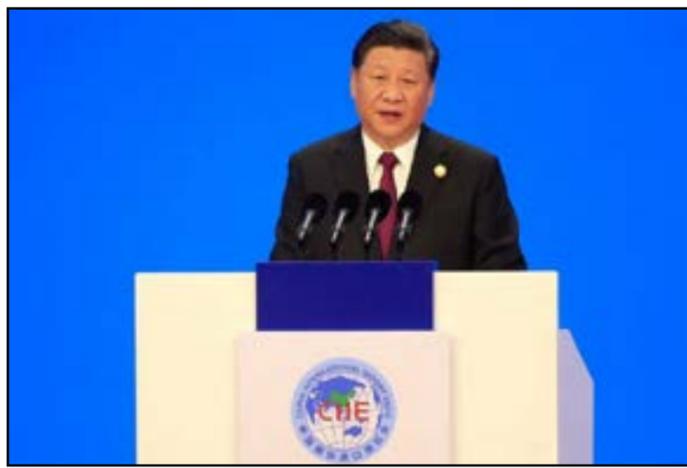


China's Xi Blasts 'Law of Jungle' in Swipe at Trump



Chinese President Xi Jinping promised lower tariffs and broader market access at a week-long trade expo on Nov 5, 2018.

SHANGHAI (BLOOMBERG, AFP) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday hit back against protectionist trade practices advocated by U.S. President Donald Trump in a speech in which he also pledged to further cut import tariffs and open his country's markets.

"We will foster a world-class business environment," Xi said in an address opening the import fair in Shanghai.

In a veiled reference to the tariffs Trump has leveled against his country's exports, Xi told the inaugural China International Import Expo (CIIE) that "the practices of beggar-thy-neighbor" would lead to global stagnation.

He said China would continue to

promote globalization and pledged to boost domestic consumption, strengthen intellectual property enforcement and advance trade talks with Europe, Japan and South Korea.

"As globalization deepens, the practices of law of jungle and winner take all are a dead end," Xi told the gathering in Shanghai, which featured more than 3,600 companies from 172 countries, regions and organizations.

"Inclusion and reciprocity, win-win and mutual benefits are a widening road."

Xi's speech had been closely watched for new measures that would show China was serious about opening its economy quickly as investors look for

signs of a possible resolution to a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

But he said little that would indicate a breakthrough is coming any time soon, contributing to a slump in the yuan as Asian stocks retreated.

Decrying "protectionism", "isolationism" and confrontation, the Chinese leader said countries should fix their own houses before targeting others.

"They should not just point fingers at others to gloss over their own problems," Xi said. "They should not hold a flashlight in hand, doing nothing but highlight the weaknesses of others and not their own."

The China International Import Expo, to be held at Shanghai's National Exhibition and Convention Centre (left), will feature over 3,000 firms from more than 130 countries and regions this year. The firms will showcase goods and services they hope to

Beijing has framed the first annual China International Import Expo as a sign of its commitment to open markets despite mounting criticism to the contrary and the worsening trade war with Washington, which has seen both sides impose punitive tariffs on billions of dollars of goods.

"He repeated a lot of the planned policies we have already heard in the past few months," said Sue Trinh, head of Asia FX Strategy at RBC Capital Markets in Hong Kong.

U.S. Lays Barbed Wire as Migrants Reach Mexico City



U.S. troops, along with Customs and Border Protection officers, are seen laying down barbed-wire fencing near the Texas-Mexico border, Nov. 5, 2018.

MEXICO CITY (Time) -- The first of several caravans of Central American migrants making their way to the U.S. to claim asylum has reached Mexico City.

Hundreds of members of the caravan arrived in Mexico's capital over the weekend, with about 450 people receiving temporary shelter at a sports stadium in Mexico City.

The convoy, which saw its numbers swell to more than 7,000 people at one point, now includes as many as 5,000 individuals, predominantly from Honduras, Guatemala and El

Salvador.

The caravan's progress in its trek toward the U.S. border brings its members within 580 miles of the closest port of entry in Hidalgo, near McAllen, Texas.

