



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, right, talks with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, while they line up for a group photo at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Feb. 15.

U.S. and China extend trade talks

Xi-Trump meeting may follow in March

By **PAUL WISEMAN AND KEVIN FREKING**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Chinese negotiators agreed Friday to extend high-level trade talks through the weekend, and President Donald Trump said he hoped to meet next month at his Florida resort with President Xi Jinping to try to finalize an agreement.

The news followed two days of negotiations in Washington aimed at resolving a trade war that has rattled financial markets and threatened global economic growth.

“We’re making a lot of progress,” Trump told reporters at the White House. “I think there’s a very good chance that a deal can be made.”

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the negotiations, which had been scheduled to conclude Friday afternoon, would continue through Sunday. The Chinese delegation is led by Xi’s special envoy, Vice Premier Liu He, the American team by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Trump had originally warned that he would escalate the tariffs he has imposed on \$200 billion in Chinese imports, from 10 to 25 percent, if the two sides failed to reach a deal by March 2. But in recent days, and again on Friday, he raised the possibility of extending that deadline if negotiators were nearing an agreement.

The world’s two biggest economies are sparring over U.S. allegations that Beijing uses predatory tactics in a drive to make Chinese companies world leaders in such advanced industries as robotics and driverless cars.

Those tactics, the Trump administration argues, include cyber-theft, unfair subsidies for state-owned Chinese companies, the use of regulations to hobble China’s foreign competitors and pressure on American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

The administration contends that Beijing has repeatedly failed to live up to its past commitments to open its markets and to treat foreign companies more fairly.

The president has imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports and 10 percent tar-

iffs on \$200 billion worth. The latter grouping would face the 25 percent tariffs, too, if no agreement is reached.

Beijing has lashed back with import taxes of its own on \$110 billion in U.S. goods. These tariffs are heavily aimed at soybeans and other agricultural products in an effort to pressure Trump supporters in the U.S. farm belt.

On Friday, the president and his advisers provided few details on this week’s negotiations. Trump did say the two sides had reached some agreement on currency manipulation but offered no specifics. The administration has worried that Beijing would blunt the impact of Trump’s sanctions by manipulating its currency down to give Chinese companies a competitive edge in international markets.

Trump said both sides want to “make this a real deal.”

“We want to make it a meaningful deal,” the president said, “not a deal that’s done and doesn’t mean anything. We want to make this a deal that’s going to last for many, many years and a deal that’s going to be good for both countries.”

BRIEFLY

Patriots owner Robert Kraft accused of soliciting prostitute

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Robert Kraft, the billionaire owner of the New England Patriots, faces charges of soliciting a prostitute after he was twice videotaped in a sex act at a shopping-center massage parlor in Florida, police said Friday.

The 77-year-old Kraft denied any wrongdoing. The case comes amid a crackdown on sex trafficking from Palm Beach to Orlando in which police planted cameras in massage parlors.

Kraft was not immediately arrested. Jupiter police said a warrant will be issued and his attorneys will be notified. They said details about the misdemeanor charges against the owner of the Super Bowl champion team will not be released until next week.

Hundreds of arrest warrants have been issued in recent days as a result of the six-month investigation, and more are expected. Ten spas have been closed, and several people have been taken into custody on sex trafficking charges.

Jupiter Police Chief Daniel Kerr said he was shocked to learn that Kraft, who is worth \$6 billion, was paying for sex inside a shopping-center massage parlor, the Orchids of Asia Day Spa. “We are as equally stunned as everyone else,” Kerr said.

Chicago prosecutors charge R. Kelly with abusing 4 victims

CHICAGO (AP) — R. Kelly, the R&B star who has been trailed for decades by allegations that he violated underage girls and women and held some as virtual slaves, was charged Friday with aggravated sexual abuse involving four victims, including at least three between the ages of 13 and 17.

In a brief appearance before reporters, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Kim Foxx announced the 10 counts against the 52-year-old Grammy winner. She said the abuse dated back as far as 1998 and spanned more than a decade. She did not comment on the charges or take questions.

The singer, who has consistently denied any sexual misconduct, was to appear in court Saturday. A message seeking comment from Kelly’s attorney, Steve Greenberg, was not immediately returned.

