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Trump says it's up to China to deal with Hong Kong 'riots'



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Trump says China trade deal coming, Beijing calls for resolution of dispute

BIARRITZ, France/BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday predicted a trade deal with China after positive gestures by Beijing, calming global markets that have been roiled by new tariffs from the world's two largest economies. Trump said after a G7 summit of world leaders in Biarritz, France, that he believed China was sincere about wanting to reach a deal, citing what he described as increasing economic pressure on Beijing and job losses there.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, who has been leading the talks with Washington, said on Monday that China was willing to resolve the trade dispute through "calm" negotiations and opposed any increase in trade tensions.

Trump cited Liu's comments as a positive sign, underscoring his seniority, and repeated his assertion that Chinese officials had contacted U.S. trade counterparts overnight and offered to resume negotiations, a claim China declined to confirm.

"I think they want to make a deal very badly. I think that was elevated last night. The vice chairman of China came out, he said he wants to see a deal made," Trump said. "The longer they wait the harder it is to put back, if it can be put back at all," Trump said at a news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron. "I don't think they have a choice."

Macron said an agreement would help dispel uncertainty that has been weighing on global markets. He said Trump had told other G7 leaders that he wanted to strike a deal with China.

Trump said he was more upbeat about the prospects for an agreement than in the recent past.

Days after referring to President Xi Jinping as an enemy, Trump heaped praise on his Chinese counterpart in separate remarks twice on Monday, alternately calling him a "great leader" and a "brilliant man."

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said he had not heard that a phone call between the two sides had taken place. However, China's Commerce Ministry typically releases statements on trade calls. It did not respond to a request for comment.

When pressed on whether a call had taken place, Trump emphasized Liu's comments. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there had been contact between the two sides but declined to say with whom.

Hu Xijin, editor of the state-controlled Global Times newspaper, tweeted: "Based on what I know, Chinese and U.S. top negotiators didn't hold phone talks in recent days. The two sides have been keeping contact at technical level, it doesn't have significance that President Trump suggested. China didn't change its position. China won't cave to U.S. pressure."

The increasingly bitter trade war between the world's two largest economies worsened on Friday with both sides leveling more tariffs on each other's exports.

Trump announced an additional duty on some \$550 billion of targeted Chinese goods, hours after China unveiled retaliatory tariffs on \$75 billion worth of U.S. goods.

On Sunday, the White House said Trump regretted not raising the tariffs even more. But Trump also appeared to back off of his threat to order U.S. companies out of China.

Vice Premier Liu, Xi's top economic adviser said at a conference in southwestern Chongqing: "We are willing to resolve the issue through consultations and cooperation in a calm attitude and resolutely oppose the escalation of the trade war."

"We believe the escalation of the trade war is not beneficial for China, the United States, nor to the interests of the people of the world."

The trade war has damaged global growth and raised market fears the world economy will tip into recession.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said China would retaliate if Trump enforced the latest U.S. tariffs.

WALL STREET REBOUNDS

Wall Street rebounded on Monday after the comments by Trump and Liu, with all 11 sectors in the benchmark S&P 500 index .SPX moving higher following the index's worst run of weekly losses on Friday.

"The sentiment today is conciliatory, the president is trying to walk back," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at National Securities in New York.

China's yuan, which had fallen to an 11-year low before Trump's first comments, recovered somewhat. The U.S. dollar strengthened after falling to a 2-1/2 year low against the Japanese yen. The two sides were



French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. President Donald Trump attend a joint press conference at the end of the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August 26, 2019. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

due to meet in September in Washington, but it was unclear whether the new tariff tit-for-tat would alter those plans.

The United States accuses China of economic sins including intellectual property theft, currency manipulation and forced technology transfer by U.S. companies to their Chinese partners as a requirement for doing business in China. China denies the U.S. allegations.

Beijing and Washington were close to a deal last spring but U.S. officials said China backed away from an agreed text over a reluctance to change laws to address U.S. complaints. The trade war has affected businesses all over the world and disrupted supply chains. Trump has urged U.S. companies to move



French President Emmanuel Macron, U.S. President Donald Trump, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Italy's acting Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and European Council President Donald Tusk attend a G7 working session on "International Economy and Trade, and International Security Agenda" during the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August



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Hong Kong government warns of great danger after weekend of violence

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Illegal violence is pushing Hong Kong to the brink of great danger, the city government said on Monday, after a weekend of clashes that included the first gun-shot and the arrest of 86 people, the youngest just 12.

