



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton greets people in Miami on November 5



Supporters of Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, look on as he speaks during a rally on November 5

Corporate US dismayed over choice of Clinton or Trump

By Barney Jopson
in Washington

US businesses are deeply dissatisfied with Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump for shunning the concerns of corporate America, but would prefer to see the Democrat in the White House, according to lobby groups that represent more than 30,000 companies.

A Financial Times survey reveals that business groups have become increasingly dismayed by the bitter campaign as the two candidates have launched populist attacks on corporate America in addition to impugning each other.

Mrs Clinton is favoured over Mr Trump by a ratio of two to one, maintaining the position she held when the FT polled business groups in May. But a larger number of respondents - 45 percent - say they are not happy with either candidate or cannot choose between them.

The results suggest business faces a period of post-election angst regardless of who wins on Tuesday [Wednesday, Macau], as a possible Trump victory stokes fears of a trade war, while the prospect of a Clinton win sparks worries of a leftwing assault on big companies.

"Both of them are less than ideal. Less than we've ever had before," said Gary Shapiro, president of the Consumer Technology Association, whose members include Apple, Uber

and Best Buy. "This is an election of two bad choices and which is worse."

The survey revealed pockets of concern over the potential for unrest if the election result is close or disputed, together with widespread contempt for both candidates' failure to address how to reduce the US's towering national debt.

The FT polled 58 Washington-based trade associations and received responses from 18 of them that lobby for some 37,000 businesses with combined annual revenues of more than USD8 trillion.

A lobbying chief who represents big-name multinationals said most of his members were "not at all excited about Hillary Clinton", partly because she turned against the TPP trade pact that she once supported. But he said they would be more comfortable with her than Mr Trump.

"They would have preferred a more conventional pro-business candidate who would have supported trade," he added. "They're very mindful of the fact this is the first presidential election since world war two where neither

of the candidates has supported trade liberalisation."

Despite running as a businessman, Mr Trump has strained ties between the Republican party and its corporate allies by threatening to tear up trade deals. He has also criticised Apple, Ford and others for manufacturing overseas and slammed the backroom influence of company lobbyists.

Only 17 percent of trade associations said he would be the best president, citing his promises to slash regulation and taxes. Mr Trump has pledged to cut the top rate of corporate tax from 35 percent to 15 percent whereas Mrs Clinton has not said whether she would change it.

But one pro-Trump respondent said: "It is doubtful he has the political skill to implement anything beneficial to us."

Mr Shapiro, who supported Mitt Romney in 2012, said: "Donald Trump would not be hired for a job by most people in corporate America. The level of ego, the divisiveness, the lack of ethics, several thousand lawsuits, the self-aggrandisement. He's not a team player."

“ Trump has demonstrated a level of unpredictability that is virtually unseen in American politics.

US LOBBYIST

Mrs Clinton has made a habit of attacking big companies by name, chastising Wells Fargo for creating faked bank accounts, Mylan for price gouging with its EpiPen, and Pfizer for attempting to cut its tax bill by moving its domicile overseas.

But 39 percent of respondents said she would be the best president, arguing she represented stability and experience. "Mr Trump has demonstrated a level of unpredictability that is virtually unseen in American politics. Mrs Clinton, on the other hand, is the epitome of a 'known quantity'," said one lobby group head.

Others, however, expressed doubts about how she would govern politically, noting she faces emboldened liberals such as Bernie Sanders, her erstwhile primary challenger, who pulled her to the left on issues such as trade, banks and college fees.

One respondent noted that Mrs Clinton has said "you need both a public and a private position" on issues, according to a speech transcript released by WikiLeaks last month. "I am not sure that Clinton is sincere in her statements. Who knows," he said. "The Democratic left will probably force Clinton to stick with her public positions."

Another said: "Hillary is a pragmatist and hopefully that will prevail if she is elected."

A majority of respondents said they were not worried the election would trigger unrest that affected their members, but three

in 10 said they were somewhat concerned and one in 10 were very concerned.

"I think we can handle [violence] if it should occur. I think it's more the uncertainty," said Mr Shapiro. Noting that Al Gore eventually urged his supporters to accept the result of the contested 2000 election, he said: "If Trump doesn't do that ever, or for some significant period of time, it's obviously going to be damaging to the US in many different ways to deny the legitimacy of the office of the presidency."

