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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Call 'em crazy, but Fed officials likely to keep raising rates

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday the United States would be "punishing itself" by halting military sales to Saudi Arabia even if it is proven that Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed inside the country's consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi, a prominent critic of Riyadh and a U.S. resident, disappeared on Oct. 2 after visiting the Saudi consulate. Turkey's government believes he was deliberately killed inside the building and his body removed. Qatari media group expresses concern over Khashoggi disappearance. Qatari media group expresses concern over Khashoggi disappearance. Trump has forged closer ties with Saudi Arabia and is under international and domestic pressure to help determine what happened to Khashoggi and punish Saudi Arabia if investigations show its government had him killed. Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike have demanded firm action. There was already mounting concern over civilian deaths caused by a Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen's civil war and some lawmakers have said Washington should block military sales to Riyadh if the allegations over Khashoggi are proven.

But Trump is firmly opposed. "I actually think we'd be punishing ourselves if we did that," Trump told reporters at the White House on Saturday. "There are other things we can do that are very, very powerful, very strong and we'll do them," he added, without saying what those measures might be. Under U.S. law, major foreign military sales can be

blocked by Congress. An informal review process lets key lawmakers use a practice known as a "hold" to stall deals if they have concerns such as whether the weapons being supplied would be used to kill civilians. Major U.S. defense contractors, including Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and Raytheon Co (RTN.N), are among the beneficiaries of Washington's close ties to Riyadh and would be hurt by the halting of any major deal. Trump said on Saturday his administration won a \$110 billion military order from Saudi Arabia and that it was worth 450,000 U.S. jobs.

"If they don't buy it from us, they're going to buy it from Russia or they're going to buy it from China," he said. "Think of that, \$110 billion, all they're going to do is give



FILE PHOTO: Human rights activists and friends of Saudi journalist Khashoggi hold his picture during a protest outside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul

it to other countries, and I think that would be very foolish."

Khashoggi case strains U.S.-Saudi relations. It was unclear what measures Trump might take against Saudi Arabia, which is the world's largest oil exporter, and one of his top allies.

The Trump administration plans to reimpose sanctions on oil exports from Iran on Nov. 5

and Trump has urged Saudi Arabia to boost oil output to help make up for the loss. Among investors in federal funds futures, continued Fed rate hikes remained a solid bet, with a December increase assigned a 78 percent probability - down only 3 percentage points from before Wednesday's market turmoil and Trump's comments.

Jury clears J&J of liability in New Jersey talc cancer case

(Reuters) - A New Jersey jury on Thursday cleared Johnson & Johnson of liability in a case involving a woman who alleged that the company's talc-based products, including its baby powder, contain asbestos and caused her cancer. After less than a day of deliberations, the jury in New Brunswick, New Jersey rejected claims by Rosalind Henry and her husband, who had alleged that Henry's mesothelioma, a cancer associated with asbestos exposure, was caused by the company's talc products. J&J is facing some 10,600 liability lawsuits across the United States over its talc products, most involving claims that they caused ovarian cancer, and that the company knew of and concealed risks associated with the products. The company, which is based just a few miles from the courtroom where the latest case took place, said it was pleased with the unanimous jury verdict. "We have deep sympathy for anyone diagnosed with any form of cancer and appreciate that people are looking for answers. However, Johnson's baby powder is not the cause of this disease," the company said in a statement. It said decades of scientific testing by academic institutions and regulators have shown its talc to be safe and free of asbestos.

A lawyer for Henry did not immediately return a request for comment. During trial, Henry's lawyers said J&J had known for decades about asbestos fibers in its talc, but hid the evidence from regulators and consumers. J&J has been fighting talc cancer lawsuits for several years, but the litigation shifted in recent months to include allegations of asbestos contamination. Plaintiffs now claim asbestos fibers in the products are causing both ovarian cancer and mesothelioma. In April, J&J lost the first trial over such allegations when a jury in New Jersey awarded \$117 million to a man suffering from mesothelioma and his wife. It lost another trial in May, when a California jury awarded \$25.7 million to a woman diagnosed with mesothelioma. Both decisions are under appeal. Since then, the company has had four mistrials in similar cases because jurors could not reach a verdict or because the plaintiff died. In July, a Missouri jury hit J&J with a massive \$4.69 billion verdict in the first trial alleging asbestos contamination has caused ovarian cancer in 22 women. That decision is also under appeal.