An anti-extradition bill protester throws a Molotov cocktail as protesters clash with riot police during a rally to demand democracy and political reforms, at Tsuen Wan, in Hong Kong, China August 25. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

Police fired water cannon and volleys of tear gas in running battles with protesters who threw bricks and petrol bombs on Sunday, the second day of weekend clashes in the Chinese-ruled city. Six officers drew their pistols and one officer fired a warning shot into the air, police said in a statement, adding that 215 rounds of tear gas and 74 rubber bullets were fired over the two days.

"The escalating illegal and violent acts of radical protesters are not only outrageous, they also push Hong Kong to the verge of a very dangerous situation," the government said in a statement.

RELATED COVERAGE

Nomura cuts recommendation on HK stocks as protests, trade war escalate

The protests began in mid-June over a now-suspended extradition bill that would have allowed Hong Kong people to be sent to mainland China for trial.

But the demonstrations have evolved over 12 straight weeks into a broad demand for greater democracy in the financial hub that was promised a high degree of autonomy under a "one country, two systems" formula when it was handed to China by colonial ruler Britain in 1997.

More demonstrations are planned in the days and weeks ahead, including a rally at Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways (0293.HK) headquarters on Wednesday to protest against perceived "white terror", a term used to describe anonymous acts that create a climate of fear.

Cathay has emerged as the biggest corporate casualty of the protests after China demanded it suspend staff involved in, or who supported, the anti-government demonstrations that have plunged the city into its biggest crisis since 1997.

On Saturday, activists threw petrol bombs and bricks in the gritty industrial district of Kwun Tong, on the east of the Kowloon pen-



An anti-extradition bill protester throws a Molotov cocktail as protesters clash with riot police during a rally to demand democracy and political reforms, at Tsuen Wan, in Hong Kong, China August 25. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

insula. Some protesters cut down "smart" lamp posts equipped with surveillance cameras.

GRAVE CHALLENGE

The protests pose the gravest popular challenge to Chinese President Xi Jinping since he took power in 2012, with his government keen to quell the unrest ahead of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct 1.

Protesters again adopted cat-and-mouse tactics on Sunday evening, gathering then quickly dispersing, only to reappear in other places. They also set up barricades to block some roads, following a largely peaceful rally earlier in the day.

Police said the 86 arrested people were aged 12 to 52, and they were suspected of offences including unlawful assembly, possession of offensive weapons and assaulting police officers.

Twenty-one officers were injured in the violence, they said.

The weekend clashes marked a return to violent unrest after days of calmer demonstrations.

The protests have occasionally caused serious disruption including forcing the closure of the airport.

China has denounced the protests, warned of the damage to Hong Kong's economy and complained of outside interference.

It has also sent a clear warning that forceful intervention is possible, with paramilitary forces holding drills in Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong in mainland China.

The protesters say they are fighting

the erosion of the "one country, two systems" arrangement under which Hong Kong returned to China with the promise of freedoms, not enjoyed on the mainland, for 50 years. But the turmoil is taking a toll. The world's biggest equity deal this year was to unfold in Hong Kong later this month but it has been put on hold. Banks are issuing unprecedented profit warnings, while hotels and restaurants are half-empty.

Several major conferences and trade fairs have been postponed and economists say retail sales could drop by 20%-30% this year.



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Editor's Choice



French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. President Donald Trump react during a news conference at the end of the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August 26, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump meets German Chancellor Angela Merkel for bilateral talks during the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August 26, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A demonstrator stands on a traffic light during a protest in Hong Kong, China, August 25, 2019. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A worker removes a billboard featuring the message "Say NO to Mass Immigration" in Toronto



First Lady Melania Trump kisses Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau next to the U.S. President Donald Trump during the family photo with invited guests at the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August 25, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Palestinian students participate in a morning activity at a United Nations-run school, on the first day of a new school year, in al-Fari'ah refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank August 25, 2019. REUTERS/Raneen Sawafta TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A demonstrator uses a slingshot during a protest in Tsuen Wan, in Hong Kong, China, August 25, 2019. REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



An anti-extradition bill protester throws eggs as protesters clash with riot police during a rally to demand democracy and political reforms, at Tsuen Wan, in Hong Kong

University Of Houston Receives \$50M Donation For Creation Of STEM Institutes



Renu Khator, president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the UH System with supportive UH students. The university has received an anonymous multimillion-dollar donation for the creation of new STEM institutes.

Overview

Renu Khator, president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the UH System announced that the university has received a multimillion-dollar donation for the creation of new STEM institutes

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

An anonymous donor has gifted \$50 million to the University of Houston, the largest single donation to UH since it launched its “Here, We Go” campaign in 2017.