There was an overwhelming consensus among 89 percent of lobby groups that the election has already harmed the US's image in the eyes of the rest of the world.

The two candidates also scored poorly on tackling the US's \$15 trillion national debt, which corporate leaders see as a long-term threat to economic growth. Asked which candidate's policies would do most to reduce the national debt, two-thirds of respondents chose "none of the above" or said they did not know.

"Real deep policy positions that include pain are not a headline in this election," said one trade association. "Neither of these candidates would be inclined to make the difficult decisions necessary to reduce the federal debt."

AIRSHOW CHINA | ZHUHAI

Aircraft makers go full throttle in pursuit of the rich opportunities China offers

By Ben Bland, Zhuhai

The Hawk jets of Britain's Red Arrows display team fly 600 miles on one tank, so the RAF pilots had to make 22 stops on their way to promote UK industry at China's Zhuhai air show.

Aircraft manufacturers from Boeing and Airbus to Bombardier and Embraer are also going to great lengths to impress China, whether by promoting new models such as the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787, offering big discounts or promising to help the development of China's aviation industry.

While Beijing's mission to build its own airliners has gathered pace, western executives at the biennial show in the southern province of Guangdong do not expect a local competitor soon.

"China is our biggest market in terms of aeroplane deliveries and future orders for the next 20 years," says Darren Hulst, Boeing's managing director for marketing in north-east Asia.

"The Zhuhai air show is about meeting customers, interacting with the government, with financiers, lessors and banks and recognising the industry that



Visitors look at China's first self-developed turboshaft engine at the Zhuhai Airshow in south China's Guangdong Province

Chinese aviation has become."

Although economic growth is slowing in China, aviation executives are betting that demand for air travel will remain strong as Beijing shifts its focus from developing capital-intensive industries to promoting domestic consumption and the services sector.

Boeing predicts China will spend USD1 trillion on 6,800 passenger aircraft during the next 20 years as air travel in the most populous nation grows an average of 6.4 percent per year, outpacing the global average of 4.8 percent.

China's first domestically produced passenger jet, the 80-100 seat ARJ21,

entered service this year.

State-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, which makes the ARJ21, is also working on the bigger C919, designed to compete directly with the Boeing 737 and Airbus A319/A320 families that are the mainstay of short-haul aviation globally. Industry executives in

Zhuhai stressed the difficulty of going from small production runs and prototypes to making successful families of passenger aircraft.

"This is an industry that requires a lot of time, a lot of experience and a lot of funds," says Colin Bole of Bombardier, the Canadian manufacturer that has

launched its CSeries airliners after years of delays and cost overruns.

"I've no doubt that funds are available in China but it takes mistakes and going wrong on earlier projects to be truly successful."

Boeing and Airbus, with other foreign manufacturers, are under pressure to share know-how in exchange for access to the market. Both source a significant number of components in the country, where Airbus started to build a second production facility this year, with Aviation Industry Corporation of China, its state-owned joint venture partner.

Boeing has revealed its intention to establish its first manufacturing facility in China, working alongside Comac to put the finishing touches to 737s.

François Caudron, senior vice-president of marketing at Airbus, says selling aircraft in any big market requires "give and take", highlighting the company's decision to open a final assembly line in the US last year.

While his company has built industrial facilities in China, "the know-how remains with Airbus".

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Stephen Wright, Niniek Karmini,
Jakarta

CRIME

Indonesian women killed in HK are forgotten at home

THEY were poor and vulnerable — nobodies trying to make a living in a sophisticated and clinical metropolis far from their island villages. They were brutalized by a member of the global 1 percent, a Cambridge University-educated 31-year-old who boasted that he spent his half-million-dollar salary on drugs and prostitutes.

The Hong Kong trial of a British stock trader who murdered two Indonesian women and horrifically tortured one of them, recording the three-day ordeal on his phone, has captured headlines day after day in the territory off China and in media outlets around the world.

■ The victims may have been stigmatized because of their involvement in prostitution

But in Indonesia, their home, the reaction was far different: Scarcely anyone noticed.

Social media didn't stir. There were no dramatic headlines or outraged editorials about the plight of the millions of vulnerable Indonesian women compelled by poverty to work abroad.

