U.S., China inch closer to trade deal

Pact will cover agriculture, currency and some aspects of intellectual property protections

President Trump on Friday outlined the first phase of a deal to end a trade war with China and suspended a threatened tariff hike, but officials on both sides said much more work needed to be done before an accord could be agreed.

The emerging deal, covering agriculture, currency and some aspects of intellectual property protections, would represent the biggest step by the two countries in 15 months to end a tariff titfor-tat that has whipsawed financial markets and slowed global growth.

But Friday's announcement did not include many details and Mr. Trump said it could take up to five weeks to get a pact written.

He acknowledged the agreement could fall apart during that period, though he expressed confidence that it would not.

"I think we have a fundamental understanding on the key issues. We've gone

Two killed as fierce

typhoon hits Tokyo

Two men were killed, more

than 60 people were injured

and over six million people

a powerful typhoon bore

were advised to evacuate as

down on the Japanese capital

vears. Typhoon Hagibis made

on Saturday, bringing with

it the heaviest rain in 60

landfall on the island of

Honshu. REUTERS



First step: A file photo of Xi Jinping with Donald Trump. • AFP

through a significant amount of paper, but there is more work to do," U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said as the two sides gathered with Mr. Trump at the White House. "We will not sign an agreement unless we get and can tell the President that this is on paper."

With Chinese Vice Premier Liu He sitting across a desk from him in the Oval Office after two days of talks between negotiators, the President told reporters that the two sides were very close ending their trade

There was a lot of friction between the U.S. and China, and now its a lovefest. Thats a good thing," he said.

Mr. Liu took a different tone in his remarks, however. "We have made substantial progress in many fields. We are happy about it. We'll continue to make efforts," Mr. Liu said.

China's official stateowned news organisation

Iran vows response to attack on tanker

Xinhua said that both sides "agreed to make the efforts towards a final agreement."

In an editorial published online by the state-run Peoples Daily newspaper on Saturday, China called the latround constructive, frank and efficient and noted that while the two sides were moving toward a resolution, it is impossible to resolve the problem by putting arbitrary pressure on the Chinese

Mr. Trump, who is eager to show farmers in political swing states that he has their backs, lauded China for agreeing to buy as much as \$50 billion in agricultural products. But he left tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese products in place.

His announcement, while seen as progress, drew some scepticism. "Im unsure that calling what was announced by President Trump an agreement is justified," said Scott Kennedy, a China trade expert at the Center for Strategic and International StuIslamic State rears its head Turkish invasion sows fear of IS-led attacks, militants' escape

capital.

CARLOTTA GALL

tants escaped from a Kur-

dish-run prison and the ex-

tremist group claimed

responsibility for a bomb

that exploded in the regional

launched a third night of air-

strikes and ground incur-

sions, Kurdish fighters said

they had thwarted a second

attempt to break out of a de-

tention camp for families of

a mounting sense of turmoil

in northeast Syria, where

tens of thousands of resi-

dents were reported fleeing

south. The Turkish govern-

ment said its troops had ad-

vanced 5 miles inside part of

the country. Several major

roads had been blocked and

a major hospital abandoned.

kish forces have pummeled

Kurdish-held territory with

airstrikes and sent in ground

troops, trying to seize land

controlled by a Kurdish-led

militia, the Syrian Democrat-

ic Forces. That militia fought

alongside U.S. troops in the

recent war against the Islam-

The campaign began after

ordered U.S.

President Donald Trump

troops to withdraw from the

area, giving implicit appro-

val to Turkey's long-antici-

pated attack on the Kurdish-

Mr. Trump's decision was

The White House has said

widely criticized, including

by his Republican allies in

Mr. Trump would sign an ex-

ecutive order giving the

Treasury Department new

ic State.

suddenly

led militia.

the U.S.

Since Wednesday, Tur-

The moves compounded

Islamic State members.

Turkish troops

PATRICK KINGSLEY "If they couldn't agree on a text, that must mean theyre not done. Wishing an The Turkish invasion of Kuragreement does not one dish-held territory in Northmake. This isnt a skinny ern Syria raised new fears of deal. Its an invisible one." a resurgence of the Islamic State on Friday, as five mili-

Mr. Mnuchin said the President had agreed not to proceed with a hike in tariffs to 30% from 25% on about \$250 billion in Chinese goods that was supposed to have gone into effect on Tuesday. But U.S. Trade Represen-

dies in Washington.

tative Robert Lighthizer said Mr. Trump had not made a decision about tariffs that were subject to go into effect in December. "I think that were going to have a deal that's a great deal thats beyond tariffs," Mr. Trump said. The world's two largest economies have made progress in their trade dispute before without sealing a deal. In May, U.S. officials accused China of walking away from a sweeping agreement that was nearly finished over a refusal to make changes to Chinese laws that would

Saudi offered help, but said the vessel shut off its tracking system without responding

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TEHRAN

Iran vowed on Saturday not to let an attack on one of its oil tankers off the coast of Saudi Arabia to go unanswered, the semi-official IS-NA news agency reported.

