



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## As shutdown lingers, Pelosi pushes Trump to delay State of Union speech

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With the partial U.S. government shutdown now in its 26th day, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday urged President Donald Trump to reschedule his State of the Union address - a move that could deny him the opportunity to use the pageantry of the speech to attack Democrats in their own chamber over the impasse.

With Trump's address set for Jan. 29, Pelosi wrote him a letter citing security concerns because the Secret Service, which is required to provide security for the address, has not received funding during the dispute.

The standoff was triggered by Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, which Democrats oppose.

Presidents traditionally deliver the address, which lays out the administration's goals for the upcoming year, in the House of Representatives chamber before a joint session of Congress and the majority of the Cabinet.

Democrats took control of the House after last November's congressional elections. During the shutdown, Trump has routinely blamed them for the stalemate, although he had earlier said he would take responsibility.

Pelosi, speaking to reporters, suggested that if Trump would not agree to reschedule the speech until the government reopens, he could deliver it from the Oval Office instead, a setting that would lack the grandeur of a congressional address.

The White House had no immediate comment on Pelosi's request, and her letter appeared to have taken aides by surprise. It pointed out that she had invited Trump to make the State of the Union address at the Capitol but said the shutdown complicated the situation.

"Sadly, given the security concerns and unless government reopens this week, I suggest we work together to determine another suitable date after government has re-opened for this address or for you to consider delivering your State of the Union address in writing to the Congress," Pelosi wrote.

U.S. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told reporters later: "I think it's a good idea to delay (the speech) until the government is open."

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said on Twitter her department and the Secret Service were prepared to handle a presidential speech at the Capitol.

Representative Jim Jordan of the House Freedom Caucus, a group of conservative Republicans allied to Trump, said Pelosi's move showed Democrats were "more focused on stopping the president than they are on serving the country."

### DEMOCRATIC SENATORS RALLY

Both sides sought to ratchet up the pressure over the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

Democratic senators huddled on the outdoor steps leading to the Senate in 39-degree (3.9-C) weather, holding large photographs of constituents furloughed by the shutdown or otherwise hurt by it, with Schumer saying Trump "is using these men and women as pawns."

At the same time, the president hosted a bipartisan group of House members to discuss finding a solution to the impasse. White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the meeting was constructive.

Democratic lawmakers who met with Trump said they told him to end the shutdown first and then talk about the issues dividing them.

Trump backs off emergency order to end shutdown "Our singular message was we've got to reopen the government and then in good faith we can have negotiations," Representative



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi talks with an aide as she heads to an event advocating for the "Raise the Wage Act" and a national \$15 an hour minimum wage shortly after asking President Donald Trump to delay his State of the Union Address due to the ongoing partial government shutdown on Capitol Hill in Washington.

## Asia shares edge up, pound gets moment's peace

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Asian shares crept higher on Thursday as upbeat bank earnings bolstered Wall Street, while an anti-climactic end to the latest chapter in the Brexit saga gave sterling a moment's peace.

However, E-Mini futures for the S&P 500 ES1 dipped 0.1 percent during early Asian hours. On Wall Street, strong earnings from Bank of America (BAC.N) and Goldman Sachs (GS.N) eased worries about the earnings outlook. Bank of America shares jumped 7.2 percent and Goldman 9.5 percent. The Dow .DJI ended Wednesday with gains of 0.59 percent, while the S&P 500 .SPX added 0.22 percent and the Nasdaq .IXIC 0.15 percent.[N]

Investors in Asia might be less encouraged by a Wall Street Journal report that U.S. federal prosecutors were investigating Huawei Technologies, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker, for allegedly stealing trade secrets from U.S. businesses and could soon issue an indictment.

Such a move could inflame tensions between Beijing and Washington and make a trade deal yet harder. China's central bank on Wednesday moved to avert a cash crunch in the economy by injecting a record \$83 billion into the country's financial system.

Also looming in the background were concerns the U.S. government shutdown was starting to take a toll on its economy.

White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett said the shutdown would shave 0.13 percent off quarterly economic growth for each week it goes on.

### PLAN B

As expected, British Prime Minister Theresa May narrowly won a confidence vote overnight and invited other party leaders for talks to try to break the impasse on a Brexit divorce deal.

An outline for Plan 'B' is due by Monday and the market assumes there will have to be an extension of the Article 50 exit date past March 29.

