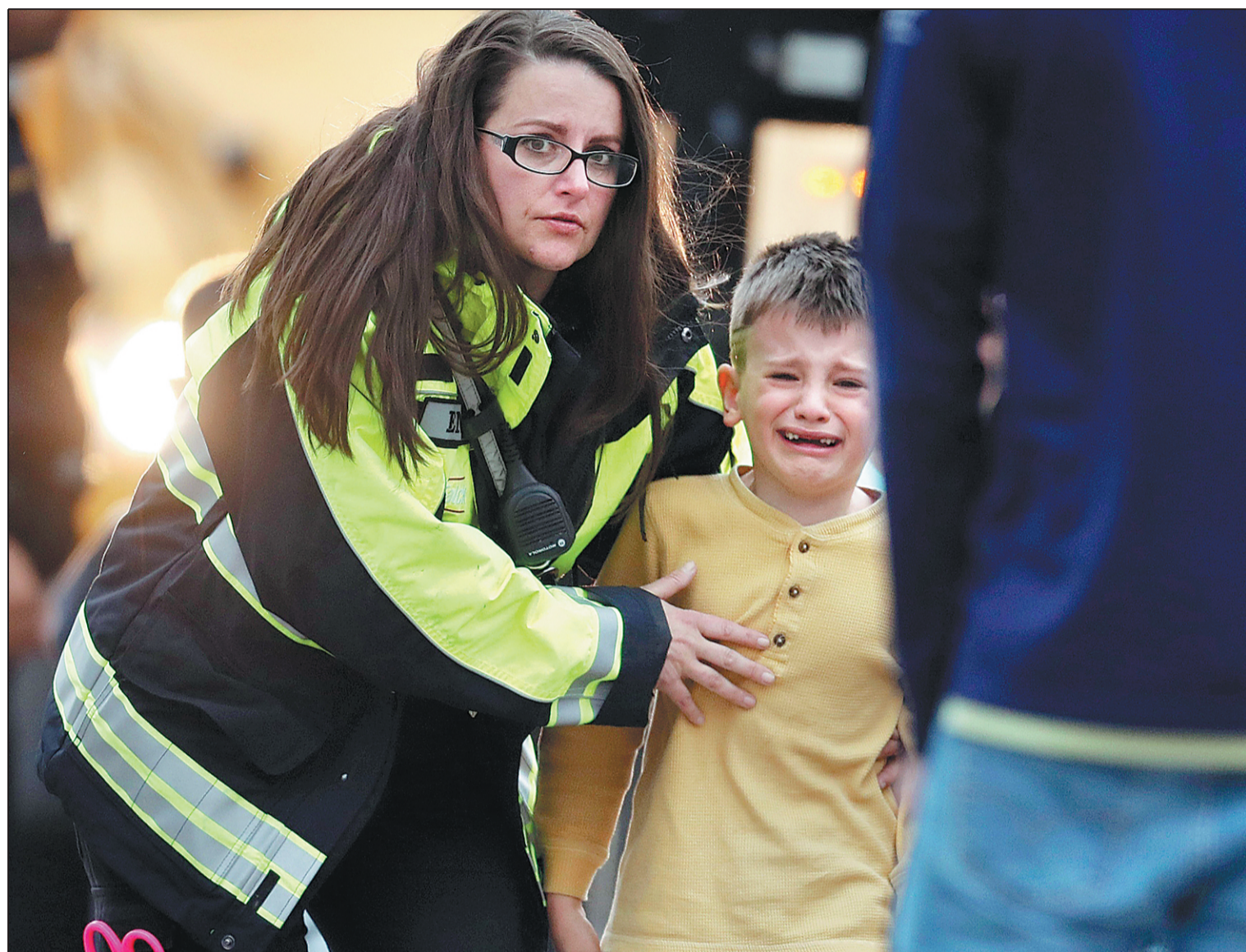




# CHINA DAILY

GLOBAL EDITION 中國日報 THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

## In safe hands



A student is guided off a bus and into a recreation center where students were united with their parents after a shooting at a middle school on Tuesday in a suburb of Denver in the US state of Colorado. One student was killed and eight were injured; two suspects were in custody. AP

## Rural village reaps plentiful harvest from agritourism

Residents of Huamao, Guizhou province, turn homes into inns, improve farming efforts

By CAI HONG, LI HANYI and DONG XIANWU in Zunyi, Guizhou

When Wang Zhiqiang returned in 2014 to Huamao, his home village in Southwest China's Guizhou province, after leading what he called "a vagrant life," he made a life-changing move.