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said clues had been uncovered as to who was behind what he called a "missile attack" on the Sabiti tanker.

"Maritime piracy and wickedness in international waterways... will not be left unanswered," he said.

"By reviewing the available video and gathered intelligence evidence, the primary clues to the dangerous adventure of attacking the Iranian oil tanker in the Red Sea have been uncovered," he added.

Mr. Shamkhani warned of "disturbing risks" for the global economy as a result of insecurity in international waterways

National Iranian The Tanker Company, which owns the Sabiti, said its hull was hit by two separate explosions on Friday off the Saudi port of Jeddah.

But the state-owned company denied reports the attack had originated from Saudi soil. The attack caused oil to

spill from the tanker into the Red Sea, the NITC said, before it was controlled and the vessel began moving back towards Gulf waters.

Saudi Arabia on Saturday said it was ready to help the Iranian tanker, but the ship turned off its tracking system. "An e-mail from the captain of the Iranian tanker Sabiti was received, saying the front of the vessel had been broken, resulting in an oil spill," the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said quoting the border guard.

"After analysing the information by the coordination centre with the aim to provide any necessary assistance... (the ship) shut off its tracking system without responding to the centre's

calls," it said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four people were killed and three others were wounded in an early Satur day shooting at an illegal gambling club in New York, police said.

The six men and one woman were shot just be-

mot Shea said four men were dead at the scene and the others were taken to hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening.

not been identified, ranged in age from 32 to 49, Mr. Shea said at a briefing near

Nepal hopes for Chinese

China is expected to push BRI projects

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

pet on Saturday for China's

Mr. Xi is making the first state visit by a Chinese leader to Nepal in 23 years following his two days of talks in India.

(BRI) initiative.

Mr. Xi said said he would use the two-day visit to "renew friendship and explore cooperation with my Nepali

The International Campaign for Tibet said at least 18 people were arrested ahead of Mr. Xi's arrival.

neighbour.

Looming chaos: Syrian demonstrators marching in protest against the Turkish invasion in the town of Hasakeh. • AFP

'Turkish forces take Syrian town Ras al-Ain'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Turkish forces have taken control of the Syrian border town of Ras al-Ain, which has been a focus of its operation against Kurdish militants, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

"As a result of successful operations within the scope

of Operation Peace Spring, the urban area of Ras al-Ain to the east of the Euphrates was taken under control," it tweeted.

Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria denied the claims. "Ras al-Ain is resisting and clashes are ongoing," said an official of Syrian Democratic Forces.

of the Syrian civil war. powers to punish officials in Turkey if its military targeted ethnic and religious minorities. "We hope we don't have to use them," said Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury defence of its land. secretary. "But we can shut On Friday, a car bomb exdown the Turkish economy

Officials warned on Friday that the U.S. would respond forcefully if IS fighters were allowed to escape from prisons in the area.

if we need to."

But the operation has already proved highly disruptive to efforts to keep the Islamic State at bay. Although U.S. and Kurdish forces have defeated IS militants in northeastern Syria, the group has sleeper cells in the region that could use the turmoil to retake the land they controlled in the early years

And the Kurdish militia has diverted soldiers to fight the invasion and abandoned joint operations with U.S. troops as it prioritises the

ploded on a residential street in Qamishli, the de facto capital of the Kurdishheld region - a rare act of IS terrorism in a city that was relatively free of trouble before the assault began.

The Turkish bombardment has also endangered the security of several Kurdish-run prisons for IS militants, with at least three in the vicinity of Turkish airstrikes. It is widely feared that in the chaos, IS fighters will escape captivity, as the five did on Friday. NY TIMES

+ Judges block green card denial policy

The Trump-backed rule was aimed at immigrants in need of U.S. government aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal judges in three States of the U.S. on Friday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's policy to deny green cards to many immigrants who use Medicaid, food stamps and other government benefits, dealing a setback to one of the President's most aggressive moves yet to cut legal immigration and make it more based on employment skills than family ties. The rulings in California,

New York and Washington came in quick succession four days before the new rules were set to take effect. The judges ruled in favour of 21 States and the District of Columbia, which challenged



naturalisation ceremony in New York. • REUTERS

the policy almost immediately after it was announced in August.

U.S. District Judge George Daniels in New York said the policy redefined longstanding immigration laws with a new framework that had "no logic." Allowing the policy to go into effect now, he said, would have a significant impact on "law-abiding residents who have come to this country to seek a better life."

"Overnight, the rule will expose individuals to eco-

nomic insecurity, health instability, denial of their path to citizenship and potential deportation," Daniels wrote.

'It is a rule that will punish individuals for their receipt of benefits provided by our government, and discourages them from lawfully receiving available assistance intended to aid them in becoming contributing members of society." Ken Cuccinelli, acting di-

rector of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, expressed confidence that the administration would eventually prevail and framed the policy as a legal attempt to ensure that those who settle in the United States can support them-

Four dead in shooting at New York

fore 7 a.m. inside a building in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn. Chief of Detectives Der-

The victims, who have

finance during Xi visit

Nepal rolled out the red car-President Xi Jinping as authorities rounded up Tibetans to prevent protests during his stay.

