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Castle-like mansion in Southlake, Texas going to auction



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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FAA meets with U.S. airlines, pilot unions on Boeing 737 MAX

WASHINGTON/CHICAGO (Reuters) - The Federal Aviation Administration met for three hours on Friday with representatives from the three major U.S. airlines that own now grounded Boeing 737 MAX jets and their pilots' unions to discuss two fatal crashes and the path forward. More than 300 Boeing 737 MAXs have been grounded worldwide after a total of 346 people died in a Lion Air crash in Indonesia in October and in an Ethiopian Airlines crash outside Addis Ababa last month. American Airlines Group Inc, United Airlines and Southwest Airlines Co officials attended the meeting, where FAA Acting Administrator Dan Elwell said he wanted to know operators' and pilots' thoughts before the agency decides to return the 737 MAX to service. Elwell said the meeting participants' "operational perspective is critical input as the agency welcomes scrutiny on how it can do better." American said in a statement it was "confident in the direction the FAA is heading" and would continue to work collaboratively in this process.

Pilots from American and Southwest, the two largest U.S. MAX operators, said they welcomed the meeting but noted that many issues still needed to be discussed and debated before the MAX flies again.

"We have to unground the confidence in this airplane," Dennis Tajer, spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association which represents American's pilots, told reporters outside FAA headquarters. "We take off our watches and put the calendars in the drawer," he added, suggesting that rebuilding confidence in the aircraft could take some time.

American and United have removed the 737 MAX from their schedules through early June, while Southwest on Thursday extended the removal of its 34 MAX jets through Aug. 5, leading to around 160 daily flight cancellations during the revised summer schedule.



FILE PHOTO: An aerial photo shows Boeing 737 MAX airplanes parked on the tarmac at the Boeing Factory in Renton, Washington, U.S. March 21, 2019. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson/File Photo

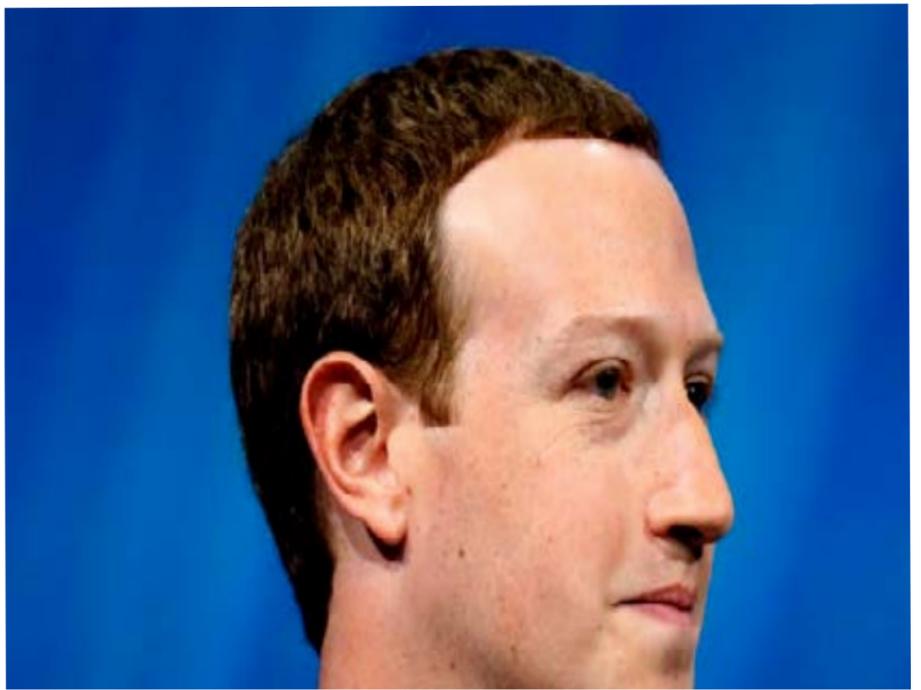
Facebook spends \$22.6 million to keep Mark Zuckerberg safe

(Reuters) - Facebook Inc more than doubled the money it spent on Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg's security in 2018 to \$22.6 million, a regulatory filing showed on Friday. Zuckerberg has drawn a base salary of \$1 for the past three years, and his "other" compensation was listed at \$22.6 million, most of which was for his personal security. Nearly \$20 million went toward security for Zuckerberg and his family, up from about \$9 million the year prior. Zuckerberg also received \$2.6 million for personal use of private jets, which the company said was part of his overall security program.

