



**M Khorshed Anwar, head of retail and SME banking of Eastern Bank, and Md Shahood Mustansir, head of sales at Navana, pose at the signing of an agreement in Dhaka recently on providing up to Tk 1 lakh in discounts to the bank's VISA Infinite, Signature, Platinum and Mastercard World and Titanium cardholders on purchase of select Toyota brands.**

EASTERN BANK

## Dollar rises as job gains beat forecasts

REUTERS

The dollar rose on Friday after data showed that US jobs growth slowed less than expected in October, while wages gained and hiring in the prior two months was stronger than previously estimated.

Nonfarm payrolls increased by 128,000 jobs last month, while average hourly earnings increased six cents, or 0.2 percent after being unchanged in September. The data is much better than expected. Markets were braced, certainly in headline terms, for some much weaker numbers given the expected impact from the GM strike and the census hiring.

So very good data in that context, said Shaun Osborne, chief fx strategist at Scotiabank in Toronto. Striking workers who do not receive a paycheck during the payrolls survey period are treated as unemployed.

The strike by about 46,000 workers at GM plants in Michigan and Kentucky ended last Friday. Temporary census workers also left their jobs during the month. The dollar index against a basket of six major currencies rose as high as 97.45, up from 99.27 before the data, before retracing to 97.30, up 0.02 percent on the day.

The dollar has weakened since the Federal Reserve on Wednesday cut rates for the third time this year, and indicated that further reductions may not be forthcoming. Concerns about a slowing US economy is weighing on the greenback, with the US central bank expected to resume rate cuts if the economic data worsens.

Safe haven flows into the US currency have also weakened on optimism that the United States and China are close to reaching a deal to end their trade war, which has been blamed for slowing global growth.

## China, US hold 'constructive' call on trade mini-deal

AFP, Washington

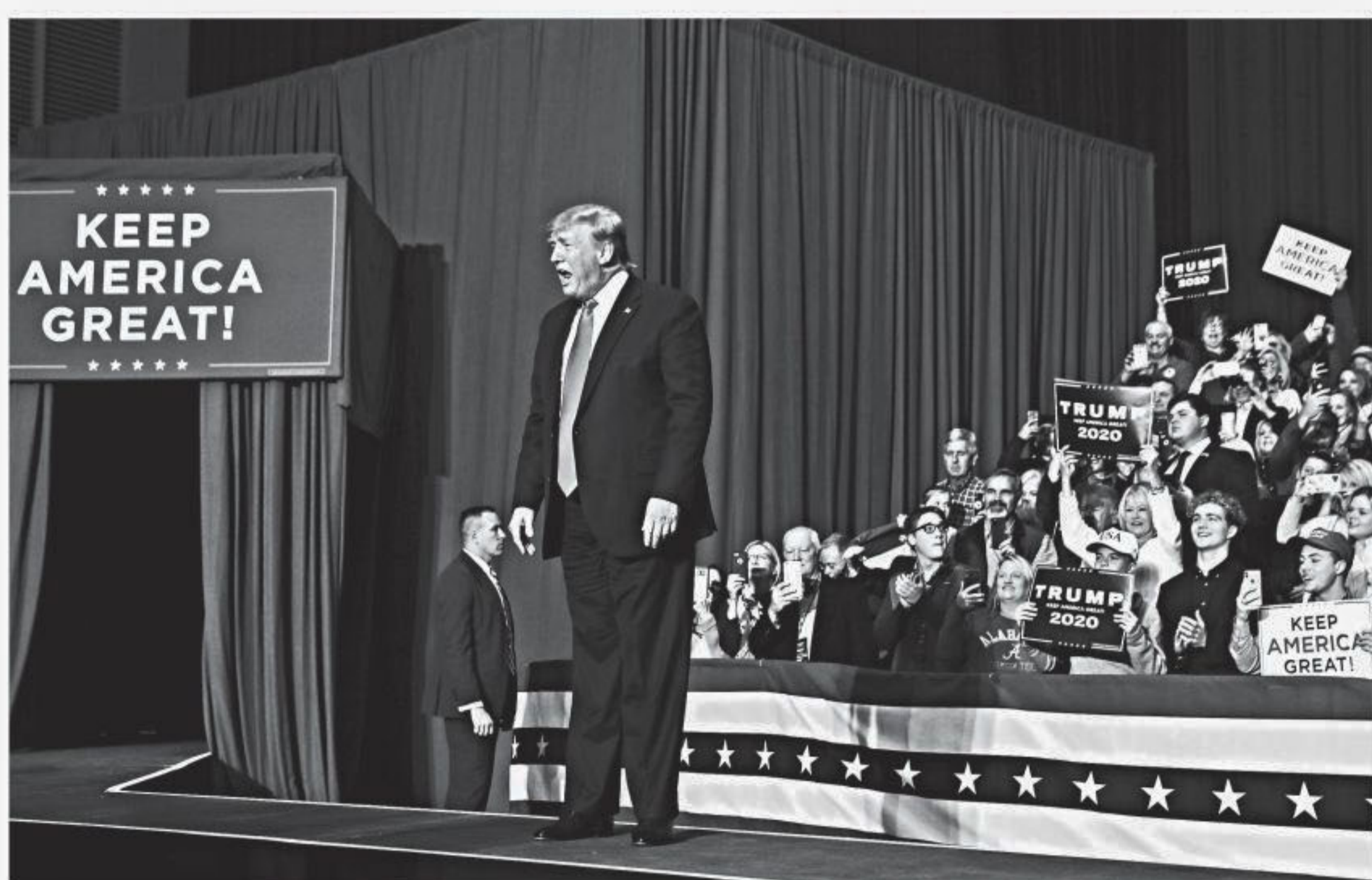
Senior Chinese and US officials again sent positive signals on Friday about their efforts to formalize the partial trade bargain announced last month, with President Donald Trump saying he may meet with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in the state of Iowa.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He on Friday spoke by telephone with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, a call both sides described as "constructive." However, details remain scarce and the positive statements were almost identical to those made last week, even though Trump announced the partial deal on October 11.