The donation will establish four new institutes, which will “address crucial challenges” in the areas of energy, infrastructure, precision medicine and global engagement, according to a press release. UH will create the following interdisciplinary institutes:

- Institute for Sustainable Energy and Energy Security
- Institute for Resilient Infrastructure and Smart Cities
- Institute for Precision Medicine for Population Health
- Institute for Global Engagement



“The donor wants to make sure that the faculty we hire are absolutely top-notch, as well as (make sure) they do interdisciplinary work,” UH President Renu Khator told the Houston Business Journal. “Therefore, institutes are our areas of strength already, and once we hire the faculty who can work across several disciplines, that gives us enormous synergy. So therefore, working toward these four institutes will take the university to a very different level.”

Khator and Eloise Brice, vice president for university advancement, said that the donor wants to build the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math, making sure students are ready for the global workforce.

“This gift creates an environment to attract both the world’s best and brightest faculty and also its top-flight students,” Brice said in the release. “These new institutes will motivate and educate students to pursue challenging areas of study, particularly in the STEM and health sciences fields. It takes UH to an entirely new level.”

The \$50 million pledge is part of a matching endowment program, The Aspire Fund challenge, which seeks to “inspire another \$50 million in investments from other donors,” per the release.

“With this gift, we will help prepare University of Houston students to thrive in the global marketplace,” the anonymous donor said in the release. “Strong faculty leadership is paramount to the University’s success. This new wave of outstanding faculty will build upon the University’s already exceptional faculty. We believe that this investment will continue the process of motivating students and benefit our great city of Houston through work in the classrooms, institutes and labs.”

UH’s “Here, We Go” campaign is entering its last stretch — it will end in August 2020. The campaign began in 2017 as an effort to raise \$1 billion for the university. It surpassed that goal earlier this year and has already raised almost \$1.06 billion as of Aug. 19, funding scholarships, new centers and institutes, and new or

renovated facilities. However, the university is still fundraising for scholarships and other means.



Related

UH releases new medical school renderings And holds bill signing ceremony with Governor Abbott

HOUSTON, Texas (KTRK) -- The University of Houston System unveiled its renderings for the College of Medicine building last Wednesday.

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, along with heads of the university took part in a ceremonial bill signing.

“This cutting-edge medical school building is not only vital to fulfilling our mission of innovating health care delivery, but it signifies our connection to the community and collaboration within the university,” said Dr. Stephen Spann, founding dean of the College of Medicine.

The four-story, 150,000-square-foot building will be located along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, across from MacGregor Park.

Construction for the building will begin in spring 2020, and is expected to be completed in summer 2022. (Courtesy Houston Business Journal)

Renderings Released Showing Future UH College of Medicine



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS THE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY / TIRZ NO.3 DOWNTOWN INNOVATION SPACE

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority / TIRZ No.3 (the “DRA”) will receive proposals from developers, landlords, brokers and other interested parties for a vibrant innovation space to become the center of gravity for technology and entrepreneurship in the northern node of the Houston Innovation Corridor, located in TIRZ No.3 in Downtown Houston, Texas. Proposals will be received until 5:00 PM, local time on Thursday, September 19, 2019 by Robert Pieroni, Director of Economic Development, 2 Houston Center, 909 Fannin, Suite 1650, Houston, Texas 77010. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Respective of this advertisement, telephone, mail, email queries or requests for information will be addressed by the Authority.

Beginning Monday, August 26, 2019, this project’s Request for Proposals (RFP) may be reviewed and downloaded as an electronic file from the Authority’s website: <http://www.downtowntirz.com>. A pre-submittal conference is scheduled for 2:00 PM, Thursday, September 12, 2019, to be held at the Authority’s offices. Following this conference, queries or requests for information will be addressed by the Authority, pursuant to the instructions provided in the RFP. Based on the Proposals submitted, an evaluation DRA selection committee. The findings and recommendations of the selection committee will be presented to the full DRA Board of Directors for final approval. The project will not move forward without full board approval.



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Breach Includes Credit Card Numbers And Bank Account Information, According To A Filing

Quest Diagnostics Says Up To 12 Million Patients May Have Had Financial, Medical And Personal Information Exposed

Quest Diagnostics, one of the largest blood testing providers in the country, warned last Monday that nearly 12 million of its customers may have had personal, financial and medical information breached due to an issue with one of its vendors.

In a filing with securities regulators, Quest said it was notified that between Aug. 1, 2018, and March 30, 2019, that someone had unauthorized access to the systems of AMCA, a billing collections vendor.