Facebook has in the past few years faced public outcry over its role in Russia's alleged influence on the 2016 U.S. presidential election and has come under fire following revelations that Cambridge Analytica obtained personal data from millions of Facebook profiles without consent.

Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg took home \$23.7 million in 2018 compared to \$25.2 million last year.

Separately, Facebook said Netflix Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings would vacate his seat on the social media company's board and not be nominated for re-election.



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Global finance officials say risks to growth skewed to downside

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Global financial officials on Saturday said risks to worldwide economic growth were "tilted to the downside" due to factors such as trade tensions, policy uncertainty and the sudden tightening of financial conditions.

be flexible and growth-friendly, but should be mindful of debt sustainability.

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Central bank governors and other global finance officials sit for a group photo at the IMF and World Bank's 2019 Annual Spring Meetings, in Washington, April 13, 2019. REUTERS/James Lawler Duggan

Growth is projected to firm up in 2020, it said.

The higher risks are presenting themselves against a backdrop of limited policy space, historically high debt levels and heightened financial vulnerabilities, officials said in the joint communique of the International Monetary Fund's steering committee.

In Europe, many of the global factors weighing on growth appear to be waning, keeping alive expectations for a recovery in the second half of the year, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said.

The statement from the International Monetary and Financial Committee, or IMFC, was released at the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington. Earlier this week, the IMF cut its global growth outlook for the third time in six months.

But he also warned that factors that undermine confidence, including the risk of a hard Brexit and a global trade war, continue to "loom large," putting growth at risk.

IMF chief calls for central bank accountability, communication

The world economy will likely grow 3.3 percent this year, the slowest expansion since 2016 and 0.2 percentage points below the global lender's estimate from January.

Elevated trade tensions have been a central talking point at the IMF and World Bank meetings this week and have been widely cited as a primary driver behind the weakening of the global economy.

The IMFC urged the world's central banks to form monetary policy aimed at ensuring that inflation remains on track toward targets and that expectations for price increases remain anchored. "Central bank decisions need to remain well communicated and data-dependent," it said.

Earlier, China took a swipe at U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" policies that have sparked a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies, including tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars

The committee also said fiscal policy should

of goods.

"The protectionism of some countries has harmed mutual trust among countries, limited the scope for multilateral cooperation, and impeded the willingness to achieve it," Chen Yulu, a vice governor at the People's Bank of China (PBOC), said in a statement to the IMFC.

es and impair necessary structural adjustments, which can negatively affect the countries concerned as well as global growth," he said.

"Unilateralism and protectionism can only exacerbate domestic imbalanc-



Central bank governors and other global finance officials sit for a group photo at the IMF and World Bank's 2019 Annual Spring Meetings, in Washington, April 13, 2019. REUTERS/James



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Editor's Choice



Rep. Omar tears up as she speaks about Trump administration policies towards Muslim immigrants at a news conference outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington



A supporter of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, who many nations have recognized as the country's rightful interim ruler, takes part in a protest against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins



Soccer Football - Champions League Quarter Final First Leg - Ajax Amsterdam v Juventus - Johan Cruiff Arena, Amsterdam, Netherlands - Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo before the match REUTERS/Wolfgang Rattay



Champions League Quarter Final First Leg - Ajax Amsterdam v Juventus



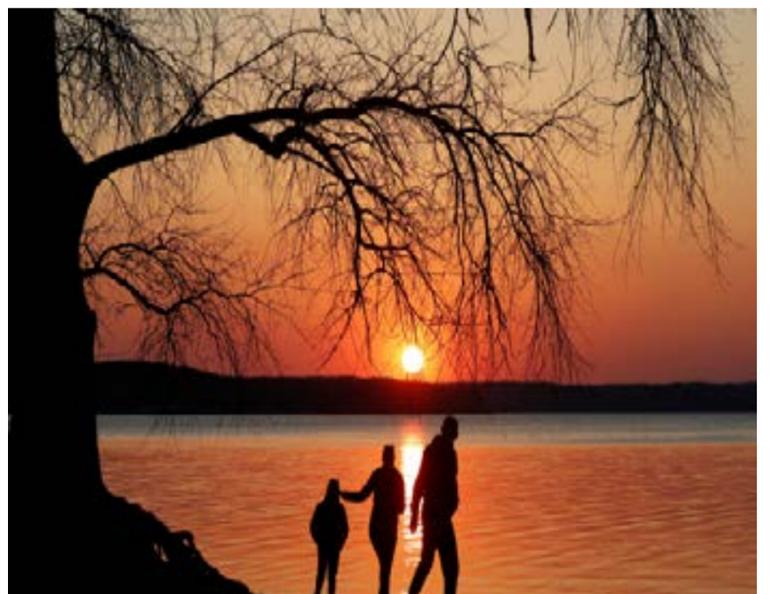
Poster showing late Cuban President Fidel Castro and his brother Raul hangs inside a subsidised state store, in Havana



Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, who many nations have recognized as the country's rightful interim ruler, take part in a protest against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela, 2019. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado



Managua's Bishop Silvio Baez embraces Roman Catholic Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes after a news conference in Managua



People enjoy sunset at a lake on the outskirts of Minsk, Belarus 2019. REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko

Walmart To Spend Nearly \$265M On Store Improvements, Innovations In Texas



Walmart Inc. (NYSE: WMT) plans to remodel 54 Texas stores as well as expand its grocery pickup, grocery delivery, pickup towers and autonomous floor scrubber, among other innovations, across units in the state.

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

Walmart Inc. (NYSE: WMT) plans to remodel 54 Texas stores as well as expand its grocery pickup, grocery delivery, pickup towers and autonomous floor scrubber, among other innovations, across units in the state.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer expects to spend \$264.9 million this year as it renovates 54 Texas units. However, only four Houston-area stores will be renovated:

- 10750 Westview Drive in west Houston
- 9451 FM 1960 Bypass in Humble
- 13003 Tomball Parkway in northwest Houston
- 11242 S. Gessner Drive in southwest Houston

•The estimated spend in Texas between store renovations and expanded innovations was included in the company's total capital expenditure guidance of about \$11 billion for fiscal year 2020, which runs Feb. 1, 2019, through Jan. 31, 2020.

When it comes to Walmart's innovation expansion strategy, the retailer plans to add 1,200 autonomous floors scrubbers, 300 autonomous shelf-scanners, 1,200 FAST uploaders, and 900 pickup towers, in addition to adding online grocery pickup to 1,000 stores and grocery delivery to 800 stores. Several local stores are scheduled to receive those upgrades.



Pickup Towers scheduled for these Walmart locations:

- 10750 Westview Drive in Houston
 - 5655 E. Sam Houston Parkway N. in Houston
 - 15955 FM 529 in Houston
 - 4900 Garth Road in Baytown
 - 9451 FM 1960 Bypass in Humble
- Automated Shelf Scanners scheduled for these Walmart locations:**

- 1313 N Fry Road in Katy
- 141 Interstate 45 in Huntsville
- 155 Louetta Crossing in Spring
- 6626 FM 1960 in Humble

Automated Floor Scrubbers scheduled for these Walmart locations:

- 21150 Kuykendahl Road in Spring
- 26270 Northwest Freeway in Cypress
- 13484 Northwest Freeway in Houston
- 5655 E. Sam Houston Parkway N. in Houston
- 2391 S. Wayside Drive in Houston
- 27650 State Highway 249 in Tomball
- 2727 Dunvale Road in Houston
- 10411 North Freeway in Houston
- 1025 Sawdust Road in Spring
- 255 FM 518 in Kemah
- 6702 Seawall Blvd. in Galveston
- 9025 Spencer Highway in La Porte
- 1710 Broadway St. in Pearland
- 15955 FM 529 in Houston



- 4900 Garth Road in Baytown
 - 10505 Broadway St. in Pearland
 - 1919 N. Main St. in Pearland
 - 345 Highway 6 in Sugar Land
 - 3506 S. Highway 6 in Houston
 - 11210 W. Airport Blvd. in Stafford
 - 6060 N. Fry Road in Katy
 - 9460 W. Sam Houston Parkway S. in Houston
 - 10001 Woodlands Parkway in Spring
 - 1407 N. Loop 336 W. in Conroe
- Automated Delivery Truck Unloader scheduled for this Walmart location:**

•10411 North Freeway in Houston
Last month, Walmart added at least five more pickup towers to the 145 it had launched across Texas. New towers were added to the following Houston-area

- stores:
- 14215 FM 2100 in Crosby
 - 3040 College Park Drive in The Woodlands
 - 1710 Broadway St. in Pearland
- In Texas, Walmart anticipates adding online grocery pickup to 74 stores and grocery delivery to 84. Those services are already available in at least some Houston-area stores.

