

China Says in 'Communication' amid Report of Trump-Xi Meet

BEIJING — China said Friday it is in contact with the United States amid reports of a planned meeting between President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump next month following a dive in the U.S. stock market blamed partly on a growing trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang offered no specifics, but said that "I have also seen the relevant reports."

"China and the U.S. maintain communication on dialogues and exchanges at all levels," Lu told reporters at a daily briefing. The reported meeting would take place during the G-20 summit in Argentina in late November.

The Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post both cited of-



Officials saying Trump has decided to proceed with the meeting with Xi. Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, told CNBC Thursday that, "There's some movement toward" a meeting at the G-20. "They have lots to talk about. So we'll see,"

Kudlow said.

Global indexes gained Friday after their recent sharp declines, on word of the possible presidential meeting, along with strong Chinese export data. Japan's Nikkei 225 index gained 0.5 percent to 22,694.66 after sinking early in the day and following a nearly 4 percent loss on Thursday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng surged 2.1 percent to 25,801.49. The Shanghai Composite index advanced 0.9 percent to 2,606.91. Shares recovered in Taiwan and rose throughout Southeast Asia.

Wall Street was set for an optimistic open after two days of steep losses. S&P 500 futures gained 0.8 percent to 2,766.80. Dow futures rose 0.8 percent to 25,378.00. (AP)

Germany Extends Checks at Austrian Border for Six Months

BERLIN - Germany will extend temporary controls at its border with Austria for six months due to concerns the EU's external frontiers are not sufficiently protected, the interior ministry said on Friday.

Germany coordinated the decision with Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, a ministry spokeswoman said. The Danish government made a similar announcement on Friday, citing the threat of terrorism. Germany and other countries in Europe's

normally controls-free Schengen zone introduced emergency border controls in 2015 after more than 1 million refugees and migrants entered Europe.

The extension, which takes effect in December, will keep the controls in place until May 11, 2019. The aim was still to return to passport-free travel within the EU but the conditions for that did not yet exist, with a lot of migrants still entering the country illegally, the spokeswoman said. (Reuters)

BERLIN - The five nations in the world's leading intelligence-sharing network have been exchanging classified information on China's foreign activities with other like-minded countries since the start of the year, seven officials in four capitals said.

The increased cooperation by the Five Eyes alliance - grouping Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States - with countries such as Germany and Japan is a sign of a broadening international front against Chinese influence operations

and investments.

Some of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said the enhanced cooperation amounted to an informal expansion of the Five Eyes group on the specific issue of foreign interference.

While China has been the main focus, discussions have also touched on Russia, several said.

"Consultations with our allies, with like-minded partners, on how to respond to China's assertive international strategy have been frequent and are gathering



momentum," a U.S. official told Reuters. "What might have started as ad hoc discussions are now leading to more detailed consultations on best practices and further opportunities for cooperation." All the governments involved, including Germany and Japan, declined to comment. (Reuters)

Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance Builds Coalition to Counter China

Neighbor News

Russia Says Iran's Presence in Syria None of Israel's Business

TEHRAN - A senior Russian official has dismissed the Israeli regime's demand that Iran be forced out of Syria, saying that the issue is none of Tel Aviv's business as it is Syria's sovereign right to authorize Iranian forces on its soil. "Syria is a member of the United Nations," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said, adding that the Arab country "has equal rights" over its self-determination with Russia, the US and any other member of the UN.

"This is a sovereign country led by a legitimate government. It can agree on cooperation

with any other country, including Iran, Russia, Israel," he noted in an interview with the Israeli TV channel i24NEWS released Thursday night. "That's Syria's sovereign right, and it's not the business of a third party to intervene in these subjects of politics or policy of a sovereign country," said Bogdanov, who is also President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for the Middle East.