FILE PHOTO: A bottle of Johnson's baby powder is seen in a photo illustration taken in New York

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Sugar Land man to appeal excommunication from Mormon church

By Lindsay Peyton

A Sugar Land man who was excommunicated from the Mormon church last month for criticizing its practice of allowing one-on-one interviews between youth and bishops announced Thursday that he is appealing the decision.

Sam Young, 65, was forewarned that he could be excommunicated for crusading against the church's policy of allowing bishops to meet with children one-on-one to discuss topics regarding their faith and personal behavior. Young, who served for five years as a bishop, has been pushing for reforms to the routine meetings after learning that some of the questions bishops asked were sexually explicit.

Young was summoned to a rare excommunication hearing in September at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building in Sugar Land.

Under church rules, Young said he has had up to 30 days to file a formal appeal with the First Presidency of the Church.

"I have received pushback from people about why I am appealing the excommunication, that I shouldn't be pleading or begging on bended knee," Young said at a press conference Thursday in Houston. "I have done nothing wrong."

Young has been a lifelong active member of the Mormon church. In addition to serving as a bishop, he has been a bishopric counselor, a ward mission leader, stake activities director and a seminary teacher.

Church officials have declined to comment on the case. The church considers Young's case apostasy, or as it explains, "the repeated, clear and open public opposition to the church, its leaders and its doctrine."

Young wants the church to reconsider its policy regarding interviews that take place between Mormon youth and church officials. He learned last year that the interviews included sexual questions like if the child masturbated or has been sexually active.

He started asking around to learn more, even reaching out to his own daughters. Then countless church members shared stories with him and several agreed to let Young post what they wrote on his website, ProtectLDSChildren.org. Many of the stories talk about how the interviews led to feelings of shame, guilt, self-loathing and even suicide.

The church changed its guidelines for interviews in March, stating, "If the person being interviewed desires, another adult may be invited to participate in the interview. Leaders should avoid all circumstances that could be misunderstood."



Sam Young is challenging the Mormon Church's private interviews with children. "I am doing this for them," he said, referring to photos of his grandkids.

Houston S&P 500 stocks that lost the most value Wednesday

Houston companies on the S&P 500 index closed lower Wednesday as the stock market took a big hit.

The S&P 500 dropped 94.66 or 3.3 percent to close at 2,785.68. See 10 local stocks that posted the largest one-day percentage loss in the slide show above.



The S&P 500 index lost 3.3 percent Wednesday. Closing prices on Oct. 10 and one-day percentage changes for Houston companies on the S&P 500 follow

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HOUSTON CHINESE YELLOW PAGES

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Editor's Choice



REFILE - CORRECTING EVENT DISTANCE Athletes in action during The Athletics Women's 2000m Stage 1 at The Athletics Field, Youth Olympic Park, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 12, 2018. Joel Marklund for OIS/IOC/ Handout via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS -



FILE PHOTO: Human rights activists and friends of Saudi journalist Khashoggi hold his pictures during a protest outside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul



An Indian policeman uses a slingshot during clashes with Kashmiri demonstrators during a protest in downtown Srinagar



A Rohingya refugee girl smiles as she applies Thanaka paste in the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar



Yuchen Chao of Chinese Taipei in action during the Beach Handball Women's Tournament match between Chinese Taipei and Paraguay at The Beach Handball Arena, Tecnopolis Park, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 12, 2018.



Staff from Sotheby's auctioneers reposition Banksy's Love is in the Bin, which is now half-shredded, in London



U.S. pastor Andrew Brunson arrives at his home after his trial in Izmir



Boats sail by a French warship in Nice, France, October 12, 2018. REUTERS/Eric Gaillard TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

(Houston, Christi Mei Reporting) The Third Southern US Chopin International Piano Contest, jointly organized and sponsored by US Chopin International Art Center, The Moores School of Music of University of Houston, TX, US KAWAI Piano Corporation and Famous Southern New Group, was satisfactorily completed on August 18, 2018.

One of the high-lighted achievement was displayed by Xiangzhi Liu, from a Renowned Piano Master's family, his superb piano skills and talented performance awarded him the First Class Prize in Teenager B Group.



Xiangzhi Liu

From 3 and half years old, Xiangzhi Liu started to learn playing piano from her mother, professor Xiaoping Wu, and his father, professor Ning Liu, till now when he grows up to 18 years old.

the beautiful music stream delivered from Liu's finger tips leads the audience to a charming musical realm. However, there had been a very long, boring and tough piano learning experience for Xiangzhi Liu.