He decided to fix up his vacant home, which was in poor condition, and turn part of it into an inn serving home-cooked dishes.

"I had tried to make ends meet all those years," Wang recalled at his home. He had left the village in the 1980s in search of jobs inside and outside the inland province, and ended up working in many cities in South China.

The decision to turn his home into an inn proved to be fortuitous.

Wang's home, the first family-run lodge in the village, did good business as people flooded in from nearby cities for farmer's food and rustic scenery.

While inspecting Huamao in June 2015, President Xi Jinping visited Wang's home and asked detailed questions about his family and business.

Xi's visit made Wang's inn even more popular, and now the village has 18 farm inns that cater to tourists from nearby cities.

The experience of Wang and his fellow villagers reflects how agritourism, in which tourists visit farms or ranches for recreational or educational purposes, has developed in

many parts of China in recent years.

Peng Longfen, who is village head of Huamao, said farm inns are one way the villagers have found to improve their livelihoods.

Huamao had long been known as an extremely impoverished, nearly inaccessible village, with dirt roads and not enough electricity, drinking water or natural gas.

"The voltage was so low in those days that our electric thrashers could not work properly," said Peng, who was born and grew up in a mountainous region in Guizhou and married a Huamao villager in 1993. "Also, we had to carry water for drinking, cooking meals and other purposes."

Thanks to an ambitious campaign to revitalize rural areas, launched by the Chinese government under Xi's leadership, Huamao has improved its public infrastructure, including roads. Wi-Fi now covers every home in the village of 1,345 households, or 4,950 people.

In 2014, Huamao invited a modern agriculture company in Shandong province to help the village improve its farming.

The company, Lvdong Jiufeng, established several cooperatives that involve planting fruit trees, vegetables or grain. It also built greenhouses and eco-friendly restaurants in Huamao.

The villagers have become company shareholders by leasing their farmland to it, and they also work for

See *XxxAgritourism*, page 3

## COLLEGE ADMISSION FIXERS TARGET RICH CHINESE

Huge amounts paid for entry to elite US schools

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco  
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Paying millions of dollars to secure their children a spot at an elite college may sound absurd to many parents, but some are prepared to do this.

Nicole Shen, the Chinese mother of a high school student in Palo Alto, California, said she would be willing to pay such an amount to get her daughter admitted to a top-tier university, if she could afford it. "As long as everything is legal," she added.

Two wealthy Chinese families have recently been in the spotlight and are the subject of widespread

discussion after media reports that they paid huge amounts in a high-profile college admissions scandal. The sums they paid dwarfed the typical amount footed by US parents.

The highest-known sum to date is the \$6.5 million paid by billionaire Zhao Tao, president and co-founder of Shandong Buchang Pharmaceuticals.

Zhao, 52, was introduced to William "Rick" Singer, a college con-

sultant in California and the mastermind behind the scandal, by Michael Wu, who worked as an adviser at the Los Angeles-area branch of investment bank Morgan Stanley, according to the Los Angeles Times. Wu has since been fired.

To ensure Zhao's daughter, Zhao Yusi, who is also known as Molly Zhao, was admitted to Stanford, Singer targeted the school's sailing program, even though the girl had no experience in competitive sailing.

She was admitted to Stanford in 2017, but was not recruited to the sailing program.

See *Scandal*, page 2

## WORLD WATCH

By Joanna Catalano

## Digital divide adds to gender disparity

New economies, driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, have dramatically redefined the way companies conduct business, from solving productivity problems to easing access to industries with high barriers of entry. Many hope technology will play a significant role in addressing workplace gender inequality.

Instead, technology has exacerbated — not alleviated — global gender equality issues.

According to Digital Society Index 2019, a study by London-based media and digital marketing communications company Dentsu Aegis Network, the confidence of women in many key economies worldwide in their digital capabilities often pales in comparison with that of men.

In the Asia-Pacific region, for example, 46 percent of women who were surveyed believe they have strong digital capabilities, compared with 55 percent of men, while 40 percent of women in the UK believe so, compared with 60 percent of men. In the United States, 50 percent of women have such confidence, compared with 64 percent of men.

This demonstrates that proliferation of gender disparity stems from a global digital divide, which, if not addressed properly, will stifle economic advancement to the tune of several billion dollars. As we are advancing toward a future where no job will be spared from technological disruption,

See *Gender*, page 3

## US trade groups pressure Trump on tariffs

By ZHAO HUANXIN in Washington  
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Major US trade bodies have urged the Trump administration to avoid further escalating tensions by suddenly increasing tariffs on Friday, while experts said it's sensible for China to continue negotiations in a measured way.