His arrest sets the stage for another #MeToo-era celebrity trial. Bill Cosby went to prison last year, and former Hollywood studio boss Harvey Weinstein is awaiting trial.

Best known for hits such as “I Believe I

Can Fly,” Kelly was charged a week after Michael Avenatti, the attorney whose clients have included porn star Stormy Daniels, said he recently gave Chicago prosecutors new video evidence of the singer with an underage girl. It was not immediately clear if the charges were connected to that video, which Avenatti said includes audio in which Kelly and the girl say several times that she is 14 years old.

Trump vows veto as Democrats try to block emergency order

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats controlling the House have teed up a vote next week to block President Donald Trump from using a national emergency declaration to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, accelerating a showdown in Congress that could divide Republicans and lead to Trump’s first veto.

The Democrats introduced a resolution Friday to block Trump’s declaration, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the House would vote on the measure Tuesday. It is sure to pass, and the GOP-run Senate may adopt it as well. Trump quickly promised a veto.

“Will I veto it? 100 percent,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

Any Trump veto would likely be sustained, but the upcoming battle will test Republican support for the president’s move, which even some of his allies view as a stretch — and a slap at lawmakers’ control over the power of the federal purse.

A staff aide introduced the measure during a short pro forma House session in which Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., presided over an almost-empty chamber.

Venezuela opposition leader Guaido appears at aid concert

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP) — Defying orders banning him from leaving the country, Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido made a surprise appearance at a star-studded aid concert in neighboring Colombia, joining thousands of other Venezuelans in pressuring President Nicolas Maduro into allowing the delivery of emergency food and medicine.

On the Venezuelan side, a much smaller crowd gathered for a rival, three-day “Hands Off Venezuela” festival being organized by Maduro. Even as several million Venezuelans flee the country and those who remain struggle to find basic goods like food and antibiotics, the embattled president claims the relief effort led by Guaido is a U.S.-orchestrated ploy to oust him from power.

PRESIDENTS DAY SALES EVENT

ALL WITH STANDARD TOYOTA SAFETY SENSE!

NEW 2019 TOYOTA COROLLA SE
NOW ONLY \$198/MO
Up to 36 months. On approved credit.

Stk. #19H068. New 2019 Toyota Corolla SE. MSRP \$21,714. Sale price \$20,623 after \$1700.00 TFS rebate. 36-month lease for \$198/month. 12,000 miles/year. \$1579 cash down. GFV \$11,074. No security deposit required. On approved credit. Plus tax, title and \$75 dealer doc fee. See dealer for details. Expires 02/28/19.

NEW 2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE AWD
\$298/MO
Up to 36 months. On approved credit.

**Stk. #19H350. New 2019 Toyota Rav4 LE AWD. MSRP \$28,854. Sale price \$27,560 after Rogers discount. 36-month lease for \$298/month. 12,000 miles/year. \$1999.00 cash down. GFV \$17,889. No security deposit required. On approved credit. Plus tax, title and \$75 dealer doc fee. See dealer for details. Expires 02/28/19.

NEW 2019 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 DBL CAB 4X4
LEASE NOW FOR ONLY \$298/MO
Up to 36 months. On approved credit.

Stk. #19H245. New 2019 Toyota Tacoma SR5 Double Cab 4WD. MSRP \$35,983. Sale price \$34,162 after \$1000 TFS rebate; excludes TRD Pro. 36-month lease for \$298/month. 12,000 miles/year. \$1699.00 cash down. GFV \$25,547.93. No security deposit required. On approved credit. Plus tax, title and \$75 dealer doc fee. See dealer for details. Expires 02/28/19.

ROGERS

TOYOTA
OF HERMISTON

We Care About What You’re Driving!

541.567.6461 • 1.800.522.2308

1550 N. 1st St
Hermiston, OR

SALES HOURS
MON-SAT: 8:30 am - 7 pm
SUN: 10 am - 5 pm

SERVICE HOURS
MON-FRI: 7 am - 5:30 pm
SAT: 8 am - 5 pm

toyotaofhermiston.com