Trump had planned to sign a deal with China's leader Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the now-cancelled summit in Chile this month.

On Friday, Trump told reporters he was "looking (at) a different couple locations" for a meeting with Xi, adding that it "could even be in Iowa." The rural state in America's heartland was the first place Xi ever visited in the United States, when he came to the country in 1985 to study farming technology.

Trump noted that negotiations are "moving along" and "our deal's going along fine with China" but stressed repeatedly that he didn't want to give more



**US President Donald Trump reacts during a campaign rally in Tupelo, Mississippi on Friday.**

REUTERS

details until the agreement was finalized. The office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said in a statement that negotiators had "made progress in a variety of areas and are in the process of resolving outstanding issues."

In Beijing, China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides discussed "properly addressing their core concerns and reached consensus on principles" and "discussed arrangements for the next consultations."

Earlier Friday, top White House economic aide Larry Kudlow hailed the steps made in the talks. "The deal is not complete but we've made enormous progress," Kudlow told reporters.

He said the discussions are nearly complete on currency, financial services, dealing with removing restrictions on majority foreign ownership of companies in China, and opening markets to US agriculture exports.

Other issues like protecting US

intellectual property and stopping forced technology transfer likely will wait until "phase two," Kudlow said.

The upbeat statements reaffirmed Washington's hopeful message on trade with Beijing after a week in which the two sides exchanged a salvo of confrontational remarks.

Wall Street shuddered Thursday after Bloomberg reported that Chinese officials were skeptical of reaching a long-term trade deal

with Washington.

Trump three weeks ago hailed a "very substantial phase one" accord with Beijing, which he said would cover key areas and include a commitment for a massive increase in US farm exports.

After a lengthy boycott, China has resumed some purchases of US agricultural goods but demand may not support the huge increases Trump expects.

Hopes for a signing ceremony at the November 16-17 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Santiago were sidelined after the event was canceled due to civil unrest.

Earlier in the week, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered a speech calling China "truly hostile" to the United States while Beijing accused Washington of "viciously attacking" China.

Meanwhile, in a separate disagreement dating from long before the Trump administration, the World Trade Organization on Thursday authorized China to slap tariffs on \$3.6 billion in American exports in a dispute over US anti-dumping practices.

The two sides have put tariffs on virtually all of their half trillion dollars in annual two-way goods trade, but last month signaled a truce as Trump held off on some duty rate increases.

The trade war is slowing global growth, economists say, and data shows it is cutting into the US manufacturing sector and chilling business investment.

## Alibaba's revenue growth eases in Q2

AFP, Beijing

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said second quarter revenue growth slowed to 40 percent on-year Friday, although net profits more than tripled thanks in part to a one-time payment from a fintech affiliate.

Total revenue was 119 billion yuan (\$16.9 billion), with growth down from 42 percent in the April-June period and 54 percent in last year's second quarter, a company statement said, in its first earnings report since founder Jack Ma stepped aside as chairman in September.

The second quarter jump in net profits was partly due to a one-time payment received in September as part of a deal in which Alibaba acquired 33 percent equity in fintech affiliate Ant Financial while ending a previous profit sharing arrangement, the company said.