The prosecution last week presented horrifying evidence of three days of escalating torture for the first victim, Sumarti Ningsih. She was repeatedly raped, her genitalia battered with fists, her body mutilated with pliers and her throat slowly cut with a serrated knife. Jurors wore frozen expressions of shock as defendant Rurik Jutting's smartphone videos were played.

"I've never seen anyone that scared," Jutting said of Ningsih in one of the videos. "She



Family members of Indonesian migrant worker Sumarti Ningsih who was murdered in Hong Kong. From left to right: father Ahmad Kaliman, brother Suyit and mother Suratni

would voluntarily eat feces out of the toilet and then smile and thank me afterward. That's how scared she was. She would just do anything."

While Indonesian broadcasters largely ignored that case, they devoted hours of live coverage to the Indonesian trial of a privileged young woman accused of murdering her friend with cyanide-laced coffee, allegedly because she was angry about a tiff over boyfriends.

"We find no support from the government and media in our own country," said Ningsih's brother Suyit Khaliman. "We don't understand, maybe because she was a maid or whatever. No matter how she worked for her family, she deserves justice," he said.

In the two years since Ningsih was killed, no one from the

government has been in touch with the family, Khaliman said. They heard the trial had started from reporters and some online news reports.

The family is also grappling with the future of Ningsih's son, now 7.

One day, Khaliman said, "The boy will know how his mother died, perhaps from the internet, and we are worried about that."

Closing arguments in Jutting's murder trial are expected by the end of this week. He has pleaded not guilty.

Ningsih, 23, and the second victim, 26-year-old Seneng Mujiasih, were among the legions of Indonesians working abroad, many of them undocumented, and vulnerable to exploitation.

The International Labour Organization estimated their

numbers at 4.3 million in 2012. Migrant Care, an Indonesian advocacy group, says most are not educated beyond primary school and 85 percent are women. It says government commitments to bolster protections are still mainly only on paper.

Ningsih had worked in Hong Kong for several years and was on a visitor pass at the time of her murder. Jutting had paid her for sex on a previous occasion. Her family, who she was in regular contact with, believed her most recent job was working as a waitress.

Mujiasih had an employment pass to work as a maid but also worked at a bar where Jutting met her and offered her a large sum of money for sex. At his apartment, Jutting cut her throat during a struggle after she saw a rope gag he tried to hide under a cushion, according to the police summary of facts.

Mujiharjo, the 56-year-old father of Mujiasih, said daily life for the family was difficult, emotionally and financially, but they tried to accept what happened and move on. Money she sent every month had helped pay to build a new house for the family in South Sulawesi, he said.

Khaliman, Ningsih's 27-year-old brother, said the family was surprised to learn the source of the money she sent back to Indonesia.

But it is relatively common for earnings from the sex industry to keep families back

home afloat, an unpalatable fact in Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim, socially conservative country of more than 250 million people.

Dina Damayanti, an Indonesian reporter living in Hong Kong who covered the trial for Suara, a newspaper aimed at the city's large Indonesian community, said she was disheartened by the lack of interest back home.

Distance was one factor, she said, and the attention given to the cyanide trial.

"I feel a little bit sad because this is a very important case for me," said Damayanti. "Indonesia is so complex. There are so many cases in my country."

Anis Hidayah, the executive director of Migrant Care, said the murders, which occurred within days of each other, made headlines in Indonesia two years ago.

But with many migrant worker deaths abroad from suicides, killings, accidents in dangerous workplaces and other causes, the case was quickly forgotten. The victims were also stigmatized because of their involvement in prostitution and were wrongly blamed as contributing to their own misfortune, said Hidayah.

"We should think of how migrant workers are the economic backbone of their families," said Hidayah. "Most of their families at home are very poor and their lives are very dependent on the sweat of migrant workers." AP



In this November 24, 2014, file photo taken through tinted glass, Rurik Jutting, a British banker, sits in a prison bus as he arrives at a court in Hong Kong

■ We find no support from the government and media in our own country [...] maybe because she was a maid or whatever.

SUYIT KHALIMAN
NINGSIH'S BROTHER

Delhi shuts schools, halts construction to tackle pollution

By Nuneza Naqvi, New Delhi

INDIA'S capital announced a slew of measures yesterday to combat the crippling air pollution that has engulfed the city, including closing down schools, halting construction and ordering that all roads be doused with water to settle dust.