Walmart employs about 169,000 associates in Texas and reports to support 285,000 Texas supplier jobs. In March, Texas associates were awarded about \$23.6 million in cash bonuses for fourth quarter performance, according to a press release at the time. (Courtesy <https://www.bizjournals.com>)

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World leaders are scrambling to contain acts of violence and hate crimes by introducing censorship measures, or by shutting down parts of the internet (or the whole network) in trouble spots.

Why it matters: Some experts argue that heavy-handed rules meant to curb the on-line promotion of violence could unintentionally make the problems worse instead. Driving the news: Sri Lankan officials have temporarily blocked social media and messaging apps in the country to curtail the spread of fake news after multiple bombings killed hundreds of people on Easter Sunday.

Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, Viber, Snapchat and Facebook Messenger have been blocked in Sri Lanka, according to data from Internet monitoring group NetBlocks.

Yes, but: Experts worry that by taking strong measures to disconnect the internet, leaders could be making the situation worse for a few reasons.

Rumors spread in a vacuum: "Given the awful events in #SriLanka, it is understandable, but counterproductive, to shut down social media platforms. Rumor spreads most easily in a vacuum. The best way to tackle misinformation to counter it with accurate factual information," said Peter Cunliffe-Jones, founder of Africa Check, an independent fact-checking organization, in a tweet.



"Fake News" and "Junk Mail" are internet problems worldwide. It gives bad actors an opportunity for more damage: "What we've seen is that when social media is shut down, it creates a vacuum of information that's readily exploited by other parties," said Alp Toker, executive director of NetBlocks, to the Associated Press. "It can add to the sense of fear and can cause panic."

Violence Prompts Global Social Media Crackdown



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

Other research shows that blocking social networks can actually result in an increase in violence. Jan Rydzak, associate director of Stanford's Global Digital Policy Incubator, concluded in a 2016 paper examining social media shutdowns in India, "Shutdowns are found to be much more strongly associated with increases in violent collective action than with non-violent mobilization."

"Violence does not seem to require use of social media and messaging applications," Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, director of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, said. "This violence is at least in part animated by the efforts of key domestic actors perfectly capable of doing gruesome work without social media."

The big picture: A pattern is emerging separating countries that outright shut down or censor networks from those that vow to pass tougher laws.

"It's clear that governments that are less

committed to fundamental human rights are taking a far more interventionist stance," says Nielsen.



For some democratic nations, strong measures to regulate social media and messaging apps have emerged in the wake of violence, but there haven't been any efforts to out-right block networks.

For example, after the mosque shootings in New Zealand last month, officials called for tough penalties against tech executives that don't act to limit hate speech, but did not seek to block any social media channels. Incidents of violence and hate crimes in the U.K. and the U.S have resulted in similar approaches.

But in other countries, particularly developing nations where social media and messaging apps have become synonymous with the internet, leaders are rushing to stop the spread of hate speech by shutting off networks altogether, usually temporarily.



Following the mosque shootings in New Zealand last month, officials called for tough penalties against tech executives that don't act to limit hate speech, but did not seek

to block any social media channels.

Sri Lankan officials have done this before. The country blocked social sites in 2018, in light of a 10-day nationwide state emergency declared around violence between Muslim and Buddhist communities.

India announced a proposal earlier this year to install Chinese-style internet censorship rules ahead of its elections to curb hate speech, unlawful content and misinformation. The country has been battling hate crimes and violent attacks caused by the spread of misinformation on WhatsApp. Some African nations, like Zimbabwe, have introduced full or partial internet shutdowns in light of violence. Other countries, like Democratic Republic of Congo, have done so in light of upcoming elections.

The bottom line: "The concern among human rights experts is that interventions that are meant to curtail these terrible events sometimes provide political cover for a more general attempt to curtail people's access to information and ability to express themselves," says Nielsen.



What's next: The link between outbreaks of violence and social media is leading to calls for tighter regulation of social media and messaging apps, pitting free-speech ideals against efforts to curb horrifying incidents.

"A few years ago we'd view the blocking of social media sites after an attack as outrageous censorship; now we think of it as essential duty of care, to protect ourselves from threat," said Ivan Sigal, executive director of Global Voices, an international journalism nonprofit. in a tweet. (Courtesy axios.com)

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