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Highlights: The fragile truce in the US-China trade war faced an immediate test after Washington dramatically stepped up its campaign against Huawei, one of China's important technology champions, over allegations of violating Iran sanctions. The arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the top executive and the daughter of the founder of Huawei, has threatened a major diplomatic incident.

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【 Weekly Review 】

Huawei executive's arrest threatens China-US trade talks

The fragile truce in the US-China trade war faced an immediate test after Washington dramatically stepped up its campaign against Huawei, one of China's important technology champions, over allegations of violating Iran sanctions. The arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the top executive and the daughter of the founder of Huawei, has threatened a major diplomatic incident.

China: FX reserves rise after 3 months of decline

China's foreign exchange rose by \$8.6 billion in November from the previous month, according to the latest data released by the People's Bank of China

Following three consecutive months of decline, the forex reserves rose for the first time in November to \$3.0617 billion, up 0.3 percent from a month earlier.

Japan: To exclude Huawei, ZTE from public procurement

Huawei has suffered a lot of frustration for movements from Japan, New Zealand, Australia, U.S., Canada and Great Britain. Japan is set to ally with the U.S. and Australia to build a device and parts network without equipment from Chinese companies. Japan's government was expected to unveil the new rules on December 10, which would go into effect next year.

Japan: Revise law to allow workers to get payment in mobile wallet

To effectively promote a cashless society, Japan plans to revise its Payment Services Act next year, which will allow payments in digital transactions, making employees to receive their earning in the mobile wallet.

Japanese government enacted the Payment Services Act in 1947 that requires businesses to pay in currency and amended it to cover increasing bank transfer activities. Now the lawmakers are going to revise it again for cashless transaction like mobile payment.

South Korea: Economic outlook murky as semiconductor exports falling sharply

South Korea's gross domestic product (GDP) advanced a seasonally adjusted 0.6 percent on quarter in the third quarter of 2018. On an annual basis, the economy grew 2.0 percent on year, according to the Bank of Korea.

That was in line with expectation but a slump in semiconductor exports had cast a shadow over the economy.

Singapore: Employment rate for aged 65 and over rises

During June 2017 to June 2018, the employment rate for residents aged 15 to 24 fell to 80.3 percent in 2018, slightly down 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier, the Ministry of Manpower said.

"This mainly reflected a decline in employment rate among women in their 30s, from 82.1 percent to 80.7 percent, as more stayed outside the labor force during the year to care for their families," the Ministry of Manpower said.

The employment rate for older residents aged 65 and over rose to 26.8 percent, up 0.3 percentage point compared to the same month a year earlier.

U.K.: Housing market continues to worsen in Q4

U.K. house price growth continued to slow, down to its lowest level in six years and providing further evidence of a weakening property market.

House prices grew by only 0.3 percent in the three months through November compared with a year earlier.

The prices plunged 1.4 percent to average £224,578 (\$286,000) in November, missing forecasts for a 0.2 percent increase.

U.S.: November jobless rate at 3.7 percent for a third month in a row

The unemployment rate remained unchanged at a 49-year low of 3.7 percent for the third straight month, data by the Labor Department.

Non-farm payrolls employment was up 155,000 in November, below the consensus forecast.

U.S.: Trade deficit hits 10-year high in October

In October, the trade deficit in goods and services jumped its highest level in a decade, the Commerce Department said.

Exports of goods and services slipped 0.1 percent to \$211.0 billion, while imports of goods and services rose 0.2 percent to \$266.5 billion. The trade deficit increased to \$55.5 billion in October.

The trade gap has now widened for a five straight months.

OPEC and allies agree to cut oil output

OPEC and non-OPEC producers have agreed to cut oil production by 1.2 million barrels a day in January for six months.

U.N.: Growth of global goods exports to reach 10.4 percent in 2018

Global merchandise exports could grow by 10.4 percent this year, hitting \$19.6 trillion, according to the UNCTAD.

The factors contributing to the surge in the value of world trade in 2017 are linked to an upswing of global GDP growth, combined with increasing commodity prices, especially for fuels and minerals, ores and metals.

IMF chief warns U.S.: International cooperation is essential

International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde warned against trade protectionism and to avoid trade dispute, stressing “international cooperation is essential, not optional” when she delivering a keynote speech in Washington D.C., the United States, on Dec. 4, 2018.

Lagarde reminded the key leadership role the US plays in the world, which created the economic property after the World War II, “this country challenged the international economic order when it needed challenging. It forged compromise when compromise was necessary”.

And it was in the US interest to take a leading role because “a stronger and more stable world paid dividends for the US,” she said.