Because Xiangzhi Liu is from a piano master family, his parents have very delicate sense of music. Xiangzhi Liu had been under a very high standard requirement to mature his performance skills, even he made a very minor mistake, his parents would find out the problem and asked Xiangzhi Liu to correct his error even they stayed in another room.

Realizing the learning hurdles and mental barrier, Xiangzhi Liu's mother felt very sad for him and she was tempted to abandon the strict training plan for his son.

After his first triumph in piano contest, Xiangzhi Liu kept attending annual one or two piano contest programs every year, and his hard learning rewarded him with many other honors, medals and trophies.

Xiangzhi Liu won many gold medals and numerous honors, including the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th annual "China Cup" US Music Open Contest, Hong Kong International Piano Open Contest, Dalian Piano Open Contest, "Fu-Li-

Hua" Golden Flower Piano Contest, and "Pu-Gon-Yin" Outstanding Youth New Artist Piano Contest. The most remarkable honor that Xiangzhi Liu earned was via his extraordinary performance that displayed in the 17th annual "Fu-Li-Hua-Koman Cup" International Youth Piano Contest in 2014.

Xiangzhi Liu distinguished himself from the other competitors with his excellent performing skills of "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 6", his marvelous presentation deeply impressed the 21 judge panels coming from across entire China music realm. Due to his superb art performance, Xiangzhi Liu earned the first place of the contest program and he was also rewarded a piano bestowed by the Contest Committee.



Recital in 2017

Several piano contestants from China Division Contest Region were selected from The Third Southern US Chopin International Piano Contest via their outstanding performance conducted on April 21 and April 22, 2018; and they were authorized to visit US in August 2018 to compete with the selected winning contestants in US Division Contest Region.

absorbed in the charming music he performed, his mature performing skills, passion for music and his elegant sense of music helped drive every music tone to its delicate and full strength presentation that reached to a professional performing level.

Xiangzhi Liu's overwhelming performing skills astonished all the Referee panel and he unanimously won the very high rating for his superb performance; these talented show features won Xiangzhi Liu the First Place Prize of Teenager B Group.

Xiangzhi Liu's mother, Xiaoping Wu, currently serves as the principal of Dalian Liu Ning Piano Institute. Ms. Wu is not only dedicated to her music education, she is also enthusiastically involved with Social Charity Business, including actively organized and sponsored fund raising piano programs to help people in needs.

Ms. Wu had also worked with Dalian Lion Association to jointly formed a Charity Fund for "Blind Children and kids suffering in Autism". This charity fund is dedicated to help provide financial support to these children with music talent to learn piano performance and tuning piano.

Due to the kindness and merciful actions, Xiangzhi and his brother were awarded with the honor title of "Benevolent Youth", bestowed by Lushun Charitable Organization. On November 30, 2013, Xiangzhi Liu attended the fund raising charity piano performance, "Sun-

shine and Hope" for future blinded piano tuners. In 2015, Xiangzhi Liu was busily attending three fund raising charity piano performances, held at Houston, TX in May 2015 and at Dalian, China in June 2015, to raise funds for poor family children and blind children in North-Eastern China area to help provide financial needs for their international trip and expenses to attend US music contest programs.



In July 2017, Xiangzhi attended "Century Music, Century Legacy" Charity and Public Benefit Music Concert and he was entitled with the honor of "Superb Director of US Division for Wang Papa Charity Head Association."

One of the remarkable activity was his support and participation for Harvey Relief Fundraiser Concert conducted on October 14, 2017, Xiangzhi led young team members of Sunshine Touring Group to jointly work with multiple local communities to perform fundraiser service for families that suffered the damage by Hurricane Harvey.

In one year, Xiangzhi will graduate from high school and he has decided to pursue his advanced academic career in music institute to pursue the study of piano performance and music management. Through his persistent dedicated work experience on piano performance, Xiangzhi Liu decides that piano is his best partner and he has a dream to develop a professional music institute and to help many talented young pianists to better understand and participate the activities of "Southern US Chopin International Piano Contest" to serve as the bridge of music culture between US and China; and provide more and better support and service for all international talented piano children to fulfill their pursuing goals and dreams in the realm of music.