"This is a predicament for soy growers," American Soybean Association President Davie Stephens said on Tuesday, a day after United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said he planned to move forward with US President Donald Trump's Twitter threat on Sunday to increase tariffs from 10 to 25 percent on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods.

Stephens, a grower from Clinton, Kentucky, said that US farmers are in a tough situation, and with depressed prices and unsold stocks

forecast to double before the 2019 harvest begins in September, farmers urgently need the China market.

"We need a positive resolution of this ongoing tariff dispute, not further escalation of tensions," he said in a release posted on the ASA website.

Nicole Kaeding, vice-president of federal and special projects at the Washington-based Tax Foundation, said that if the Trump administration follows through on the president's threat, it's US taxpayers, not Chinese taxpayers, who will pay the price — thanks to higher prices and fewer job opportunities.

"Raising tariffs is not good for economic growth and will reduce employment in the United States," Kaeding told China Daily.

The Information Technology Industry Council also warned against further raising tariffs.

"Increasing tariffs will only continue to harm American consumers and businesses of all sizes and across all sectors, as well as threaten American economic growth and leadership in innovation," said Naomi Wilson, the council's senior director of policy for Asia.

Threats to increase tariffs at this juncture in the negotiations could negatively affect the headway both sides have made, Wilson said in a statement.

US chemical manufacturers also called for sensible trade policy solutions.

Cal Dooley, president and CEO of the American Chemistry Council, said he believed the risks of continuing to use tariffs as a negotiating tactic with China are simply too high, and potential benefits remain unclear.

China supplies the US with several chemicals that are not available anywhere else, and which are criti-



Farmers harvest rice during the first Harvest Festival at Huamao village in Guizhou province in September. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

cal inputs to US manufacturing. China is also the third-largest export market for US chemicals manufacturers, he said.

"We are starting to see signs that the tariffs are disrupting supply chains, cutting off markets and eroding US chemical-manufacturing competitiveness," Dooley said on Monday. "ACC and its members strongly urge President Trump to remain focused on sensible solutions with China this week and forgo the imposition of higher tariffs," he said.

Several organizations, including Tariffs Hurt the Heartland — the national campaign composed of more than 150 of the largest US trade organizations in retail, technology, manufacturing and agriculture — have in recent days highlighted the negative impact of tariff increases on the US economy and job market.

They cited a report in February

from Trade Partnership Worldwide as saying that increasing tariffs on \$200 billion of goods to 25 percent, coupled with tariffs already in place — as well as expected Chinese retaliation — would reduce US employment by more than 934,000 jobs and push down the US GDP by 0.37 percent.

The US was China's third-largest trading partner in the first four months of this year, the General Administration of Customs said on Wednesday. Data from the customs authority showed two-way trade between China and the US declined 11.2 percent year-on-year to 1.1 trillion yuan (\$162.5 billion) in the January-April period, accounting for 11.5 percent of China's total trade volume.

Vice-Premier Liu He, invited by Lighthizer and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, will visit the US on Thursday and Friday to attend the 11th round of the bilateral consultations on trade issues.

Jing Shuiyu in Beijing contributed to this story.

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Asia Pacific: Thailand 120 thb; Philippines 120 php; Myanmar 2000 kyat; Japan 210 yen; Dubai 10 dirham; Pakistan 300 rupee

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# TOP NEWS

## BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

# Look at China as partner, UK told

Govt needs proactive policy toward Asia, ex-diplomatic adviser says

By JULIAN SHEA in London  
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Former senior British diplomatic adviser Charles Powell says the country needs to think of China as a “partner not an enemy” when accommodating its rising power and new prominence on the international stage. He said the United Kingdom government should follow the lead of business with a proactive policy toward Asia as a whole.

In a speech at St Mary's University in London, titled: The New Leviathan: Managing China's Rise, Powell, a former private secretary to prime ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major, spoke of the challenges and opportunities presented by China's transformation over the last four decades, and how Britain should respond to them for the good of all involved.

“The favorite tagline of our politicians at the moment is ‘Global Britain’ but to date, it is a completely vapid concept with no one attempting to define it, but relations with China and Asia will be the most obvious place to give it substance and meaning, especially in a post-Brexit world,” he said.

