and more efficient ways to recycle.

The big picture: From a science perspective, the biggest challenge is consumers and companies want materials that won't degrade quickly while being used but will degrade quickly once disposed, says Andrew Dove, a professor of chemistry at the University of Birmingham in the U.K. "The world wants it both ways."

"It's an incredible material," says Marc Hillmyer, who directs the Center for Sustainable Polymers at the University of Minnesota, and points to plastics use in transporting food and water, and protecting solar cells and windmill blades that anchor the renewable energy economy.

"We need them, but not for everything," he

How it works: Plastics are recycled or burned as a source of energy, but by one estimate, 79% of plastic waste has ended up in landfills or the environment.

Plastics can be mixed with pigments, other materials and other plastics, which complicate recycling and limit how the chemical components of plastic can be reused.



The push for "green plastics" made from sustainable materials gave us, for example, cups made from corn-based plastic (polylactic acid) and compostable chip bags that degrade under certain circumstances.

•Researchers are trying to develop new materials that could replace common plastics—from that foam in flower arrangements to straws.

•The challenge is finding a sweet spot between making a plastic easier to break down and the need for durability and other desired characteristics.

Replacing petroleum-based plastics is still important in the long term, says Dove, but as it accumulates in landfills, researchers are increasingly focusing on new ways

to make and recycle today's materials.

•Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory researchers recently reported a new way to create a plastic commonly found in epoxies and polyurethane.

•They were then able to break it down to its chemical building blocks, even when the plastics were colored or with other materials, and turn them back into plastic.

•Yes, but: The process requires large amounts of water and hasn't been demonstrated to work on an industrial scale.



Proper plastic disposal is everyone's job. Scientists are also experimenting with degrading plastics using:

•Chemical recycling: Different acids and bases can be used to break down plastics. Researchers hope to develop chemicals that can selectively degrade a single type of plastic in a stream of mixed plastic waste.

•Enzymes: They have the advantage of being specific to a type of plastic but the disadvantage of working slowly compared to chemical recycling.

The bottom line: It's going to take a combination of new materials and improved recycling methods to minimize the impacts of our plastics dependency. "There's not going to be a panacea," says Hillmyer. (Courtesy axios.com)







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