In a presentation to investors Friday Alibaba attributed the group's continued revenue growth -- which comes amid a slowdown in the world's number two economy -- to "robust" expansion of its China retail and cloud businesses.

Cloud computing was the among the fastest growing revenue sources for the company, with revenues from the segment growing 64 percent year-on-year to 9.2 billion yuan.

Net income attributable to ordinary shareholders at the group jumped 262 percent in the July-September period from a year ago, to 72.5 billion yuan (\$10.1 billion) Nearly 60 percent of companies listed in China used Alibaba's cloud services as of August 2019, the company said, thanks in part to digitisation in the public sector and traditional industries.

"With sustained consumer engagement and spending across the Alibaba Economy, we have continued our revenue and profit growth," Maggie Wu, Chief Financial Officer of Alibaba Group, said.

Ma, who founded the company in 1999, handed the reins over to a team of executives led by CEO Daniel Zhang in September. Friday's results come days ahead of Singles Day on November 11, the largest shopping holiday of the year in China.

Last year, merchants on Alibaba's e-commerce platforms moved 213.5 billion yuan worth of merchandise during the shopping bonanza.

Alibaba dominates China's rapidly expanding consumer culture and its corporate results are closely watched for any signs that a Chinese economic deceleration or US-China trade tensions are impacting spending.

## Huawei moving on 5G while politics plays out

AFP, San Francisco

Major state telecom operators are rolling out 5G wireless advances in China as the country races to close a technology gap with the United States amid a bruising trade war.

The new-generation telecommunication networks move data at blazing speeds, promising economic and technological advantages to countries where they are deployed.

threat because of their close ties to the Beijing government. Both have repeatedly denied the allegations.

AFP sat down with Huawei US vice president of public affairs Joy Tan to ask her three questions: - What is your reaction to the proposal of the US regulators? - Huawei has never had any major cybersecurity-related incident.

I think targeting specific vendors based on country origins will not make America's communication

and in the long term we'll see bigger impact for US companies as well.

\$11 billion creates about 40,000 to 50,000 US jobs, so we hope these jobs won't be impacted for the longer term.

South Korea and the US started launching 5G last year. Already 3.5 million people are on 5G services. China is moving very fast in terms of 5G deployment.

We continue to sign more contracts globally as well. Huawei is definitely leading commercial deployment of 5G. 5G has come faster than all expected; we believe we are 12-18 months ahead of competitors.

Our most recent 5G base stations are shipped without any US components; (instead they come) with our own or components from other countries, so we're not dependent on the US components - Do you need to work with the US? - We want to work with them.

Huawei's principle is always to collaborate with the best companies around the world, so that's why we continue to want to engage with the US companies.