■ Delhi's levels of PM2.5 - tiny particulate matter that can clog lungs - are more than 90 times the level considered safe

New Delhi, one of the world's dirtiest cities, saw levels of PM2.5 - tiny particulate matter that can clog lungs - soar to over 900 micrograms per cubic meter on Saturday. That's more than 90 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization and 15 times the Indian gov-



Tourists take selfies against the war memorial India Gate engulfed in smog in New Delhi

vernment's norms. The severe weekend pollution followed a week of constant gray smog.

New Delhi's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, told reporters yesterday after an emer-

gency meeting of his Cabinet that schools would be shut for three days, and all construction and demolition activity halted for at least five days. He also said a coal-fueled power

plant on the edges of the city would be shut for 10 days.

The other measures announced include a 10-day ban on the use of all diesel-powered electricity generators, except

at places such as hospitals and cellphone towers. Starting Thursday, all major roads in the city will be vacuum cleaned once a week, the chief minister said.

But Kejriwal added that a major contributor to New Delhi's pollution was the crop fires in neighboring states. At the start of every winter, farmers in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh begin burning straw from their rice paddy crop to clear the fields for planting wheat.

The Centre for Science and Environment, a New Delhi-based research and lobbying organization, said government data shows that the smog that has covered the city for the last week is the worst in 17 years.

Over the last few years, New Delhi's government has tried a handful of methods to control air pollution, including stricter emission norms for cars and a tax on diesel-fueled trucks that enter the city. It has also barred the burning of leaves and garbage in the city.

Earlier this year, the city reduced the number of cars on the roads during the winter months, when air quality is at its worst. Twice the city imposed a two-week period in which cars were allowed on the roads only on even or odd days, depending on the vehicle's license plate number.

Yesterday, Kejriwal said that the government was assessing whether it needed to reduce the number of cars again. AP

ASK THE VET

By Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



CAT TEETH CLEANING STEP BY STEP

DENTAL hygiene is a vital part of keeping your cat healthy and there are a choice of options to help maintain the strength and cleanliness of the cat teeth. Whether performing a cleaning at home or consulting a professional veterinarian, it is important to have regular checkups; otherwise the risks of infection and gum disease are increased, resulting in discomfort or even illness for your cat.

HOME CLEANING

Most cats just don't like having our fingers in their mouths. So a little enticement is in order to get that cat more comfortable with the invasive measures involved in getting to their teeth. Food is always a good way to get the cat to become accustomed to the procedure you will need to perform, so dipping your finger in something the cat is fond of is a good start. Tuna, milk or even the wet food the cat eats should be sufficient. Let the cat lick the inviting taste from your finger.

Dip your finger in it again and try to rub the cat's teeth with the flavor, while they are enjoying the taste, you can make them feel more comfortable with you touching

their teeth. Be careful that the cat doesn't bite, and the best way to avoid this is to be very gentle and don't make any sudden or aggressive maneuvers.

Once the cat feels comfortable with you touching the teeth, wrap a little bit of gauze around your finger and apply a mild sterile solution or pet toothpaste. Then begin to rub the teeth in a circular motion, making sure you don't forget the gums as well. It may be necessary to do a few teeth at a time, as most cats will not tolerate your finger for a long time, no matter how comfortable they become.

PROFESSIONAL VETERINARIAN CLEANING

Of course, much of the above is often easier said than done and it's very possible that no amount of gentle coaxing will make your cat comfortable with you sticking your finger in his mouth. Therefore a professional cleaning will be necessary.

First, the veterinarian will give the cat a quick examination to make sure there are no major infections and that the cat will not react adversely to any anesthesia. Then the cat will be given an injection,

usually a sedative to calm the cat and then GA to start a proper dental.

The veterinarian will then use an ultrasonic scaler, which will remove tartar buildup along the gum line. After the cleaning, the veterinarian will check for any infected or diseased teeth. A simple test to see if any of them wiggle in their sockets will reveal if a tooth needs to be removed. If there are no infections, the veterinarian might polish the teeth as cleaning sometimes leaves microscopic scratches. Polishing will remove them, otherwise they could be collection bins for more tartar.

Once a year cleaning at the vet is a very

good idea as it keeps the teeth and gums healthy with then ultimately extends the life of your cat.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Ruan

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