

More than 1,150 firefighters struggled to put out a fire in Portugal's southern Algarve tourist region on Monday, which injured 25 people overnight and led to the evacuation of homes and hotels.

China state media attacks Trump policies on trade

China's state media on Monday lashed out at the policies of US President Donald Trump in an unusually direct attack, accusing him of "starring in his own carefully orchestrated street fighter-style deceitful drama".

Trump's wish for others to play along with his drama is "wishful thinking," the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily newspaper said in an editorial, Reuters reported.

The editorial said the US had escalated trade friction with China, and turned international trade into "zero-sum game".

"Governing a country is not like doing business," the editorial said, arguing that Trump's actions imperiled the national credibility of the US.

The state media sought to reassure investors anxious about China's economy as growth concerns battered its financial markets.

The heated dispute between the world's two biggest economies has roiled financial markets including stocks, currencies and the global trade of commodities from soybeans to coal in recent months. Last month, the International Monetary Fund warned that escalating trade conflicts following US tariff actions on its trading partners threaten to derail the global economic recovery.

The United States and China implemented tariffs on \$34 billion worth of each other's goods in July. Washington is expected to soon implement tariffs on an additional \$16 billion of Chinese goods, which China has already said it will match immediately.

On Friday, China's Finance Ministry unveiled new sets of additional tariffs on 5,207 goods imported from the United States worth \$60 billion.

That move was in response to the Trump administration's proposal of a 25-percent tariff on \$200 billion worth



DAMIR SAGOLJ/REUTERS

of Chinese imports.

"US now has upper hand on China"

Trump defended his use of tariffs, telling an audience of diehard supporters on Saturday that playing hardball on trade is "my thing," Bloomberg reported.

"We have really rebuilt China, and it's time that we rebuild our own country now," Trump said. He added that Chinese stocks are down, weakening that nation's bargaining power in the escalating trade war.

Trump continued his focus on tariffs Sunday morning, tweeting that the duties are working "big time" and that im-

ported goods should be taxed or made in the US. He also suggested duties will allow paying down "large amounts of the \$21 Trillion in debt that has been accumulated" while reducing taxes for Americans.

"Every country on earth wants to take wealth out of the US, always to our detriment," Trump tweeted, "I say, as they come, Tax them."

The trade war, rising corporate bankruptcies, and a steep decline in the value of the yuan versus the dollar have raised concerns that China's economy could face a steeper slowdown.

Recent data showed growth has already started to cool. The government

has responded by releasing more liquidity into the banking system, encouraging lending and promising a more "active" fiscal policy.

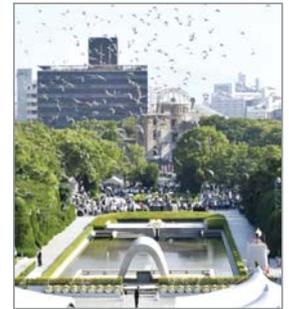
US companies are putting in place measures to cushion the impact of the trade row, including price hikes, and a number of companies - from industrial firms to home furnishers and toymakers - have said they will move some sourcing and manufacturing outside of China.

China's exports are expected to have maintained solid growth in July despite the new tariffs on billions of dollars of shipments to the US, though the outlook has darkened as both sides raised the stakes in the trade brawl.

Japan marks 73rd anniversary of atomic attack on Hiroshima

A bell tolled Monday in Hiroshima as Japan marked 73 years since the world's first atomic bombing, with the city's mayor warning that rising nationalism worldwide threatened peace.

The skies over Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park were clear, just as they were on August 6, 1945, when an American B-29 bomber dropped its deadly payload on the port city dotted with military installations, ultimately killing 140,000 people, AFP reported.



SHINGO NISHIZUME/KYODO NEWS VIA AP

Doves fly over the cenotaph dedicated to the victims of the atomic bombing during a ceremony to mark the 73rd anniversary of the bombing at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, on Aug. 6, 2018.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, standing at the park near ground zero for the annual ceremony, appealed for a world without nuclear weapons and sounded the alarm over increasing nationalism.

Without naming specific nations, he warned that "certain countries are explicitly expressing self-centered nationalism and modernizing their nuclear arsenals."

They were "rekindling tensions that had eased with the end of the Cold War", he added.

He urged the abolition of nuclear weapons, in a year when President Donald Trump pledged to increase the US nuclear arsenal.

"If the human family forgets history or stops confronting it, we could again commit a terrible error. That is precisely why we must continue talking about Hiroshima," Matsui said.

"Efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons must continue."

His call however highlighted Japan's contradictory relationship with nuclear weapons.

