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Trump says U.S. may release parts of Baghdadi raid video



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S&P 500 hits all-time high on trade optimism, rate cut hopes



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., October 28, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

(Reuters) - Technology stocks propelled the benchmark S&P 500 index to an all-time high, while the Nasdaq hovered below its record level, as a possible U.S.-China trade deal and rising bets on a third rate cut by the Federal Reserve fueled optimism.

Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., October 28, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

Shares of Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) gained 2% and were among the biggest boost to all three major indexes after the technology giant won the Pentagon's \$10 billion cloud computing contract, beating Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O).

The S&P 500 rose as much as 0.7% to 3,044.08, breaching the record level hit in July, while the Nasdaq was less than 0.5% below its all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was more than 1% away from its record high.

President Donald Trump said on Monday he expected to sign a significant part of the trade deal with China ahead of schedule but did not elaborate on the timing.

That added to Friday's optimism when Washington said it was "close to finalizing" some parts of a trade agreement with China.

"Most of the things that have been worrying markets haven't necessarily been resolved but the concern about them has waned a little bit," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab in Austin. "In general, it is more of a lack of bad news than it is an abundance of good news."

The news comes as a relief to investors who have been reeling from the impact of the trade war and its fallout on the domestic economy.

Adding to the upbeat mood, the Fed is expected to widely cut interest rates at its two-day policy meeting, which ends on Wednesday.

The odds for a quarter percentage point cut in U.S. borrowing costs have jumped to 95% from 49% last month, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool.

The third-quarter earnings season has managed to ease some concerns related to the impact of the trade tensions on Corporate America, with over 78% of the 204 S&P 500 companies that have reported so far surpassing profit expectations, according to Refinitiv data.

Investors are now waiting for earnings from heavyweights this week, including Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O) and Merck & Co Inc (MRK.N). Chipmakers, which have a sizable exposure to China, gained helping the Philadelphia SE Semiconductor index .SOX rise 1.6%. The technology .SPLRCT, healthcare .SPXHC and communication services .SPLRCL sectors gained more than 1% each.

"We're likely to hold at a high today and may just float around sideways for a while," Frederick added.

At 1:00 p.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI was up 74.92 points, or 0.28%, at 27,032.98, the S&P 500 .SPX was up 15.24 points, or 0.50%, at 3,037.79

and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC was up 78.83 points, or 0.96%, at 8,321.95.

Among other stocks, AT&T Inc (T.N) rose about 4% after the U.S. wireless carrier said it would add two new board members and consider selling off up to \$10 billion worth of non-core businesses next year.

Tiffany & Co (TIF.N) surged about 31% after Louis Vuitton owner LVMH (LVMH.PA) made a \$120 per share offer to buy the U.S. luxury jeweler.

Spotify Technology SA (SPOT.N) gained about 14.47% after the music streaming company posted a surprise quarterly profit and beat revenue estimates.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 1.48-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 2.23-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P index recorded 39 new 52-week highs and no new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 104 new highs and 30 new lows.



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Trump says U.S. may release parts of Baghdadi raid video

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he may declassify and release part of the video taken on Saturday of the raid in Syria in which Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed. The video is believed to include aerial footage and possibly footage from cameras mounted on the soldiers who stormed Baghdadi's compound. "We're thinking about it. We may," Trump told reporters before flying to Chicago. "We may take certain parts of it and release it." Trump said on Sunday that Baghdadi had died "whimpering and crying" in a raid by U.S. special forces in Syria, fulfilling his top national security goal. World leaders welcomed Baghdadi's death, but said the campaign against Islamic State, a group that carried out atrocities in the name of a fanatical version of Islam, was not over, with so-called lone wolves likely to seek revenge.

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Baghdadi, who had led the jihadist group since 2010, killed himself by detonating a suicide vest after fleeing into a dead-end tunnel as U.S. forces closed in, Trump said in a televised address from the White House.

"He was a sick and depraved man and now he's gone," said Trump. "He died ... whimpering and crying and screaming."
Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to say if the United States had told Russia about the operation in advance.

But he added: "If this information is confirmed we can talk about a serious contribution by the president of the United States to the fight against international terrorism."

French President Emmanuel Macron said Baghdadi's death was a major blow against Islamic State but "the fight continues to finally defeat this terrorist organization". British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We will work with our coalition partners to bring an end to the murderous, barbaric activities of Daesh (Islamic State) once and for all." Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters: "This is a many-headed monster ... As you cut one off, another one inevitably arises." In Southeast Asia, an important focus for Islamic State, officials said security forces were preparing for a long battle to thwart the group's ideology.