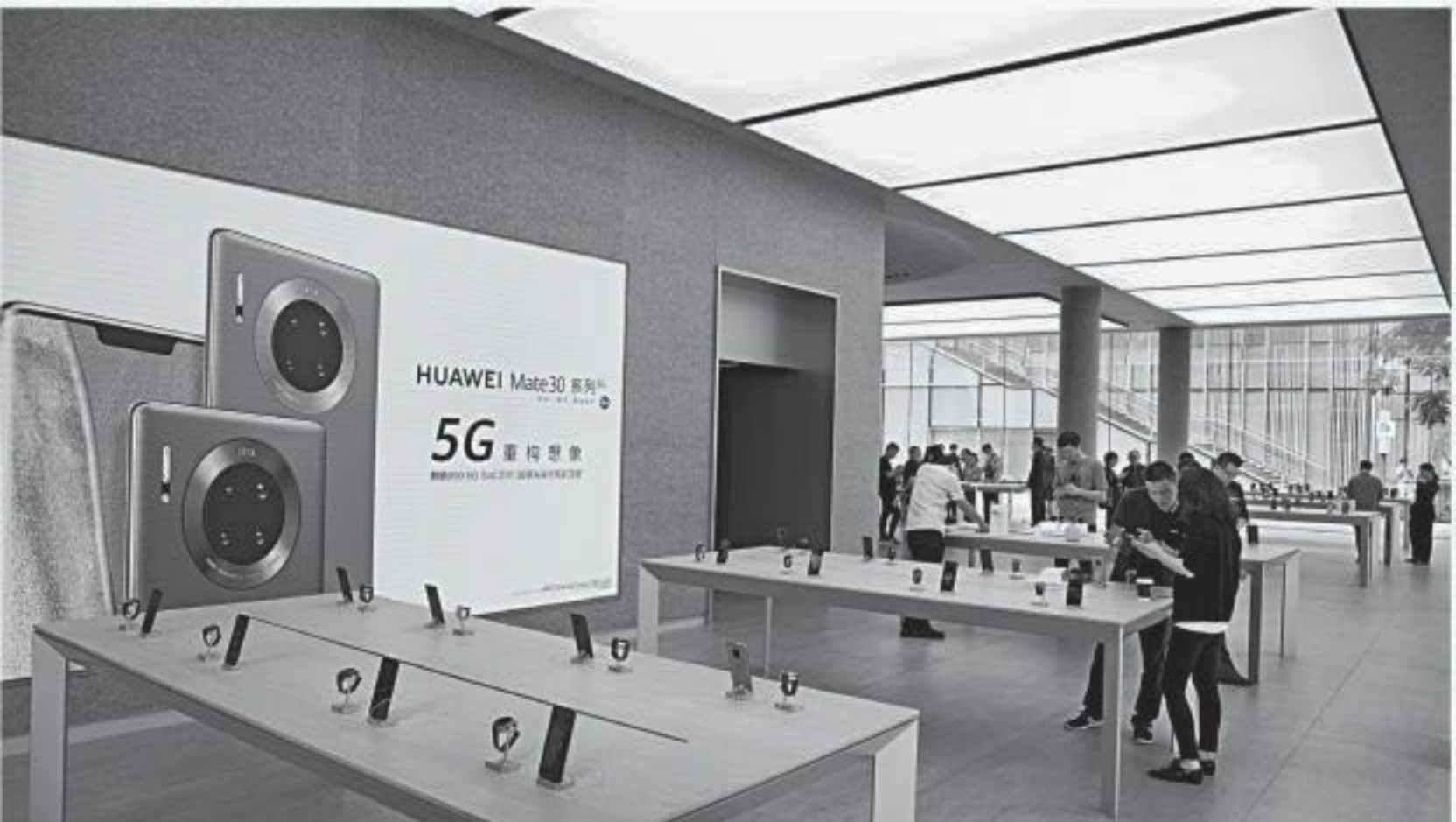
If the US government allows big suppliers to continue to ship components, we'll continue to buy from them, even if we have our own solutions and alternatives.

Harmony OS has a different purpose compared to Android or iOS.

When we designed it, we had the future in mind. It's a lightweight, compact operating system, with powerful functionalities. We use that for smart watches and smart screens in vehicles, and smart speakers first.

We definitely want to keep working with American companies including Google.

We continue to watch to see if Google will get a temporary license from the US government to continue to supply us. We hope we'll see some good news next month or sooner.



REUTERS/FILE

**Huawei's first global flagship store is pictured in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China.**

US regulators earlier this week proposed rules to block telecom carriers from buying from Chinese tech companies Huawei and ZTE, and to remove any of their equipment already in place to "safeguard the nation's communications networks."

The US Federal Communications Commission said the rules -- to be voted on November 19 -- were part of an initiative to "safeguard the nation's communications networks."

The two Chinese firms have been accused of posing a national security

network more secure.

It will only impact rural operators and the most underserved areas in US.

So, we think this kind of action will further widen the digital divide and slow the pace of economic development, not make the network more secure.

On average we procure \$11 billion in goods and services from US suppliers each year. These companies cannot continue to sell components or products to Huawei. I've seen their business impacted in the short term



BANGLADESH HOUSE BUILDING FINANCE CORPORATION

**Prof Md Salim Uddin, chairman of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, attends the "13th International Conference on Business Innovation for Inclusive Development" organised by the International Islamic University Chittagong recently.**

## Chevron profit falls as oil and gas prices weaken

REUTERS, Houston

Chevron Corp reported a larger than expected 36 percent drop in third-quarter profit on Friday, hit by lower oil and gas prices despite an overall increase in its output.

Net income attributable to the company fell to \$2.58 billion, or \$1.36 per share, in the quarter, from \$4.05 billion, or \$2.11 per share a year earlier. Analysts had expected earnings of \$1.45 cents per share.

Chevron's worldwide net oil equivalent production grew about 3 percent to 3.03 million barrels per day, but average sales prices fell both in the United States and internationally.

Production in the Permian Basin, the top U.S. shale field, rose 35 percent from the same period a year ago to 455,000 barrels of oil and gas daily, but its average U.S. liquids price was \$47 per barrel, down from \$62 a year ago.

Lower crude oil and natural gas

prices more than offset" production increases, Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth said in a statement. Chevron shares were down 1 percent Friday morning in premarket trading.

Results mirrored weaker results at

BP Plc and Royal Dutch Shell, which indicated they might delay dividend increases or a buyback program due to low prices. Exxon earlier on Friday reported its profits fell by nearly half from a year ago.



REUTERS/FILE

**Chevron fracking site near Texas, US is seen.**