Turkey has proof Saudi writer was killed

SUSAN FRASER
The Associated Press

ANAKRA, Turkey — Turkey’s government has told U.S. officials that Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi was killed and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, the Washington Post reported Friday.

The newspaper, which said Khashoggi is a columnist for Saudi Arabia’s prominent English-language daily Al Hayat, said state-run TRT TV, which the government controls, had aired footage of the Saudi writer being killed. The footage may have been broadcast immediately following Khashoggi’s death or could have been in evidence seized from the Saudi consulate.

The U.S. government has been trying to determine whether Khashoggi was killed by the Saudi government after he went to the consulate to obtain documents needed for his upcoming wedding.

President Donald Trump on Thursday said U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia were “exciting,” and that he didn’t want to scuttle lucrative arms deals with Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia has called the allegation it ordered the abduction or harm of Khashoggi “baseless.”

Meanwhile, a delegation from Saudi Arabia arrived in Turkey on Friday as part of an investigation into the writer’s disappearance, a foreign ministry official said.

Saudi Arabia has called the allegation it abducted or harmed Khashoggi “false.”

However, it has offered no evidence to sup- port its claims he left the consulate and vanished, despite his famous writing outside of the country.

Turkey’s main ruling AK Party said the delegation would hold talks with Turkish officials over the weekend. It did not disclose further details.

On Thursday, Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin said Turkey and Saudi Arabia would form a “joint working group” to look into the disappearance of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi who vanished last week after entering the Saudi diplomatic mission in Istanbul.

WHAT could soothe the markets?

SOLID EARNINGS, ECONOMIC REPORTS

CHRISTOPHER RUGGIERI
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a harrowing week for financial markets, investors will watch corporate earnings reports and healthy economic news over the next few weeks to try to restore confidence.

This week, sharply higher oil prices, fears of rate hikes, and the prospect of a looming trade war between the United States and China are weighing on the stock market. The Dow Jones Industrials plummeted 1,300 points on Wednesday and Thursday.

Even as the Dow regained almost 100 of those points Friday, some reports said investors’ concerns haven’t been allayed. The oil market’s swings mean that the economy remains healthy and growing, and companies are still churning out strong profits. The stock market may eventually push back against these fears.

“The basic question everyone is asking is how the fundamental situation deteriorated so fast,” said John Parsegian, a senior global strategist at JP Morgan Chase. “The market went off the rails. It goes wrong, volatility will ultimately abate and the market will move up.”

Fourth-quarter earnings season will wind down the first week of November, but whether profit growth dies off this year or picks up next will be the key. Earnings are projected to rise by 5 percent from a year earlier, a modest gain compared to the 8 percent in the previous two quarters.

That could be a tough hurdle for the Dow Jones Industrial Average's Standard & Poor's 500 index, which has already hit a slowing trend. Corporate earnings forecasts come in below analysts' estimates. That’s more companies reporting quarters that fall short of expectations, which means that companies are not making enough money to pay dividends, buy back stock or invest in new equipment.

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