“(The) information on AMCA’s affected system included financial information (e.g., credit card numbers and bank account information), medical information and other personal information (e.g., Social Security Numbers),” Quest said in the filing.

The clinical laboratory company said in a release that an “unauthorized user” gained access to a system used by American Medical Collection Agency (AMCA), a billing vendor hired by a Quest contractor called Optum360.



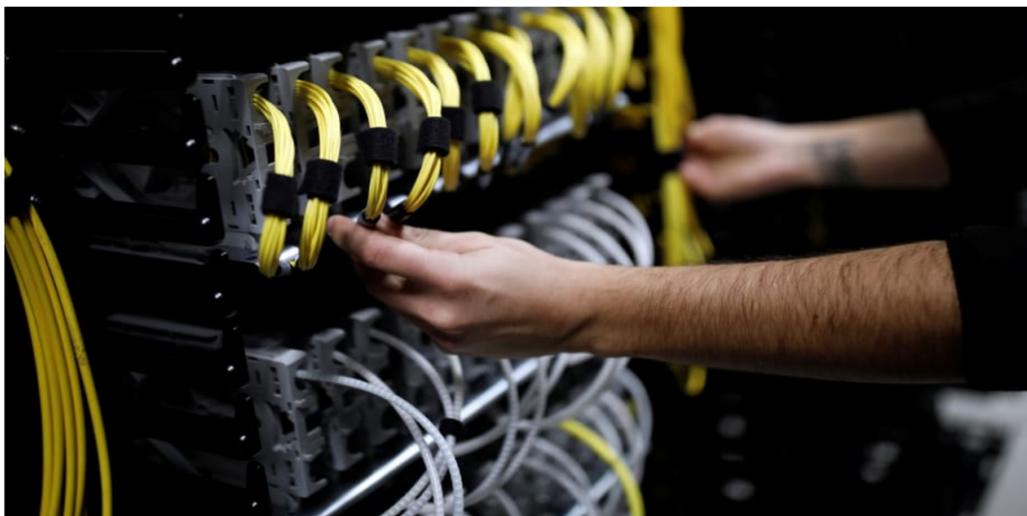
Quest said the information that may have been exposed included Social Security numbers and medical information, but not test results.

AMCA first notified Quest on May 14 of “potential unauthorized activity” on its payment page, Quest said. Two weeks later, according to Quest, AMCA then told Quest and Optum360 more about the breach, including the number of patients potentially affected and what information was accessed.

Quest (DGX) said it has suspended using AMCA and that it was using “forensic experts” to examine the issue.

It also said that AMCA has not provided “detailed or complete information” about the hack, including which customers might have been affected.

In a statement to CNN Business, Op-



OVERVIEW

Quest Diagnostics, one of the nation’s biggest blood testing providers, warned millions of its customers may have had information breached. In a filing with securities regulators, Quest said it was notified that someone had unauthorized access to a vendor’s systems for 7 months. Quest said it was told that as of May 31, information on roughly 11.9 million of its patients was stored on the affected system.

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

tum360 said its data systems “were not impacted” and said that security is “critically important to us, and we are actively working with Quest and AMCA to understand this issue and ensure appropriate actions are being taken.”

AMCA also released a statement saying it’s investigating the incident and remains “committed to our system’s security, data privacy, and the protection of personal information.”

“We are committed to keeping our pa-

tients, health care providers, and all relevant parties informed as we learn more,” Quest said in the release.



Quest’s stock was unchanged on the news. The company has roughly 2,200 locations across the United States, according to its website.

While customers’ broad medical information might have been compromised, Quest said AMCA did not have access to actual lab test results, and so therefore that data was not impacted.

Quest said it was told that as of May 31, information on roughly 11.9 million of its patients was stored on the affected

AMCA system.

The company said it has not received “detailed or complete” information from AMCA about the breach yet.

“Quest Diagnostics takes this matter very seriously and is committed to the privacy and security of patients’ personal, medical and financial information,” the company added in the filing.



In a statement later Monday, the firm representing the American Medical Collection System said it was investigating the “data incident.”

“Upon receiving information from a security compliance firm that works with credit card companies of a possible security compromise, we conducted an internal review, and then took down our web payments page,” the statement said. “We hired a third-party external forensics firm to investigate any potential security breach in our systems, migrated our web payments portal services to a third-party vendor, and retained additional experts to advise on, and implement, steps to increase our systems’ security. We have also advised law enforcement of this incident. We remain committed to our system’s security, data privacy, and the protection of personal information.” (Courtesy <https://www.nbcnewyork.com>)

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