He went on to say that Moscow had already explained to Israel and the US that "this is a sovereign decision for Syria who should be on their territory." (Press TV)

Govt to Announce Incentives Package for Overseas Pakistanis; Remittances to Increase Upto \$ 40 Bln: PM

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said his government would be announcing a special package of incentives to encourage the Overseas Pakistanis to send remittances through banking channels by removing all hindrances and procedural issues.

In a series of tweets the Prime Minister, who had an extensive meeting on Friday on Overseas Pakistanis, said, "Inshaallah by removing these hindrances we will be able to increase remittance flows from \$ 20 billion to at least \$ 30 billion & perhaps even \$ 40 billion through

banking channels." He in this respect also referred to the success of Philippines.

The Prime Minister said, "We are also moving to remove hassles Overseas Pakistanis confront at immigration when they come to Pakistan. Our Missions abroad have also been directed to look after and deal effectively with the concerns of our Overseas Pakistanis." Besides, he said the government was also going to ensure protection for the Overseas Pakistanis' properties and land especially from land mafias. (Monitoring Desk)

Rocket Failure Astronauts will Go Back into Space



MOSCOW - Two astronauts who survived the mid-air failure of a Russian rocket will fly again and are provisionally set

to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) in spring of next year, the head of Russia's space agency said on Friday.

Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Russian space agency Roscosmos, was speaking a day after Russian cosmonaut Alexei

Ovchinin and American Nick Hague made a dramatic emergency landing in Kazakhstan after the failure of the Soyuz rocket carrying them to the orbital ISS. Thursday's accident was the first serious launch problem experienced by a manned Soyuz space mission since 1983, when a crew narrowly escaped before a launch pad explosion. Russia is now under pressure to prove its space program is safe or face losing lucrative fees to carry U.S. astronauts into space. (Reuters)

Britain Must Take Realistic Approach to Brexit Talks: Slovenian PM

BERLIN - European Union members expect Britain to take a constructive and realistic approach to negotiations on its exit from the European Union, Slovenian Prime minister Marjan Sarec said on Friday after discussing Brexit with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"We hope that talks will be constructive. We hope that we will not get caught up in the same questions over and over but make progress," he told a joint news conference with



Merkel during a visit to Berlin. "We all expect a constructive and realistic approach from Britain." European Union leaders are due to discuss a possible Brexit deal with Britain over dinner in Brussels on Oct. 17. (Reuters)

Czech PM Faces Challenge in Second Vote for Senate

PRAGUE — Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis' party is facing a serious challenge in the second round of voting to the Senate. Nearly a third of the 81 seats in the Senate are up for grabs in the two-day ballot starting Friday. After two candidates secured more than 50 percent in last weekend's first vote, 25 seats are up for grabs.

Ten candidates from Babis' centrist ANO (YES) movement are contesting the runoff, while its coalition partner, the left-leaning Social Democrats, is fielding a further five. The main opposition, the conservative Civic Democratic Party, has the most candidates in the second round, with 11.

Parliament's lower house is the main law-making body in the Czech Republic. The Senate plays an important role in passing constitutional amendments and approving Constitutional Court judges. (AP)

France's Le Pen Meets Bannon, Changes Mind on Offer to Help

PARIS — Marine Le Pen, the French far-right leader, has met with former White House strategist Steve Bannon and signaled her interest in his project to help European populist parties — just days after rejecting assistance from the American.

Le Pen's companion, French lawmaker Louis Aliot, said on BFMTV station on Friday that she met with Bannon a day earlier in Paris. Aliot said Bannon wants to provide "technical means" for nationalist parties ahead of next year's European elections. He added that Bannon made clear he "doesn't want to play a (political) role." (AP)

Global Business Leaders Suspend Ties with Saudi Arabia

LONDON — Global business leaders are reassessing their ties with Saudi Arabia, stoking pressure on the Gulf kingdom to explain what happened to a dissident writer who disappeared after visiting its consulate in Istanbul.

