

■ Does Taiwan genuinely respect plurality? (Taipei Times)

The word “Taiwan” has recently been popping up more than usual in international news reports, but unfortunately the exposure the country has been getting amounts to a slap in the face for Taiwanese and the government. Before he allegedly perpetrated the shocking bomb and gun attacks in Oslo, Norwegian right-wing extremist Anders Behring Breivik posted a video on the Internet in which, besides his undisguised loathing for immigrants, multiculturalism, Muslims and Marxists, he expressed his admiration for Taiwan as a country worthy of emulation because, as he saw it, Taiwan was a successful nation state that had rejected multiculturalism.

■ Largest series of cyber-attacks uncovered (China Post)

Security experts have discovered the biggest series of cyber-attacks to date, involving the infiltration of the networks of 72 organizations including the United Nations, governments and companies around the world. Security company McAfee, which uncovered the intrusions, said it believed there was one “state actor” behind the attacks but declined to name it, though one security expert who has been briefed on the hacking said the evidence points to China.

■ China downgrades US credit rating (Want China Times)

China's only credit rating agency, Dagong Global, downgraded its rating for United States sovereign debt on Wednesday (Aug 3) from its previous A+ to the lower A rating, with a negative outlook due to the US' higher debt ceiling.

■ Lack of transparency harms China's competitiveness (Want China Times)

The Red Cross Society of China has made public the donations it received for relief operations in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Yushu, Qinghai province last year as a step toward openness and accountability. The move comes after a young woman pretending to work for the charity's commercial arm raised eyebrows by boasting about her wealth on the internet.

■ US debt: relief for now, but Taiwan and China should be cautious (Want China Times)

The White House and Republican leaders in Congress have reached an agreement on raising the government's debt ceiling, allowing markets around the world to breathe a sigh of relief. Since Hong Kong, China and Taiwan are three of the largest foreign holders of US government debt, they should pay heed to the development of the

country's deficit spending, even though it is expected to continue dominating global bond markets.

■ China media strangling undermines Taiwan's trust

The careless handling of the July 23 train collision in Wenzhou by the Ministry of Railways has led to public outrage in China, but the latest directive by the Communist Party's propaganda department that the media should "cool down" its reports on the accident is having a worrying effect on the Taiwanese public.