Mr. Xi is expected to push

Beijing's controversial Belt and Road infrastructure

friends". "It is important that we adopt a strategic

and long-term perspective and draw up a blueprint for our bilateral relationship to take it to a new height in this new era," Mr. Xi added.

Nepal is seeking closer

ties and much-needed energy and infrastructure investment from its giant "This visit has historic sig-

nificance for Nepal. Our priority is to create opportunities for Nepal, joining it to China's development. We are focusing on connectivity between the two countries," said Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali.

16 killed in Burkina Faso mosque attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Armed men stormed a mosque in the volatile north of Burkina Faso as worshippers were at prayer, killing 16 people and sending residents fleeing, security sources and locals said on Saturday.

The attack on the Grand Mosque in the town of Salmossi on Friday evening underscores the difficulties faced by the country in its battle against jihadists.

One source said 13 people died on the spot and three succumbed to their injuries later. Two are in critical condition. "Since this morning, people have started to flee the area," one resident said.

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8				1				
5	9	4	3	6	2	8	1	7
1	7	6	5	8	4	9	2	3
6	5	9	8	2	7	4	3	1
2	3	7	6	4	1	5	9	8
4	8	1	9	3	5	7	6	2
3	1	5	4	7	6	2	8	9
7	6	8	2	9	3	1	4	5
9	4	2	1	5	8	3	7	6

China's political correctness: one country, no arguments

The Communist Party delivers a narrative of patriotism through its education system and any hint of dissent is frowned upon

LI YUAN

Hong Kong's protests have disrupted Yang Yang's family life. Though the 29-year-old lives in mainland China, he was inspired by the demonstrations to write a song about freedom and upload it to the internet. When censors deleted it, he complained to his family. They weren't sympathet-

ic. "How can you support Hong Kong separatists?" they asked. "How can you be anti-China?" His mother threatened to disown him. Before Yang left on a trip to Japan in August, his father said he hoped his son would die there. Hong Kong's protests have

inflamed tensions in the semi-autonomous Chinese city, but passions in the mainland have been just as heated - and, seemingly, almost exclusively against the demonstrators.

A pro-protest tweet by a Houston Rockets executive, Daryl Morey, ignited a fires-

torm of anger against the NBA, demonstrating the depth of feeling. Joe Tsai, the only NBA owner of Chinese descent, said all of China yes, more than 1 billion people – felt the same way. "The one thing that is ter-

ribly misunderstood, and often ignored, by the western press and those critical of China is that 1.4 billion Chinese citizens stand united when it comes to the territorial integrity of China and the country's sovereignty over her homeland," he wrote. issue non-negotiable."

For Westerners, this is strange language. You don't hear about the common feelings of 300 million Americans or 60 million Brits, especially in the era of Donald Trump and Brexit.

Yet, in China, there is some truth to it. Of course, it's a vast country brimming with opinions. But the Communist Party has spent decades preparing the Chinese people for a moment like



People walking on posters of Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam

this. The stir over Hong Kong shows, in dramatic fashion, how successful it has been, and how the world could be shaped by it.

'Patriotism button' "As soon as the Communist

Party pushes the patriotism button, Chinese will rise up like zombies to unite against the foreign forces, be it Japan or NBA," said Mr. Yang, the singer-songwriter. "They singer-songwriter.

don't always know why they're against those things. In fact, many Chinese like Japan and the NBA." Until Thursday, when Chi-

na's internet minders dialed down the passions, the Chinese online world was filled with denunciations of the protests. Some Chinese people have even scaled the Great Firewall, China's highly effective online censorship system, to post anti-protest cebook and Instagram that their own government doesn't want them to see.

messages on services like Fa-

Top-down approach

Their comments reflect a narrative that China's topdown education system delivers from a young age. A united China, a country with a common goal, can stand strong against outsiders, according to this narrative. A divided China could slip backward, losing decades of progress and plunging the country back into chaos.

Any Chinese person who has gone to elementary school or watched television news can explain the tale of China's 100 years of humiliation. Starting with the Opium Wars in the 19th century, foreign powers bullied a weak and backward China into turning Hong Kong and Macao into European colonies. Students must memorise the unequal treaties the Qing dynasty signed during that period.

"national humiliation education." This narrative glosses over

a lot of history, including the cruelty of Mao's revolution,

There's even a name for it:

the starving of millions during Mao's Great Leap Forward and the madness of his decade-long Cultural Revolu-When it does include the 1989 crackdown on protesters in Tiananmen Square is

and portrayed vaguely as a political incident. The rise of the internet and China's opening were supposed to widen views there. Instead, the party is

mentioned in one sentence

narrowing them more. In some middle school history books, the Cultural Revolution is described as "a detour in the Communist Party's expedition," rather than as a mistake.

These lessons might seem removed from the situation in Hong Kong, where the protesters are mainly Chinese, not foreigners. NY TIMES