

End to Boeing trade case good news

Montreal

Boeing Co's decision to end its trade case over the sale of Bombardier CSeries jets to U.S. carriers is good news for the aerospace industry and the public, the Canadian plane and train maker said on Friday. Boeing said late on Thursday it will not appeal a U.S. trade commission ruling that allows Bombardier to sell its CSeries in the United States without hefty duties.



2 million users suppressing ads: Spotify

Washington

Music streaming service Spotify Technology SA said on Friday about 2 million of its non-paying users were suppressing advertisements, highlighting a potential revenue risk for the soon-to-be public company. Spotify had 157 million active users as of Dec. 31, of which about 71 million were paid subscribers who access ad-free versions of the service.



“We will talk about anything as a principal with a friendly country that respects the rules of the World Trade Organization. We won't talk at all with a country if it is with a gun to our heads,”

-Emmanuel Macron,

French leader on EU trade deals with the US



Looming U.S.-China trade war

U.S. President Trump is imposing 25 percent tariffs on up to \$60 billion worth of Chinese goods while China unveiled taxes on \$3 billion of U.S. imports in response to steel and aluminium duties announced earlier on March 8.

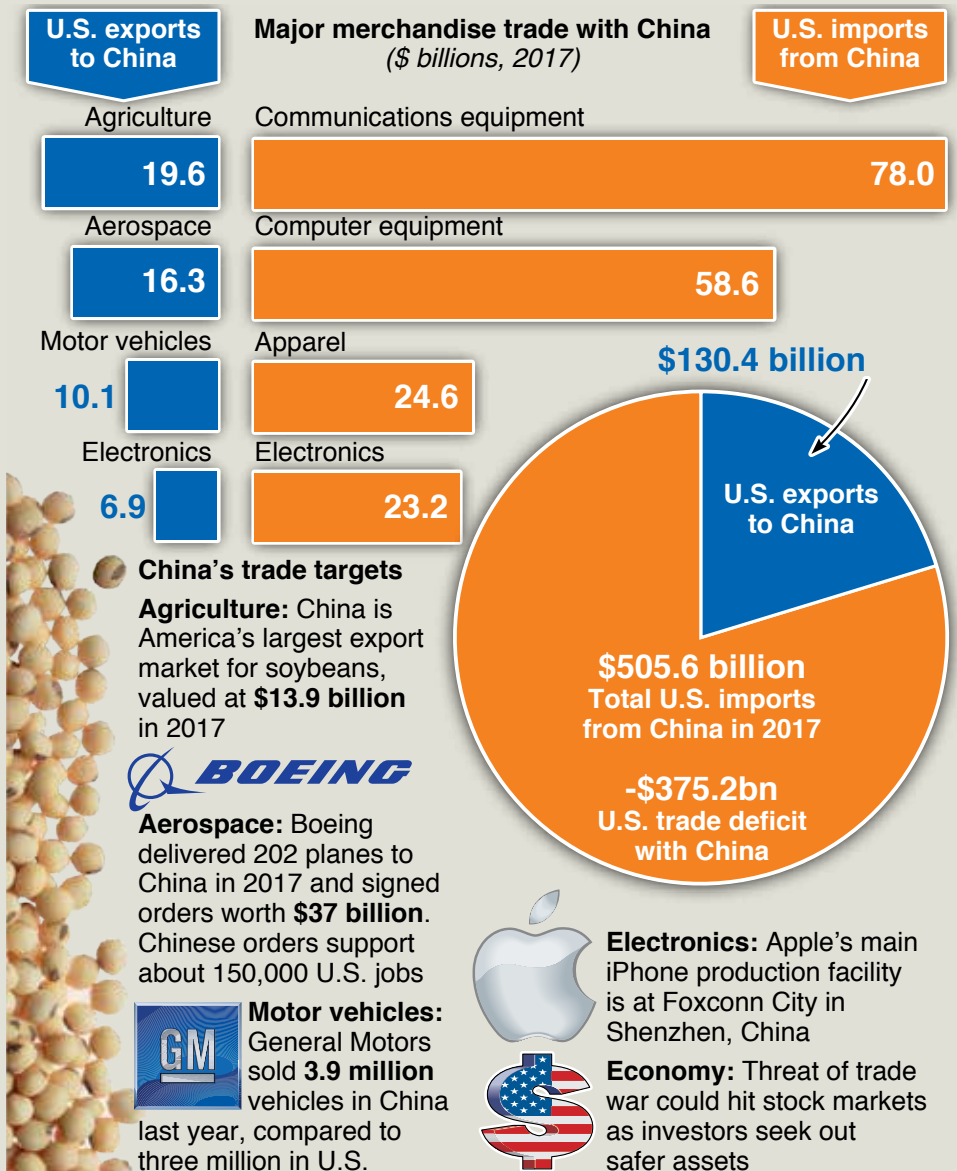
The United States shipped \$138.5 billion worth of agricultural products around the world in 2017, including \$19.6 billion (14 percent) to China.

Now, one of America's most prominent farming industries fears it could find itself a target of Chinese retaliation. Exports of soybeans totalled \$13.9 billion in 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The idea of targeting soybeans would be to inflict economic pain in states where Trump's base lies, according to Randal Phillips of the Mintz Group, a firm that helps companies identify risk. Eight of the most prominent exporting states voted for Trump in 2016. A ninth, Minnesota, voted narrowly for Hillary Clinton.

China and Hong Kong combined is also the second-biggest market for U.S. pork, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation. On Friday, China's Ministry of Commerce announced plans for a 25 percent tax on U.S. pork imports.

Other businesses with significant sales in China that Beijing could target include Apple, Boeing and General Motors.



Myanmar, India mull oil pipeline



Representative picture

Kuala Lumpur

India has proposed to build a pipeline from the country's east coast to deliver oil products, mainly diesel, to Myanmar, a Myanmar government official said yesterday.

“We have already connected (oil and gas) pipelines to China and Thailand, and we considered connecting (oil) pipelines to India as well as Bangladesh. This is under consideration to share petroleum products,”

Zaw Aung, director general of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy's oil and gas planning department, said at the OTC Asia conference.

A working group has been formed by Myanmar and India to look at issues such as security, land and oil storage, and how to price the fuel and the oil's specification, he told Reuters.

Myanmar currently imports about 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel and gasoline mainly from

Singapore, Zaw Aung said, and produces only 12,000 bpd of oil locally.

The country has invited investors to build refineries but high land cost is one of the main issues to overcome, he said.

The country has also held its first round of talks with China and Bangladesh to discuss building an electricity transmission grid across borders to ease power shortages, Zaw Aung said. (Reuters)

Niki Lauda's new airline to cooperate with Lufthansa

Vienna

Austria's Laudamotion will provide up to eight crewed aircraft to Lufthansa's low-cost carrier Eurowings until the end of May, Niki Lauda's repurchased and rebranded carrier said on Friday.

Lufthansa had planned to grow Eurowings by buying failed Air Berlin's Niki unit itself but scrapped the purchase after the European

Laudamotion will provide up to eight crewed aircraft to Lufthansa

Commission indicated it would veto the deal.

Niki was instead bought by its founder Lauda, who

beat rival offers from British Airways-owner IAG and Irish low-cost giant Ryanair.

The three-times Formula One world champion then sold 75 percent of the carrier to Ryanair before the first planes took off again.

The basic agreement between Lauda and Lufthansa covers a little more than two months, not the whole summer season that runs to October.