"Nothing has happened in the last 24 hours to dissuade us from the view that we are headed in the direction of an Article 50 delay, a softer Brexit or no Brexit," said Ray Attrill, head of FX strategy at NAB.

"But it remains too soon to be buying sterling with your ears pinned back," he added, noting many uncertainties remained.



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# On the autofarm: China turns to driverless tractors, combines to overhaul agriculture

Xinghua, China (Reuters) - A brand new combine harvester buzzes up and down a field in eastern China without a driver on board, chopping golden rice stalks and offering a glimpse of what authorities say is the automated future of the nation's mammoth agricultural sector.

The bright green prototype was operating last autumn during a trial of driverless farm equipment as the government pushes firms to develop within 7 years fully-automated machinery capable of planting, fertilizing and harvesting each of China's staple crops - rice, wheat and corn.

That shift to automation is key to the farming sector in the world's No.2 economy as it grapples with an ageing rural workforce and a dearth of young people willing to endure the hardships many associate with toiling on the land. Other countries like Australia and the United States are taking similar steps in the face of such demographic pressures, but the sheer scale of China's farming industry means the stakes are particularly high in its drive to automate agriculture.

"Automated farming is the way ahead and demand for it here is huge," said Cheng Yue, general manager of tractor maker Changzhou Dongfeng CVT Co Ltd, which provided an autonomous vehicle that was also used at the trial in the rice field in Xinghua, a county in the eastern province of Jiangsu.

However, the road to automation is long and littered with obstacles such as high costs, the nation's varied terrain and the small size of many of its farms.

"I have heard of driverless tractors. But I don't think they are practical, especially the really large ones," said Li Guoyong, a wheat farmer in China's northern Hebei province. Most farms in his area are only a few hectares in size, he said by phone.

**GOING LOCAL**

To try to achieve its ambitious 7-year goal, Beijing is supporting trials of local technology across the country organised by industry group Telematics Industry Application Alliance (TIAA).

Members include state-owned tractor maker YTO Group, navigation systems producer Hwa Create and Zoomlion Heavy Industry Science & Technology Co Ltd, which

helped develop the combine harvester used in the Xinghua trial along with Jiangsu University.

The next trials are slated for the north-eastern province of Heilongjiang and for the hills around the southwestern city of Chongqing in the first half of this year. Those come after a string of automated developments in the sector.

YTO developed its first driverless tractor in 2017 and is aiming to start mass production soon, depending on market demand, said Lei Jun, an executive at the firm's technology center, without giving a more detailed timeline.

Lovel Heavy Industry Co Ltd signed a deal with Baidu in April to apply the tech giant's Apollo automated driving system to its agricultural machinery.

"China is expected to climb the autonomous technology ladder very quickly, mainly because Chinese companies can access the local navigation satellite system, which gives them an advantage over their international peers," said Alexious Lee, Head of China Industrial Research at Hong Kong brokerage CLSA.

He was referring to China's 'Beidou' homegrown satellite navigation system, a rival to the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS).

Beijing has included agricultural machinery in its 'Made in China 2025' campaign, meaning the vast majority of its farm equipment should be produced at home by that time. Semi-automated technology is already fairly common on farms in places such as the United States, but fully-automated tractors and combines have yet to be mass-produced anywhere.

**TOO SMALL**

But with many Chinese farms still too small for a regular tractor, driverless ones that could be as high as four times more expensive at around \$90,000 will be a long way out of reach for many in the short-term.

More than 90 percent of farms in China are less than 1 hectare, while in the United States nearly 90 percent are larger than 5 hectares.



Staff members taking part in the experiment on automated farming machinery load fertilizer onto an automated tractor near a field in Xinghua



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# Editor's Choice



A local betel nut seller holds Papua New Guinea money called kina as he stands behind his stall in the area called Poreporena Villages in the city of Port Moresby



Migrants from El Salvador, part of a new caravan from Central America trying to reach the United States, rest in a gas station



Migrants from El Salvador, part of a new caravan from Central America trying to reach the United States, rest in a gas station, in San Francisco Menendez



TSA agents sign up for food cards following a rally and press conference on the impact of the government shutdown on their livelihoods in Los Angeles



FILE PHOTO: Shipping containers sit at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California in this aerial photo taken February 6, 2015. REUTERS/Bob Riha, Jr./File Photo/File Photo