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The final, exact numbers may not be in yet, but in a filing with the SEC last Tuesday, China's online retail behemoth Alibaba Group announced that it had "become the largest retail economy in the world" at the end of its fiscal year on March 31, "as measured by gross merchandise volume (GMV) on its China

Alibaba Surpasses Walmart As World's Largest Retail Company

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

the books with roughly \$490 billion, or about \$8 billion in sales more than America's flagship discount retailer. According to another statement from Alibaba, its online trading volume had reached about 10 percent of the total retail volume in China and directly gener-

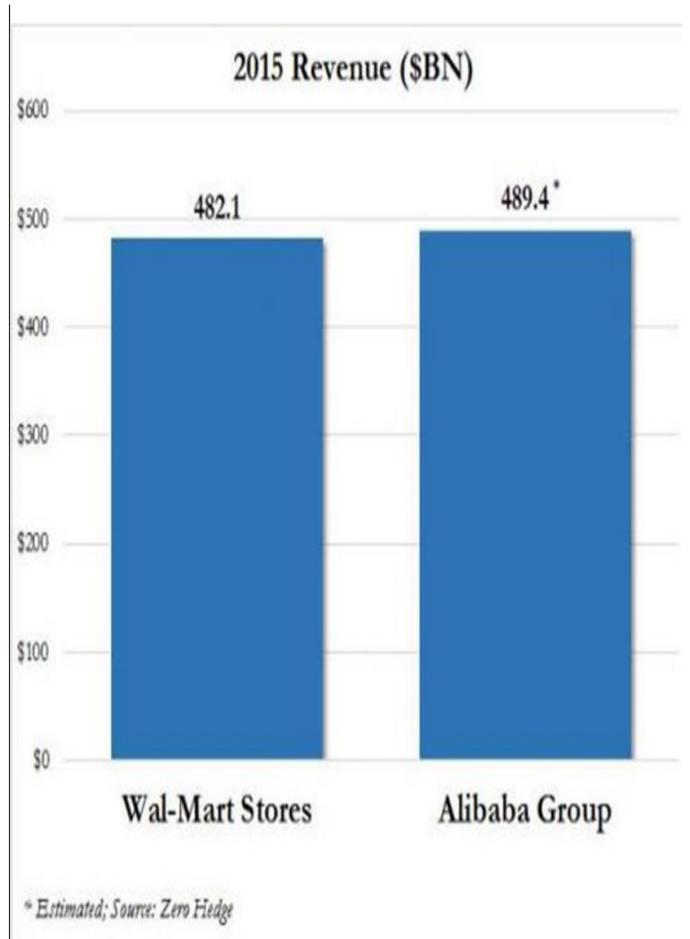
ated 15 million jobs as well. "We used 13 years to demonstrate the power of a different business model compared with brick-and-mortar retailers," the statement said, according to the China Daily. For now WMT's market cap remains modestly bigger, even if BABA's LTM multiple of 19x is about 4 turns greater than Wal-mart's. As for the \$275 billion Amazon, well that's a different story entirely. (Courtesy <http://www.zerohedge.com/news>)



retail marketplaces." As IBT notes, the company has yet to declare its financial results for its last quarter and the complete fiscal year, but the announcement makes it clear that BABA surpassed the \$482.1 billion in 2015 revenues reported by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. for its fiscal year ended Jan. 31. To wit: Alibaba Group Holding Limited announced on April 5, 2016 that as of

March 31, the end of its fiscal year 2016, it has become the largest retail economy in the world as measured by annual gross merchandise volume (GMV) on its China retail marketplaces. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) has performed agreed upon procedures on data relevant to Alibaba Group's GMV. As a reminder, two weeks prior to the SEC filing, Alibaba's Executive Vice Chairman Joe Tsai announced in a

blog post on March 21 that "with 10 days remaining in our fiscal year ending March 2016, Alibaba's China retail marketplace platforms surpassed RMB 3 trillion [yuan] in GMV. That is about [\$]476 billion in U.S. dollars and, if the platforms we operate were a province, we would rank as the 6th largest provincial economy in China." Inferring a full year's revenue from that number suggests that Alibaba closed



全球晨間直播上線

早安，休士頓

主播高白
畢業於浙江傳媒學院新聞系播音與主持專業，中國國家級普通話測評員、中國國家級主任播音員。
1986年至2009年任浙江衛視首席新聞主播，2010年至2015年任浙江衛視駐美國首席記者兼新華社駐休士頓記者（2016年卸任）。

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美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響；為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。