



NEWS SUMMARY 20 September 2018

Trump savages Jeff Sessions: 'I don't have an attorney general'

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he does not "have an attorney general" in his fiercest attack yet on Jeff Sessions. Trump also said he was unhappy with Mr Sessions' response to immigration.

U.S. ready to resume North Korea talks, seeks denuclearization by 2021

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he is ready to restart negotiations with Pyongyang, with the aim of denuclearising North Korea "by 2021".

Trump intends to nominate ex-Fed economist Liang for Fed board seat: White House

The White House said that U.S. President Donald Trump nominated former Federal Reserve economist Nellie Liang to the U.S. central banks board of governors. Liang established the Fed's Division of Financial Stability in 2010. She joined the Brookings Institution in 2017.

Donald Trump urged Spain to 'build the wall' – across the Sahara

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said Donald Trump made the suggestion that the country could build a wall across the Sahara in order to manage Mediterranean migration.

Canada PM urges some U.S. flexibility in NAFTA, talks seen slow

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he wanted to see flexibility from the United States if the two sides are to reach a deal on renewing NAFTA.

U.S. Chamber chief says Trump can still avoid a damaging trade war

U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue said the Trump administration could still avoid a full-blown global trade war that erodes business confidence if it seals a trilateral NAFTA trade deal and makes progress on European trade issues in the coming weeks.

U.S. seeking to negotiate a treaty with Iran

The United States is seeking to negotiate a treaty with Iran that will cover both its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, the U.S. special envoy for Iran said on Wednesday ahead of U.N. meetings in New York next week.

U.S. oil prices climb amid drop in stockpiles, strong gasoline demand

U.S. oil prices advanced as U.S. crude oil stockpiles fell for a fifth straight week to 3-1/2 year lows in the week to Sept. 14, while gasoline inventories also showed a larger-than-expected draw on unseasonably strong demand.

U.S. soybean lobby will push for Washington to end trade war

The American Soybean Association will continue to lobby Washington to negotiate a solution to end the escalating trade war between China and the United States.

Japan's Abe likely to win party vote but faces Trump trade challenge

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was expected to win a ruling party leadership vote on Thursday, however, he must confront the immediate challenge of a likely summit with U.S. President Donald Trump next week, when he will face pressure to cut Japan's \$69 billion surplus with its key ally.

NZ economy grows at fastest quarterly rate in two years

New Zealand's economy economic growth 1.0% and hit a two-year-high in the second quarter on the back of a strong performance from the agricultural sector.

May appeals to EU leaders but no sign of Brexit deal

Prime Minister Theresa May appealed directly to fellow European leaders on Wednesday to drop "unacceptable" Brexit demands that she said could rip Britain apart, and urged the bloc to respond in kind to her "serious and workable" plan.

Inflation unexpectedly leaps to six-month high in August

British inflation rose at an annual rate of 2.7% in August, pushed up by bigger-than-usual seasonal increases in sea and air fares and higher theatre admission prices. British house prices rose at the weakest annual rate in nearly five years.

Germany considers billion euro fund to stop China buying up vital tech firms

The German government is taking steps to counter a surge in Chinese bids for stakes in German technology companies, including the creation of a billion euro fund that could rescue such firms in financial trouble.

Merkel coalition slides into 'permanent crisis mode' with spy row

A clumsy compromise to end a row over the fate of Germany's spy chief has exposed a cruel fact: the parties in Chancellor Angela Merkel's right-left coalition are loveless partners in a dysfunctional relationship that none of them can afford to quit.

Alibaba's Jack Ma says can't meet promise to create 1 million U.S. jobs - Xinhua

Chinese news agency Xinhua reported Alibaba Chairman Jack Ma said the company can no longer meet its promise to create 1 million jobs in the United States due to U.S.-China trade tensions.

Amazon is considering opening as many as 3,000 cashierless stores by 2021, report says

Amazon is reportedly considering opening 3,000 of new AmazonGo cashierless stores by 2021. The internet giant is considering plans to have about 10 locations open by the end of this year, about 50 locations in major metro areas in 2019.

EU Opens Preliminary Antitrust Probe Into Amazon

The European Union's Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said she had begun a preliminary probe into whether data the e-commerce giant collects from retailers that sell on its site gives Amazon an edge in marketing its own products to customers and squeezing out more sales as a result.

Danske bank chief resigns over €200bn money-laundering scandal

Danske Bank's chief executive Thomas Borgen resigned yesterday after a investigation revealed payments totalling €200bn (\$234 billion) through its Estonian branch.

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