“We need our government to get on with defining its strategy toward China ... British companies have given the lead in designating Asia as the future for business, our government has been slower and inconsistent in defining a role.”

As a career civil servant and diplomat who spent years at the heart of government, and who was also president of the China-Britain Business Council and vice-chairman of the advisory board to the Fudan University Business School in Shanghai, Powell has

developed a great understanding of China.

Speaking in front of an audience which included Wang Yongli, minister counsellor for education at China's embassy in the UK, Powell repeated Napoleon Bonaparte's famous quote about the country — “China is a sleeping giant; let her sleep, because when she wakes, she will move the world” — while discussing the country's traumatic past, how that shaped its resurgent present, and would direct its future.

“If ever a country has been through the wringer, it is China,” he said. “It's the key to understanding modern China, born in humiliation, division and defeat, both because of self-exclusion from the world and through foreign subjugation and exploitation. “What drives it now is a determination to expunge the shame of the past and, as Chairman Mao Zedong put it, to see China stand up again. I doubt any nation has ever been driven by any emotion as strong as this. It embraces nationalism, but it's more than nationalism, it's vindication and a desire for respect.”

He said he felt upbeat about the role a resurgent China could play in world affairs. Lessons must be learnt from the old Cold War between the West and Communist bloc in Eastern Europe to ensure such mistakes are not repeated when dealing with the new superpower, he added.

“I am fundamentally positive about China's prospects,” he said. “The Cold War, in its time, diverted resources on a massive scale and led us into enormous risks. There has to be a better way to resolve conflicts this time with the world's new rising power.”

## We should fly again



Jet Airways employees display placards during a protest demanding saving of Jet Airways at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, India, on Wednesday. Jet halted all flight operations indefinitely on April 17 after its lenders rejected its plea for emergency funds. FRANCIS MASCARENHAS / REUTERS

## London Craft Week sees innovations from 15 countries

By BO LEUNG in London  
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Hundreds of exhibitions and a huge range of creative work will be on display in the United Kingdom capital at the fifth edition of London Craft Week.

Hundreds of designers, brands, and artists will take part, along with galleries from 15 countries. Displays and activities, which will include workshops and talks, will take place at 150 locations across London between Wednesday and Sunday.

Visitors will be able to take a close look at talented people working and admire craftsmanship from all over the world.

Countries that will be represented at the London Craft Week include China, Korea, Japan, Italy, Denmark, and Iran. Works will include

examples of darning, dressmaking, lacquering, and luthiery, which is the craft of making stringed instruments.

The event will also explore luxury brands, fashion, and global craftsmanship.

At the Asia House in Marylebone, an area in the West End of London, Beautiful China & Picturesque Zhejiang: An Exhibition of Innovation from Zhejiang and Hangzhou, will showcase a fusion of traditional craft with the power of innovation. Designers from the city of Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province, have created works using five traditional materials: bamboo, wood, silk, copper, and ceramic.

The exhibition's organizers want to deepen the understanding of Zhejiang's culture in the UK and encourage an exchange of creative and cultural ideas.

There will also be a visual feast of Chinese craftsmanship at The Hospital Club in Covent Garden, also in the West End of London. Amazing China: Multidisciplinary Exhibition of Chinese Arts & Crafts, is a three-day event that will explore Chinese talent and creativity and feature clothing, embroidery, ceramics, and clay figurines.

Other highlights include Scorched, an exhibition of burned wood pieces, by leading contemporary artists and designers, at Fitzrovia Chapel, situated in Pearson Square in London. Scorched will present the traditional process of *shou-sugi-ban*, which is also known as *yakisugi*. It is a technique that organizers say originated in Japan in the 18th century and involves the charring of the surface of wood.

Since its beginning in 2015, London Craft Week has evolved from an

ambitious experimental enterprise to a key event on the UK's creative calendar. Last year, more than 99,000 people took part in 2,039 events.

Guy Salter, founder of London Craft Week, said: “Our hunch when we started was based on two things. First, many of us were hungry for something more than the restricted diet of the unremarkable or lookalikes found in similar shopping streets, malls and e-commerce sites. Second, that there was an iceberg of exceptional talent and richness of human ingenuity, which could more than satisfy that demand.”

As well as exploring traditional craft techniques, this year's program will provide an insight into the future of creative industries, with technologies featured including 3D printing and virtual reality.

## Gender: Collective effort needed to bridge divide

From page 1

addressing the divide now is more crucial than ever.