The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, home to some of Asia's most organized Islamist militants, said they were braced for retaliation by Islamic State loyalists, including "lone wolf" attacks by radicalized locals.

CAPABLE AND DANGEROUS
Though Baghdadi's death will unsettle Islamic State, it remains capable and dangerous, said Delfin Lorenzana, defense secretary of the Philippines, where the group's influence has taken a hold in its troubled Mindanao region.



FILE PHOTO: A man purported to be the reclusive leader of the militant Islamic State Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has made what would be his first public appearance at a mosque in the centre of Iraq's second city, Mosul, according to a video recording posted on the Internet on July 5, 2014, in this still image taken from video. Social Media Website via

"This is a blow to the organization considering al-Baghdadi's stature as a leader. But this is just a momentary setback considering the depth and reach of the organization worldwide," Lorenzana said. "Somebody will take his place." Islamic State has no declared successor as leader. But the group has in the past proved resilient, continuing to mount or inspire attacks in the region and beyond despite losing most of its territory in recent years. Baghdadi had long been sought by the United States - which offered a

\$25 million reward - as leader of a jihadist group that at one point controlled large areas of Syria and Iraq, where it declared a caliphate. Islamic State has brutally attacked religious minorities and launched deadly strikes on five continents in a violent campaign that horrified most Muslims. In their long hunt for Baghdadi, Iraqi intelligence teams secured a break in February 2018 after one of his top aides gave them information on how he escaped capture for so many years, two Iraqi security officials said.

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Editor's Choice



A model presents a creation by designer Hao Weimin at China Fashion Week, China, October 28, 2019. REUTERS/Jason Lee TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A woman takes pictures next to pro-Brexit placards outside the Houses of Parliament in London



Supporters of presidential candidate Alberto Fernandez, and his running mate and former President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, react in Buenos Aires, Argentina October 27, 2019. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson signs a book of condolence during a visit to Thurrock Council Offices in Grays, Britain October 28, 2019. Stefan Rousseau/Pool via REUTERS TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Christine Lagarde, President-designate of the European Central Bank talks to ECB's outgoing President Mario Draghi in Frankfurt, Germany October 28, 2019. Boris Roessler/Pool via Reuters TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Demonstrator reacts during a protest over corruption, lack of jobs, and poor services, in Baghdad



U.S. President Donald Trump watches as U.S. Special Operations forces close in on ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in the Situation Room of the White House in Washington

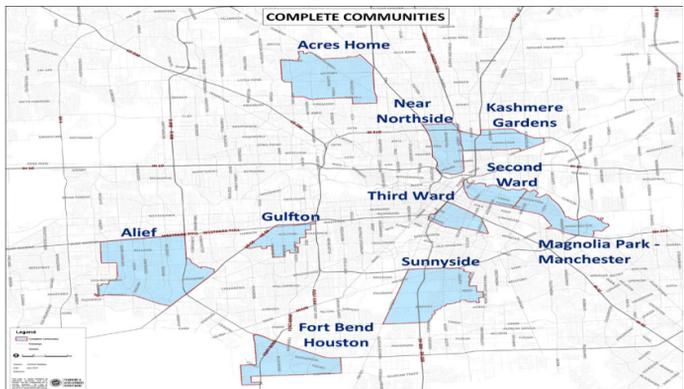


Formula One F1 - Mexican Grand Prix - Hermanos Rodriguez Circuit, Mexico City, Mexico - October 27, 2019 Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrates winning the race on the podium REUTERS/Carlos Jasso TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

City Of Houston Mayor's Office Media Release For Immediate Release 6/20/19



Mayor Expands Complete Communities Initiative To Five More Neighborhoods

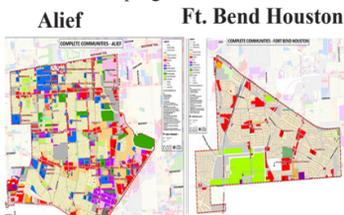


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Houston - On Thursday, June 20, 2019, Mayor Turner announced that five new neighborhoods have been added to the Complete Communities initiative!