But it is still unclear which route the caravan will take. If it chooses to follow in the steps of a previous caravan that arrived at the San Ysidro port of entry in San Diego, in April, the distance it would have to travel could more than double.

Currently, there are at least four separate caravans of Central

American migrants traveling toward the U.S. border in a bid for asylum. Many face political and economic instability in their home countries, as well as the threat of gang violence.

President Donald Trump has vowed to stop the caravan at the border, with his administration moving forward with a plan to deploy thousands of military troops at the border in anticipation of the first caravan's arrival, which Trump has likened to "an invasion."

On Sunday, U.S. Army soldiers were shown stringing razor wire near a port of entry at Donna, Texas. Troops have for the most part been instructed to play a supporting role at the border, f by assisting border officials in their efforts.

The president also recently announced that he planned to sign an order that could lead to the large-scale detention of migrants crossing the southern border, in addition to barring anyone caught crossing illegally into the U.S. from claiming asylum.

Migrants heading toward the U.S. have launched a lawsuit, accusing Trump and his administration of violating their rights, while the president's critics, including former President Barack Obama, have accused Trump and his government of exploiting the situation as a "political stunt" ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections.

Pollution Jumps to Hazardous Levels in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (Reuters) -- Air quality in India's haze-hit north, including the capital, New Delhi, deteriorated sharply on Monday because of unfavorable weather and an increase in smoke from stubble burning in fields across the region.

Levels of PM 2.5, tiny particulate matter that can reach deep into the lungs and cause major health problems, were above 400 in most parts of the capital, and in some places soared above 600.

That is nearly 24 times a recommended level of 25 micrograms per cubic meter on average over a 24-hour period, set by the World Health Organization, which this year said India was home to the world's 14 most polluted cities.

New Delhi was ranked the sixth

most polluted.

After a little improvement on Sunday, when wind picked up, air quality worsened early on Monday, with forecasts of worse to come over the next few days.

Authorities warn that crop residue burning will peak in the next few days.

Adding to the fears, Indians will celebrate the festival of Diwali on Wednesday, when many members of the majority Hindu community will set off celebratory firecrackers.

The Supreme Court last month allowed the use of "green" firecrackers for Diwali to try to curb pollution, but it was unclear how the rule would be enforced or whether there was such a thing as an environmentally safe firework.

Lower winter temperatures and

higher moisture, coupled with lower wind speeds tend to trap pollutants in the atmosphere, said Roychowdhury.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology also said that changes in the speed and direction of the wind, and more stubble burning, had made the air more toxic.

The sale of air purifiers had surged 40 percent from last year because of increasing public awareness about the effects of pollution on health, company and industry officials said.

New Delhi and its satellite cities account for the bulk of air purifier sales but they are picking up in other cities such as Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The air purifier market is dominated by Unilever's, Blueair, Honeywell International Inc and Britain's Dyson.

South Korea, U.S. Resume Suspended Naval Drill



South Korean Marine amphibious assault vehicles fire smoke shells during a landing operation in the southern city of Pohang.

SEOUL (AFP) -- South Korea and the United States on Monday resumed small-scale military training that was indefinitely suspended following a historic summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The combined marine drills were among "select" joint exercises that were indefinitely delayed in June, after Trump met with Kim in Singapore and pledged to halt "very provocative" and expensive joint military drills with Seoul.

But the Korean Marine Exchange Program (KMMP), involving some 500 marines from the U.S. and South Korea, resumed for two weeks from Monday in the South's southern city of Pohang, Seoul's defense ministry said.

Washington is Seoul's security ally and stations 28,500 troops in the South purportedly to protect it from its nuclear-armed neighbor.

The two countries have long carried out joint exercises which they insist are purely defensive in nature, but which Pyongyang sees as a rehearsal for invasion.

Along with the marine drills, Seoul and Washington suspended the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian training in August involving tens of thousands of troops.

They also agreed to halt the Vigilant Ace air force exercise slated for December.

The resumption in military drills comes just days before U.S. Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo is set to hold talks with his North Korean counterpart on denuclearization and plans for a second summit between their leaders.