To address the digital gender divide, various governments have been making concerted efforts to ensure all citizens are equipped with the tools and knowledge to succeed in today's digital society.

Last year, the UK government launched the £1 Million Digital Skills Innovation Fund with the intention of equipping women and underrepresented groups with the skills needed to succeed in digital, technology or engineering roles. In September, the Australian government launched a publicly funded project to develop a 10-year road map aimed at encouraging more women and girls to study and take up careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

These initiatives will have a visible effect on women's confidence in the workplace. In China, the government's move to include emerging technologies as part of the formal national education curriculum has paid off considerably in nurturing a generation of women with the digital skills essential in the new economy.

In the world's second-largest

economy, 62 percent of women believe they are adept at using digital skills. This confidence will be crucial to women's continued relevance in the workplace.

However, digital skills and engagement are just one piece of the puzzle in solving gender inequality in the workplace. Economic, social and cultural conditions demand that we work with our partners, clients and communities to build a more inclusive workforce for the new economy.

Diverse businesses are more successful, both commercially and in fostering innovation. It is crucial to invest in female talent and provide women with equal access to high-profile career opportunities, mentorship and effective talent planning.

We must collectively play a role to bridge the digital divide and create a more inclusive workforce to make gender equality a reality in this lifetime.

*The author is president of Brand Solutions APAC, CEO of iProspect APAC and diversity and inclusion sponsor for Dentsu Aegis Network APAC. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*

## Agritourism: Village changed by cooperatives

From page 1

the company and get a year-end bonus.

The rental, which was originally 10,500 yuan (\$1,550) per hectare, increases 3 percent every year, so the arrangement has turned out to be a stable source of income for most of Huamao's residents. Only the land on the slopes is not taken by the company, Peng said.

“The cooperatives have changed the village a lot,” said Peng. “Some 2,000 people, or almost half of the village's population, used to leave their families to work in other places. Now they don't have to go far away but are making a living on the cooperatives or from agritourism.”

In 2018, 1.85 million people visited the village, which brought in more than 50 million yuan in revenue, Peng said. While the Huamao villagers' disposable income was 6,478 yuan on average in 2012, the figure has risen to 17,456 yuan, she added.

Chen Yibing, who is in his 20s, opened a guesthouse in the village. His business, which employs 22 villagers, brought in more than 2.6 million yuan last year.

Peng said, “When people don't have to look for jobs in urban areas, we have no ‘left-behind’ children or ‘empty nests.’”

When China's rural people leave their land to work in cities, they often leave their children with grandparents or old relatives.

In 2014, Shu Changying, 46, came back to the village from Guangdong province, where she had stayed as a migrant worker for more than 20 years, for her daughter's wedding. She leased her land to the Lvdong Jiufeng Co and worked as a waitress at its restaurant.



Tourists pass by a family-run lodge in the village of Huamao in Guizhou province in 2017. ZHU WEI / XINHUA



said, “We have built greenhouses ... where we are growing pollution-free farm produce.”

The vegetables it produces include eggplant, cucumbers, tomatoes, balsam pears and chili peppers — favorite ingredients for dishes in Southwest China.

Boosting agriculture is key to revitalization of the countryside, He said. In so doing, farmland use is optimized and farmers have a stable source of income. “Also, our community is safe and happy, since children and old people are not left alone anymore,” he added.

The cooperative has also offered training on how to improve farming, such as greenhouse construction and pest control.

Through such changes, Huamao has provided a good example of a village that has shaken off poverty and improved livelihoods.

Guizhou province has said it will lift all of its 1.55 million poor people out of poverty by 2020. This year it is committed to lifting 1.1 million people out of poverty, according to

Guizhou's poverty alleviation department.

The Chinese government has also set 2020 as the target for alleviating poverty nationwide.

Addressing a symposium on poverty alleviation problems in April in Chongqing, President Xi urged all-out efforts to achieve the nation's goal of eliminating poverty.

Xi said food and clothing have been mostly guaranteed, while there remain some difficulties in access to education, medical care and proper housing.

Rural people should not be left behind while pursuing a moderately prosperous society in all respects, Xi said. Poor people's basic needs must be guaranteed along with the country's development, he said at the meeting, adding that poverty alleviation measures must reach each and every person.

Poverty reduction measures, such as building industries and offering training, should be used to ensure that people in impoverished areas have jobs, he said.

## Mommy, we're with you



A swan with her nine cygnets are seen on a pond near Pembroke, Wales, Britain, on Tuesday. REBECCA NADEN / REUTERS