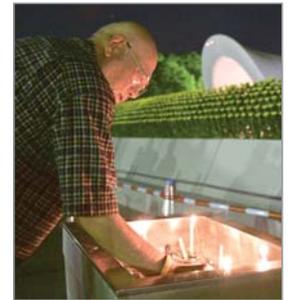
Japanese officials routinely argue that they oppose atomic weapons but the nation's defense is dependent on the US nuclear umbrella.

New relations

This year's ceremony came amid a diplomatic push for the denuclearization of North Korea that saw Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong-un hold unprecedented talks.

Reports suggest Tokyo is also considering a summit soon between Kim and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with local media floating a possible meeting on the sidelines of an international forum in Russia's Vladivostok next month.

"Ultimately, I myself will have to directly face chairman Kim Jong-un and engage in dialogue and resolve the nuclear, missile and, above all, the all-important abduction issue, and then build new Japan-North Korea relations," Abe said in Hiroshima on Monday.



YOHEI NISHIMURA/KYODO NEWS VIA AP

Abe, whose government has chosen not to participate in the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, said Japan had a responsibility to bridge the gap between nuclear and non-nuclear nations.

"In recent years, it has become evident that gaps exist among countries about ways to proceed with nuclear arms reduction," Abe told the ceremony, without directly referring to the treaty.

"Our nation, while maintaining our (non-nuclear weapons) principles, will patiently work to serve as a bridge between the two sides and lead efforts by the international community" to reduce nuclear weapons, Abe said.

Japan suffered two nuclear attacks by the United States at the end of World War II - first in Hiroshima and then in Nagasaki three days later. The bombings claimed the lives of 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 74,000 people in Nagasaki.

Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit Hiroshima in May 2016.

May still believes Britain will win a good Brexit deal - spokesman

Prime Minister Theresa May still believes that Britain will negotiate a good Brexit deal with the European Union rather than failing to win any agreement for its departure from the bloc, her spokesman said on Monday.

The spokesman told reporters that British Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox was right to highlight in an interview at the weekend the risk of Britain crashing out from the EU, which helped push the pound down to an 11-month low, Reuters reported.

"We continue to believe that a deal is the most likely outcome because reaching a good deal is not only in the interests of the UK, it is in the interests of the EU and its 27 members," the spokesman said.

Britain's international trade minister said it's likely the UK will fail to agree upon a divorce deal with the European Union before it leaves the bloc in March - the latest in a growing



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/POOL VIA REUTERS

chorus of warnings that the negotiations are in crisis.

Fox told the Sunday Times newspaper that "intransigence" by EU officials

"is pushing us towards no deal."

He put the chance of Britain crashing out without a deal at 60 percent.

Britain and the EU say they aim to

hammer out an agreement on divorce terms and future trade by October so that it can be approved by all individual EU countries before the UK leaves the bloc on March 29.

But the talks have stalled, and the British government is trying to heap pressure on the other 27 EU nations to compromise by stressing the economic harm to all sides that would come from a "no-deal" Brexit that imposes tariffs and other barriers on UK-EU trade.

Fox accused EU officials of putting a "theological obsession" of sticking to the rules ahead of "the economic wellbeing of the people of Europe."

EU officials say Britain has failed to make realistic proposals about future ties. They accuse the UK of seeking to retain the benefits of EU membership - such as free trade - without accepting the bloc's rules, including the free movement of people among member states.

Five killed, dozens shot in Chicago 'violent night'

Forty-four people were shot across the Midwestern US city of Chicago Sunday, US media reported, with five killed in a wave of violence police branded "totally unacceptable."

Chicago Police Patrol Chief Fred Waller told a press conference Sunday afternoon some of the shootings were "targeted" and related to gang conflicts, AFP reported.

"The city of Chicago experienced a violent night. Incidents of either random or targeted shooting on our streets is totally unacceptable," he said.

CNN reported multiple shootings took place between midnight and 2:00 p.m. local time - with 10 taking place in just three hours from 1:30 a.m.

Gunmen targeted groups including one gathering of people who had attended a funeral repast, police said,



JOSHUA LOTT/AFP

Chicago experienced a near 20-year record number of murders in 2016, prompting President Donald Trump to regularly single out the city for criticism.

adding that one of the injured victims was an 11-year-old boy.

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But Waller said so far this year, there has been a reduction in shootings of over 30 percent in Chicago, while murders are down by 25 percent.

"That's not a victory by any means, or any stretch" he said. "But we continue to head in the right direction."

He also said more than 5,500 illegal guns had been confiscated from the city's streets.

"I promise this city, we won't be defeated," the police chief vowed during the press conference.

"We all live in this city. We all want this city to be safer."