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump signs an executive order rolling back regulations from the 2010 Dodd-Frank law on Wall Street reform at the White House in Washington, U.S. February 3, 2017. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque/File Photo



Striking Los Angeles teachers stand in the rain on the picket line in San Fernando Valley area in Los Angeles, California, U.S. January 16, 2018. REUTERS/Alex Dobuzinskis



Chicago Department of Building inspectors conduct a court-ordered inspection on a warehouse serving as R. Kelly's recording studio in Chicago, Illinois, January 16, 2019. REUTERS/Joshua Lott

The Alief International Academy opened this fall at the Elsik Ninth Grade Center as a school within a school. The proposed plans for development of The Alief International Academy were presented at an Alief ISD Board Meeting in October where plans were approved to partner with the International Studies School Network (ISSN) through the Asia Society to develop the Alief International Academy with a targeted opening in the fall of 2018 for incoming 9th graders.

The enrollment goal of 75 – 100 students was set for 9th graders entering in the fall who were interested in getting a global education. The leadership of the Alief International Academy has visited all six middle schools in Alief and met with 8th graders in their US History class to recruit students interested in attending the academy. Currently, as of today, there are 60 students who have applied for the International Academy who have been accepted to the academy.



The International Academy continues to recruit new students every day. We look for students who are interested in learning about what the Asia Society has termed GLOBAL COMPETENCE which is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance. Students will do this by learning to:

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  - \*communicate ideas to diverse audiences
  - \*translate their ideas into action that makes a difference in the world
- This is a college prep program with

## Alief International Academy – A School Within A School In Alief ISD

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



a chance for students to earn college hours through both Dual Credit classes and eventually AP classes in 11th & 12th grade. Language options for a student's four-year language requirement will include Mandarin or Spanish. In addition, students will have the opportunity to participate in AVID. We are looking for students of various academic backgrounds who want to make a difference in the world. More information here: <https://www.powtoon.com/m/cDIHocrPg8h/1/m>

Students must be a resident in Alief ISD to attend. The application is online with links on the Alief ISD webpage, The Elsik Ninth Grade Center webpage and the Elsik H.S. webpage.



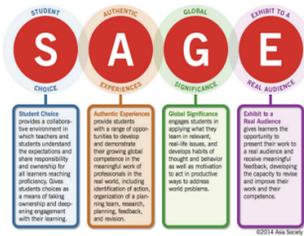
Alief International Academy 2018 signing day.

### MISSION STATEMENT

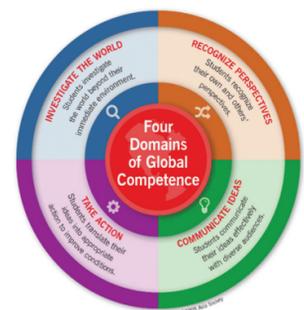
The Alief International Academy will develop multilingual, globally compe-

tent college and career ready students who are empowered to think critically while engaging in global issues so they can thrive in a competitive global society.

- o Think critically
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Alief International Academy team. More than ever before, individual actions reach around the globe. Environmental concerns, econom-

ic shifts, global poverty, population growth, human rights, and political conflict can seem intractable and overwhelming, yet they absolutely require thoughtful action. In a globally focused curriculum, students learn that the world needs them to act, and that they can make a difference.

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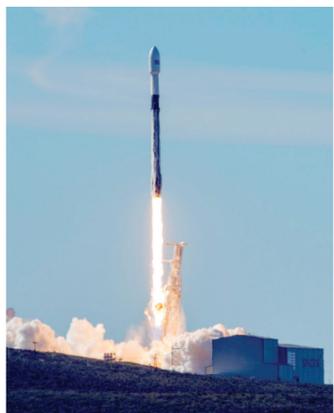
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Vice President Mike Pence said “a new era of American leadership in space has begun” as President Trump signs an executive order creating the U.S. Space Command.

Pence made the comment at Kennedy Space Center in Florida Tuesday, December 18, 2018, where he explained the command will oversee all U.S. military activities in space.

He also said the command will develop the space doctrine, techniques, and procedures that will enable our “war fighters” to defend our nation.



In the photo above, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, carrying the Spaceflight SSO-A: SmallSat Express, launches from Space Launch Complex-4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. (Photo/U.S. Air Force via AP)

His remarks came as the president directed the Pentagon to establish the Space Command as the military’s 11th unified combatant command.

