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NEWS SUMMARY 21 September 2018

Trump Is Denying Product Exclusions From New China Tariffs

A spokeswoman with the U.S. Trade Representative's office said there was no announcement at this time regarding an exclusion process for tariffs on the \$200 billion of goods, unlike earlier rounds of the duties.

NAFTA deal not yet in sight, Canada stands firm on auto tariffs

Canada and the United States showed scant sign on Thursday of closing a deal to revamp NAFTA, and Canadian officials made clear Washington needed to withdraw a threat of possible autos tariffs.

Walmart warns Trump tariffs may force price hikes: The Hill

Walmart Inc warned U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer that it may have to raise prices due to tariffs on Chinese imports.

Oil stable, OPEC in focus after Trump call for lower prices

Oil prices were little changed on Friday as President Trump called on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to lower prices. OPEC and its allies are scheduled to meet on Sunday in Algeria to discuss how to allocate supply increases.

US sanctions Chinese military for buying Russian weapons

The United States hit a Chinese military organization with punishing financial sanctions for buying Russian fighter jets and missiles as it stepped up pressure on Moscow over its 'malign activities.'

Japan PM Abe, U.S. President Trump to hold summit on September 26

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump will hold a summit meeting on Sept. 26, Japan's top government spokesman said on Friday.

Trade worries push Japan Sept manufacturing confidence to 2-year low-flash PMI

The Flash Markit/Nikkei Japan Manufacturing PMI rose to 52.9 in September on a seasonally adjusted basis from a final 52.5 in August as domestic and export orders picked up.

Japan inflation ticks up but BOJ's target remains elusive

Japan's core consumer inflation were up 1.3% on year in August. Core consumer prices climbed 0.9% on year. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, overall inflation was up 0.5% and core CPI added 0.3%.

BOJ's huge stock-buying program reaches its limits

Former Bank of Japan member Sayuri Shirai is warning that the central bank's massive stock and bond purchasing programs are beginning to run out of roadway with inflation still remaining trapped below the BoJ's 2% target.

China places top energy official under investigation

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection announced that the director of China's National Energy Administration, ethnic Uighur Nur Bekri, is under investigate on suspicion of breaking the law and violating Communist Party discipline.

South Korea job growth to remain weak in second half: finance minister

Job growth in South Korea will remain weak for the rest of this year as a boost in fiscal spending won't be enough to quickly offset employment losses in service industries and the private sector, finance minister Kim Dong-yeon said.

EU pushes October Brexit agreement, threatens no deal

European Union leaders will push for a Brexit deal next month but warned Prime Minister Theresa May on Thursday that if she will not give ground on trade and the Irish border by November they are ready to cope with Britain crashing out.

UKIP launches populist manifesto, demands clean Brexit

Britain's anti-European Union UK Independence Party launched a set of populist policies on Friday hoping to revive their dwindling political influence and capitalise on outrage over the government's handling of Brexit.

'It will not work' - EU leaders reject Theresa May's Chequers proposal for Brexit

Donald Tusk, the head of the European Council, said Theresa May's proposed new economic partnership with the EU "will not work".

British and French planes scrambled to shadow Russian jets

British and French military jets have scrambled to investigate a suspected Russian fighter aircraft flying over the North Sea. Defence Secretary Gavin Williams said that Russian planes buzzing UK airspace is "another reminder of the very serious military challenge that Russia poses us today.

Britain to create 2,000-strong cyber force to tackle Russia threat - Sky News

Britain is significantly increasing its ability to wage war in cyberspace with the creation of a new offensive cyber force of up to 2,000 personnel.

Britain is 85-90 percent of the way to agreeing Brexit deal - UK minister

Britain is over 85% of the way to agreeing a deal with the European Union on its exit from the bloc, Cabinet Office minister David Lidington told Irish radio on Thursday, adding that a deal could be reached by October or November.

North Korea's Kim wants another Trump summit to speed denuclearisation - South Korea's Moon

North Korea's Kim Jong Un wants a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump soon to hasten denuclearization.



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