At their meeting in Singapore, Trump and Kim signed a vaguely worded statement on denuclearization but little progress has been made since.

The two have sparred over the exact terms of the deal, with Washington pushing to maintain sanctions against the North until its "final, fully verified denuclearization" and Pyongyang condemning U.S. demands as "gangster-like".

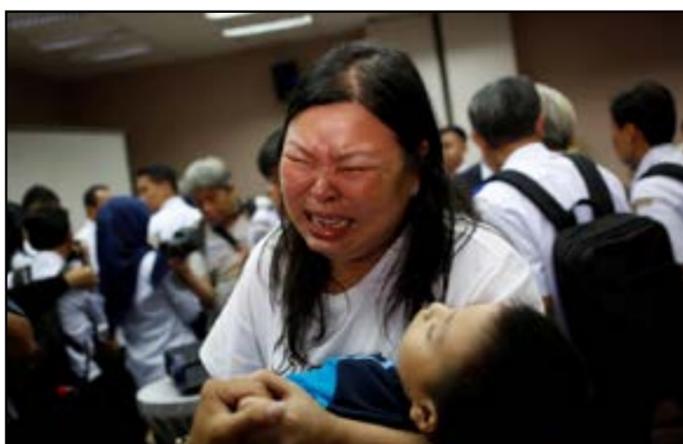
As a latest sign of increasing frustration, the North's foreign ministry issued a statement on Friday threatening to resume building nuclear weapons unless U.S. ends sanctions against Pyongyang.

The North is under multiple UN Security Council sanctions for its weapons programs.

In an interview with Fox News on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated that sanctions will remain until Pyongyang carries out denuclearization commitments made in Singapore.

Last month General Robert Abrams, the then-nominee to head U.S. and UN forces in South Korea, said there "was certainly a degradation in the readiness of the force, for the combined forces" following the pause in drills.

Tearful Relatives of Crashed Jet Victims Demand Answers



A woman, whose husband was on Lion Air flight JT610, cries as she holds their son after a news conference about the recovery process at a hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, November 5, 2018.

JAKARTA (Reuters) -- Relatives of the victims of an Indonesian jet that crashed into the sea off Jakarta last week killing all 189 on board demanded answers on Monday as to why the plane had been passed fit to fly and called for no let up in the search for loved ones.

Indonesian authorities on Sunday extended by three days the search for victims and a second black box recorder from wreckage of a nearly new Boeing Co. 737 MAX that slammed into the sea a week ago only minutes after it took off from Jakarta.

At a news conference charged with emotion, relatives addressed questions to Indonesian officials including transport minister Budi Karya Sumadi and the head of the country's transportation safety committee (KNKT).

"We are the victims here. Imagine if you were in our position," said Najib Fuquoni, a relative of a victim, demanding an independent investigation into the crash.

Muhammad Bambang Sukandar, the father of another victim, said Lion Air technicians needed to take "full responsibility" if it was proved they had not properly attended to technical issues following the jet's previous flight from Bali to Jakarta.

"This is not an unimportant thing. These are people's lives," he said, as he sought to choke back tears. "Don't let something like

this keep happening in Indonesia," he added.

Indonesia is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, but its safety record has been patchy. Its transport safety panel investigated 137 serious aviation incidents from 2012 to 2017.

At one stage during Monday's news conference, relatives urged Lion Air founder Rusdi Kirana, who was in the audience, to stand up. He stood up, but did not comment and clasped his hands together as if seeking forgiveness.

The privately owned budget carrier was founded in 1999. Its aircraft have been involved in at least 15 safety incidents and it has been placed under tougher international safety restrictions than other Indonesian airlines.

While victims' relatives are desperate to know what happened, the first crash of a Boeing 737 MAX is also the focus of scrutiny by the global aviation industry.

"As an initial step we conducted ramp checks for 11 Boeing 737 Max 8," said transport minister Sumadi, adding that authorities were also conducting a special audit to include operating procedures and crew qualifications.

The search effort has involved 151 divers, five helicopters, 61 ships, ranging from fishing boats to ships with advanced sonar scanners, as well as underwater drones.

