

## WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

## Stocks surge on US decision to postpone China tariff hike

BEIJING — China's stock market surged today after President Donald Trump's decision to postpone a tariff hike on Chinese imports. State media expressed hopes the fight with Washington over Beijing's technology ambitions can be resolved.

Other financial markets in Europe and Asia recorded more modest gains following Trump's announcement that the Washington talks made "substantial progress" toward ending the tariff fight.

Washington accuses Beijing of stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. The Trump administration wants China to roll back plans for government-led creation of global leaders in robotics and other technology that its trading partners say violate Beijing's free-trade obligations and some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

The weekend talks made progress on technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights and non-tariff barriers to market access, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It cautioned there are "still some differences that need more time to be ironed out."

Trump said he would postpone a March 1 deadline for increasing 10 percent punitive duties on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25 percent but he set no new date.

## Trump looks for win in N. Korea summit this week

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will head into his second meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un having reframed what would make a successful summit, lowering expectations for Pyongyang's denuclearization while eager to declare a flashy victory to offset the political turmoil he faces at home.

Trump was the driving force behind this week's Vietnam summit, aiming to recreate the global spectacle of his first meeting with Kim, although that initial summit yielded few concrete results and the months that followed have produced little optimism about what will be achieved in the sequel.

He once warned that North Korea's arsenal posed such a threat to humanity that he may have no choice but to rain "fire and fury" on the rogue nation, yet on Sunday declared that he was in no hurry for Pyongyang to prove it was abandoning its weapons.

"I'm not in a rush. I don't want to rush anybody, I just don't want testing. As long as there's no testing, we're happy," Trump



The border wall on the beach in Tijuana, Mexico.

AP Photo/Gregory Bull

## Former US security officials to oppose emergency declaration

WASHINGTON — A group of former U.S. national security officials is set to release a statement arguing there is no justification for President Donald Trump to use a national emergency declaration to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The statement has 58 signatures from prominent former officials, including former Secretaries of State Madeline Albright and John Kerry, former Defense Secretaries Chuck Hagel and Leon Panetta, and former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The statement is set to be released today, a day before the Democratic-controlled House is expected to vote to block Trump from using the declaration. The measure is sure to pass, and the GOP-run Senate may adopt it as well, though Trump has already promised a veto.

"There is no factual basis for the declaration of a national emergency," says the statement, which argues that border crossings are near a 40-year low and that there is no terrorist emergency at the border.

Trump declared an emergency to obtain wall funding beyond the \$1.4 billion Congress approved for border security. The move allows the president to bypass Congress to use money from the Pentagon and other budgets.

told a gathering of governors at the White House. Hours earlier, he ended a tweet about the summit by posing the key question that looms over their meeting in Vietnam: "Denuclearization?"

Trump will arrive in Hanoi on Tuesday on Air Force One while his counterpart, lacking a modern aircraft fleet, travels via armored train. Though details of the summit remain

closely held, the two leaders are expected to meet at some point one-on-one, joined only by translators.

## Lawyer enters not guilty plea for Kelly in sex abuse case

CHICAGO — R&amp;B singer R. Kelly's

attorney entered a not guilty plea on behalf of his client today as the singer faces multiple charges of sexual abuse in Chicago.

Kelly, one of the best-selling music artists of all time, entered the courtroom wearing an orange jail jumpsuit after spending the weekend in Chicago's 7,000-inmate jail. He was arrested Friday on 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse involving four females, three of whom were minors.

Kelly remains jailed after a judge on Saturday set bond at \$1 million. The Grammy Award-winning singer is required to pay 10 percent, and his attorney said Kelly's confidants are trying to pay \$100,000 to get him released as he awaits trial.

Among the conditions of release is that Kelly have no contact with females younger than 18.

Kelly appeared at the arraignment hearing today with defense attorney Steve Greenberg, and the case was assigned to Cook County Associate Judge Lawrence Flood. Kelly's next court date is March 22.

## Pence in Colombia announces new sanctions on Maduro

BOGOTA, Colombia — The Trump administration announced new sanctions today on allies of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro and financial assistance to his opponent Juan Guaido as an effort to deliver humanitarian aid to the economically devastated nation faltering amid strong resistance from security forces who remain loyal to the socialist leader.

Vice President Mike Pence arrived in the Colombian capital for an emergency summit of regional leaders to discuss Venezuela's crisis and immediately met with Guaido.

In a speech to the group, Pence urged regional partners to freeze oil assets controlled by Maduro, transfer the proceeds to Guaido and restrict visas for Maduro's inner circle. He said the U.S. was imposing more sanctions on four governors aligned with Maduro, including the Venezuelan politician who negotiated the release of a Utah man held in jail more than two years on what were seen as trumped-up weapons charges.

He also repeated President Donald Trump's threat that "all options are on the table" — fiery language that Guaido himself has adopted in what many see as a dangerous escalation of rhetoric hinting at the use of military force.

Pence's appearance before the Lima Group — a 14-nation coalition of mostly conservative Latin American nations and Canada that has joined together to pressure Maduro — comes two days after a U.S.-backed effort to deliver humanitarian across the border from Colombia ended in violence over the weekend.

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