Pence said the administration is working with congressional leaders to have a stand up Space Force by the end of 2020. (Courtesy <https://www.oann.com>)

**Related**

**Pence outlines plan for new Space Force by 2020**

Trump signed a one-page memorandum Tuesday authorizing the Department of Defence to create the new command on Tuesday.

The goal is to set up a command to over-

**President Trump Signs Executive Order Creating U.S. Space Command**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



President Donald Trump signs an executive order to create a U.S. Space Command.

see and organize space operations, accelerate technical advances and find more effective ways to defend U.S. assets in space, including the vast constellations of satellites that American forces rely on for navigation, communications and surveillance. The move comes amid growing concerns that China and Russia are working on ways to disrupt, disable or even destroy U.S. satellites.

The new order is separate from the president’s much touted goal of creating a “Space Force” as an independent armed service branch, but is considered a first step in that direction. The memo provides little detail on what will be a long and complicated process as the Defence Department begins to pull together various space units from across the military services into a more co-ordinated, independent organization.

According to one U.S. official, the command would pull about 600 staff from existing military space offices, and then add at least another 1,000 over the coming years. The roughly \$800 million would mainly cover the additional staff. The costs for the existing staff would just transfer to the new command, but that total was not immediately available.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations not yet announced.

Pence says it’s needed to ensure Ameri-

ca’s dominance in space amid heightened completion and threats from China and Russia. He says that while space was once peaceful and uncontested, it is now crowded and adversarial.



President Donald Trump has called for a “separate but equal” space force. Defence Secretary Jim Mattis has endorsed plans to reorganize the military’s space warfighting forces and create a new command, but has previously opposed launching an expensive separate new service.

**Vice President Mike Pence** ✓@VP Today, @POTUS Trump will direct the @DeptofDefense to establish a Combatant Command that will oversee all of our military activities in space. This Space Command will be the 11th Combatant command in the U.S. military.

42.7K 10:28 AM - Dec 18, 2018 24.6K people are talking about this Army Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, spokesman for Deputy Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan, said that establishing Space Command is “a critical step in acceler-

ating our space capabilities and posture to defend our vital national interests and deter our adversaries. This combatant command will lead space operations and develop space warfighting doctrine, tactics, and techniques.”

He added that the Pentagon will continue to develop a legislative proposal to meet the president’s vision for a space force.

The first steps next year will be to nominate top leaders for Space Command, including a four-star general and a deputy. The command would likely at least begin to take form in Colorado, where the current Joint Functional Component Command for Space is already located. But there has been no final decision on a location for the new command.

Funding for the command will be included in the budget for fiscal year 2020, which will be unveiled in February.



Trump’s order accelerates what has been a decades-long effort to reorganize and improve the military’s technological advances in space, which at times has gotten less attention as the Air Force has focused on warplanes and other combat priorities.

The military’s role in space has been under scrutiny because the United States is increasingly reliant on orbiting satellites that are difficult to protect. Satellites provide communications, navigation, intelligence and other services vital to the military and the national economy.

Over the past year, the issue gained urgency amid growing competition and threats from adversary nations.

U.S. intelligence agencies reported earlier this year that Russia and China were pursuing “nondestructive and destructive” anti-satellite weapons for use during a future war. And there are growing worries about cyberattacks that could target satellite technology, potentially leaving troops in combat without electronic communications or navigation abilities.

A U.S. Space Command existed from 1985 to 2002, but was disbanded in the aftermath of the 9-11 terrorist attacks so that U.S. Northern Command could be established, focusing on defence of the homeland.



Vice-President Mike Pence has announced plans for a new, separate U.S. Space Force as sixth military service by 2020

Although Space Command went away, its functions remained and were absorbed by U.S. Strategic Command. The Air Force retained its lead role in space through Air Force Space Command. That existing space command will be a key component of the new joint entity, raising space to the same status as other headquarters such as U.S. Cyber Command, Special Operations Command or Strategic Command.

The new Space Command will also pull from existing units in the other services, such as the Army Space and Missile Command and the Navy’s Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

Officials said the process of breaking away parts of other organizations and moulding them all into a new command will be done carefully, to ensure it’s done correctly without jeopardizing any ongoing operations or activities. Any proposal to create a new service would require congressional action. (Courtesy AP)

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