News in Brief

YAOUNDE (Reuters) -- More than 80 people, mostly children, were kidnapped from a school in the city of Bamenda in western Cameroon early Monday, government and military sources said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the abduction in the English-speaking region where separatists are fighting to form a breakaway state. The separatists have imposed curfews and closed down schools as part of their protest against President Paul Biya's French-speaking government. "In total 81 people were kidnapped including the principal. They were taken to the bush," a military source told Reuters. A government spokesman said it was keeping track of an event but that it could not comment further. The separatist movement gathered pace in 2017 after a government crackdown on peaceful demonstrations. Many people have fled Bamenda and other centers to seek refuge in more peaceful Francophone regions.

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India said on Monday its first domestically built nuclear-powered submarine had recently completed a "deterrence patrol", giving it the capability to fire nuclear weapons from land, air and sea in the event of any "misadventure" by enemies. With nuclear-armed China to its north and nuclear-armed Pakistan to its west - both of which India has fought wars with - India's nationalist prime minister, Narendra Modi, said the INS Arihant was a "fitting response to those who indulge in nuclear blackmail". He did not elaborate. Though India's relations with China are warming, particularly in the area of trade, ties with Pakistan have nosedived under Modi, who has adopted a more assertive strategy towards the arch rival. Modi said a successful month-long patrol by Arihant, which was commissioned in 2016, had completed India's goal of having the capacity to deliver nuclear warheads with aircraft, missiles and submarines, 20 years after conducting its first nuclear tests here.

COLOMBO (AP) -- Thousands of Sri Lankans are marching in support of a new government under the country's former strongman. The rally near Parliament Monday comes amid a deepening political crisis sparked by President Maithripala Sirisena's move to oust Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, replace him with ex-leader Mahinda Rajapaksa, and suspend Parliament. Supporters at the rally chanted "Whose power is this? Mahinda's power!" Wickremesinghe has refused to vacate his official residence claiming he is the lawful prime minister while thousands of his supporters keep vigil. Critics say the suspension of Parliament was meant to give Rajapaksa time to gather enough support to survive a no-confidence vote when lawmakers reconvene Nov. 14.

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - The U.S.-China trade war is the "most stupid thing in this world," Jack Ma, the chief of Asia's most valuable public company, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, said on Monday. The two countries have set tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of each other's goods and U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to slap tariffs on the remainder of China's \$500 billion-plus exports to the United States if the trade dispute cannot be resolved. The U.S. trade deficit with China, which Trump has blamed for a variety of economic ills, has helped create jobs in the U.S. and without it the country would have big problems, Ma added. China's shift to an import model is "going to be a huge pain for a lot of businesses, but it's also going to make a good opportunity for a lot of consumers," he said. Ma also said the government should not worry about innovation, which it should back even if it threatened old, vested interests. "My view is, 'Don't worry about technology,'" Ma added. "The people who worry about technology are first, older people, second, government and third, successful people; they hate it and worry about it. I never see young people worry about technology."

GLASGOW (AFP) -- Skin cancer deaths among men have soared in wealthy nations since 1985, with mortality rates among women rising more slowly or even declining, researchers told a medical conference in Glasgow. Reasons for the discrepancy between sexes are unclear but evidence suggests men are "less likely to protect themselves from the sun" or heed public health warnings, lead researcher Dorothy Yang, a doctor at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust in London, told AFP. More than 90 percent of melanoma cancers are caused by skin cell damage from exposure to the sun or other sources of ultraviolet (UV) radiation such as tanning beds, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In eight of 18 countries examined, men's skin cancer death rates increased over three decades by at least 50 percent. In two nations -- Ireland and Croatia -- it roughly doubled. More than 90 percent of melanoma cancers are caused by skin cell damage from exposure to the sun or other sources of ultraviolet radiation such as tanning beds, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (also seeing a sharp jump were Spain and Britain (70 percent). The Netherlands (60 percent), as well as France and Belgium (50 percent). In the United States, which was not included in the study, male melanoma mortality went up by about 25 percent, according to CDC statistics.