British billionaire Richard Branson on Friday suspended business links with Saudi Arabia, and Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said he might not attend a major investment conference in the country this month amid reports that Jamal Khashoggi may have been killed at the Saudi consulate in Turkey's capital.

"What has reportedly



happened in Turkey around the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, if proved true, would clearly change the ability of any of us in the West to do business with the Saudi government," Branson said in a statement.

Branson, founder of

Virgin Group, says he will suspend his role as director in two tourism projects in Saudi Arabia while an investigation takes place. He also is putting on hold discussions about a proposed Saudi investment in space companies Virgin Galactic and Virgin Orbit. (AP)

Indian PM to Visit Japan: FM

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on an official visit to Japan this month-end, the External Affairs Ministry said Friday. Modi will be in Japan from Oct.

28 to Oct. 29 for the annual India-Japan summit with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe, the ministry said.

This will be the two leaders' fifth meeting in the past four years. (Xinhua)

Japan's Abe Pursues China Thaw as U.S.-Beijing Ties in Deep Freeze

TOKYO - While U.S. President Donald Trump appears to wage a trade "Cold War" on China, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will promote a thaw with Beijing at a summit this month where business ties will be in the spotlight.

A tough line on China helped Abe to regain office in 2012 during a row over tiny East China Sea isles that put ties in a deep chill. Now, Abe hopes to build on a rapprochement welcomed by Beijing, which is locked in an escalating trade war with Washington.

Japan shares U.S. concerns about Beijing's maritime assertiveness and is extending its military reach to counter China. Japanese firms worry also about Chinese violations of intellectual property rights and technology theft. Still, business ties with China, the world's second largest economy, are vital for Japan.

"To ensure that Japan has sustainable economic growth, you cannot ignore economic relations with China," said a Japanese foreign ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Abe has met Chinese President Xi Jinping many times since their first chilly conversation in 2014 on the sidelines of an Asia leaders' summit in Beijing. Abe's Oct. 26 meeting with Xi, officially confirmed on Friday, will be the first full-scale Sino-Japanese summit since 2011. Both sides hope more mutual visits will follow.

The thaw has been linked to a shift in Beijing's diplomacy since late 2017 and increasing U.S.-China friction over trade. (Reuters)

ADB, Turkmenistan Strengthening Partnership in Energy, Transport, Trade

ASHGABAT - A meeting with the delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), headed by Director General for Central and West Asia Department Werner Liepach, was held at the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

The sides considered the possibility of expanding relations in the fields of energy, industry, transport and trade, the Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a message.

According to the message, the interest was stressed in strengthening ties in the fields of industry and the banking system.

During the exchange of views on the development of cooperation within the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, the ADB delegation expressed readi-

ness to coordinate joint efforts within projects and programs being implemented in Turkmenistan.

The sides also discussed the issues of holding the 17th Ministerial Conference on CAREC in November 2018 in Ashgabat as part of the chairmanship of Turkmenistan in the CAREC Program in 2018.

Turkmenistan joined ADB in 2000 and the bank's assistance focused on modernizing of the transport sector and increasing the country's share in regional trade.

Earlier, it was reported that according to the business plan of the country operations, calculated by ADB for 2018-2019, the loans worth \$950 million are planned to be allocated to Turkmenistan. (Trend)

CIS Defense Ministers Agree on Fight against Terrorism

TASHKENT - Defense ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) agreed on the fight against international terrorism and mulled the development of joint military systems during a meeting here Friday.

At the meeting of the Council of the CIS Defense Ministers held in the Uzbek capital, the CIS defense ministers also discussed the ways to further expand military and military technical cooperation within the framework of the CIS.

The cooperation covers inter-department partnership ties, bilateral and multilateral activities, and professional training of military personnel.

The cooperation within the framework of the council aims to help address strategic issues relating to ensuring peace and stability in the region.

It was the first time that Uzbekistan hosted a meeting of the council. The CIS was founded in 1991 as a regional association of former Soviet republics. (Xinhua)