They join a collaborative neighborhood improvement program that started with Acres Home, Gulfton, Near Northside, Second Ward and Third Ward. The City will work in a concentrated manner with stakeholders in each area and partners across Houston to create more complete neighborhoods with enhanced access to quality affordable homes, jobs, well-maintained parks and greenspace, improved streets and sidewalks, grocery stores and other retail, good schools and transit options.

Houston creating One Complete City. Mayor Turner made today's announcement at a community celebration at Eastwood Park, 5000 Harrisburg Blvd. in Second Ward, to showcase examples of the initiative's progress.



Worn out tennis courts at the park were converted to soccer practice spaces thanks to a \$200,000 public-private partnership among the city, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Target stores. New skate park ramps debuted at the park, thanks to the Friends of Eastwood Park non-profit

organization. "Although they have been underserved for decades, these 10 neighborhoods represent some of the best of Houston—they're diverse, hard-working, and proud," Mayor Turner said. "Complete Communities will ensure that all ships rise with the tide, so that all of our communities are part of the fabric that makes Houston one complete city."



Complete Communities, which the mayor started two years ago, uses government, non-profit and business funds and other resources to strengthen neighborhoods across the city. Donors have already given \$11 million to the mayor's Complete Communities Improvement Fund and the initiative has also attracted millions of dollars in private investments.

The 10 neighborhoods - half of them outside Loop 610 -- struggle with access to quality amenities and services, such as full-service supermarkets, affordable urgent care centers and high-quality early learning and after-school programs. Each has significant tracts of undeveloped land and at least two Opportunity Zones, designated by the federal government, in which investors can qualify for tax breaks.

Residents of each Complete Communities neighborhood determine the top priority neighborhood improvements through a series of public meetings and workshops.

Background Mayor Turner Announces Complete Communities Initiative

Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the launch of the much-anticipated Complete Communities Initiative on April 12, 2017. Complete Communities is a pilot program designed to revitalize Houston's under-resourced communities in

partnership with existing neighborhood residents.



The initiative will work toward creating sustainable, "complete" neighborhoods that are safe, affordable, economically viable, and that have access to quality education, affordable housing, transportation options, green spaces, healthy food options, economic opportunity, and well-maintained infrastructure.

In order to achieve sustainable, comprehensive community results that also safeguard against widespread gentrification, the City must embrace a nuanced approach, and work alongside community partners and neighborhoods to specifically identify what will make their respective neighborhoods "complete," and implement that vision.

The Complete Communities Initiative will commence with the following five (5) pilot communities: Acres Homes, Gulfton, Second Ward, Near Northside Third Ward.



The City will also collaborate with the Complete Community Advisory Committee, comprised of community building stakeholders across Houston, during this process. In order to both develop and implement these local community plans, the City will explore public-private partnerships and private investment in these projects, where appropriate, to help build local capacity and to promote sustainability. The goal of creating and

implementing these local community plans is to enable Houstonians in various places across Houston to have the opportunity to thrive where they are.

"With the Complete Communities Initiative, we are not simply imposing programs on under-resourced neighborhoods; rather, we are seeking to collaborate with these communities to create and implement a shared community vision that empowers that community for the long-term." Council Member Edwards stated. Edwards adds, "I commend Mayor Turner for including the Complete Communities Initiative among his top priorities, and look forward to working with Mayor Turner and my colleagues on City Council to help move all of Houston forward."

For more information on the Complete Communities Initiative, visit houston.tx.gov/completemunities.

Strategy



Complete Communities is about improving neighborhoods so that all of Houston's residents and business owners can have access to quality services and amenities. It's about working closely with the residents of communities that haven't reached their full potential, understanding their strengths and opportunities, and collaborating with partners across the city to strengthen them. While working to improve these communities, we must also work to ensure existing residents can stay in homes that remain affordable.

Timeline table with columns: June 2019, July-August 2019, Fall 2019-Spring 2020, March-May 2020, Late Spring 2020. Rows describe key milestones like program announcement, outreach, public meetings, and implementation.

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Amazon Drivers Part Of \$10 Million Theft Ring, FBI Says



Amazon vans line up at a distribution center to pick up packages for delivery on Amazon Prime Day, in Orlando, Florida on July 16, 2019.

Overview

A theft ring in Washington state sold millions of dollars' worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, recently unsealed federal court documents show.

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

SEATTLE — A theft ring in Washington state sold millions of dollars' worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, and a pair of Amazon delivery drivers was involved, recently unsealed federal court documents show. According to a search warrant affidavit unsealed in U.S. District Court in Seattle and reviewed by The Associated Press, two storefront businesses posing as pawnshops bought the goods from shoplifters, then had the items shipped to Amazon warehouses, where they were stored until sold online. Entities associated with the alleged ring-leader did at least \$10 million in sales on Amazon since 2013, FBI agent Ariana Kroshinsky wrote in her affidavit. No charges have yet been filed, though investigators have raided the pawnshops

and the home of the man identified as the ringleader, Aleksandr Pavlovskiy, 44, of Auburn. A man who answered the door at one of the shops Wednesday identified himself as Alex and told The Associated Press his business was legitimate, that he kept good records and he should not be in any trouble. Among those who provided stolen items to the pawn shops were two contract Amazon drivers, Kroshinsky said. Their job was to travel to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, pick up items being returned to the company and then bring them to an Amazon warehouse south of Seattle, and to deliver items to post offices for shipping. Instead, they routinely stole the goods and sold them to the pawnshops, she wrote. Amazon did not immediately return an

email seeking comment about the case Thursday.



A pawn shop alleged to have been a front for a theft ring closed in Renton, Wash. on July 31, 2019. The FBI says the ring sold millions of dollars' worth of stolen goods on Amazon.com in the past six years, and that a pair of Amazon delivery drivers was involved. No charges have yet been filed.Elaine Thompson / AP

The investigation began last summer when a police detective in Auburn, a south Seattle suburb, was perusing a record of pawnshop sales and noticed that one man had made 57 transactions. It turned out to be one of the drivers. He had received nearly \$30,000 selling items to the pawn shops between February and July last year, the affidavit said. Police initially arrested the driver, but released him from jail to avoid disrupting their larger investigation. The other driver, identified as Abbas Zghair, was believed to be a roommate of the first. Amazon told investigators that Zghair stole about \$100,000 worth of property, including gaming systems, sporting goods and computer products — items he sold to one of the pawnshops for less than \$20,000, the agent wrote. In an unrelated case, Zghair has been charged with murder after police said he shot and killed a man in an Auburn field in March, then fled to the Canadian border, where he was arrested trying to cross with a fake ID. He's being held on \$2.5 million bail. Detectives staked out the pawnshops, Innovation Best in Kent and Thrift-Electro

in Renton, and observed that they appeared to be paying shoplifters and drug users cash for new items from Home Depot, Lowes and Fred Meyer department stores.



Unlike typical pawn shops, they didn't make sales; instead, the products were moved to a warehouse and to Amazon "fulfillment centers," from where they were shipped when they were sold on Amazon's website by sellers using the handles "Bestforyouall" or "Freeshipforyou," the affidavit said. According to a database of pawnshop transactions reviewed by Auburn police, the suspect pawn shops paid more than \$4.1 million to sellers who brought them nearly 48,000 items in the past six years. The items included allergy medication, razors, electric toothbrushes and tools in their original packaging. Detectives also conducted undercover operations in which they sold new items in their original packaging to the shops, which accepted them no questions asked, Kroshinsky wrote.

The FBI said it is awaiting more Amazon records to determine the full extent of Pavlovskiy's enterprise, but that "estimated revenue from Amazon sales, for entities associated with Aleksandr Pavlovskiy, was at least \$10 million since 2013." Pavlovskiy's lawyer, Cristine Beckwith, did not return a message seeking comment.

The sale of stolen or counterfeit goods on Amazon or other digital marketplaces is not uncommon, but it was not immediately clear how many other schemes

had reached such a volume of sales. Last year, police raided a pawn shop in Monroe, north of Seattle, that they said had taken in \$428,000 fencing stolen items, much of it on Amazon.



Jon Riley, a vice president for the digital strategy firm Publicis Sapient and previously the head of e-commerce user experience for Amazon Devices, said preventing the sale of stolen goods is a major challenge for the company, but retailers can be held liable if they don't do enough to ensure they're not selling stolen goods. Because it's impossible for Amazon to review "every Tide pod" that's sold on its site, the company will likely need to do more to vet sellers, Riley said. "It's a little bit of an arms race for Amazon to be able to take in product, put it on the web and get it to their customers in a speedy fashion and not unwittingly sell stolen stuff at the same time," Riley said. "Ultimately what Amazon has to do is show good faith if the government comes knocking on the door and says, 'Look, you're selling stolen goods.'" (Courtesy nbnews.com)



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