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Bloomberg

# Morning Briefing

## Asia Edition

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**Good morning.** US stocks struggle for direction after mixed jobless claims data. South Korea’s political drama continues. And Trump’s vow to ensure Bitcoin is US-made may prove challenging. [Listen to the day’s top stories.](#)

Markets Snapshot		
S&P 500 Index	6,037.59	-0.04%
Nasdaq 100 Index	21,768.31	-0.13%
Alibaba	86.08	+0.65%
Bitcoin	95,641.56	-2.83%

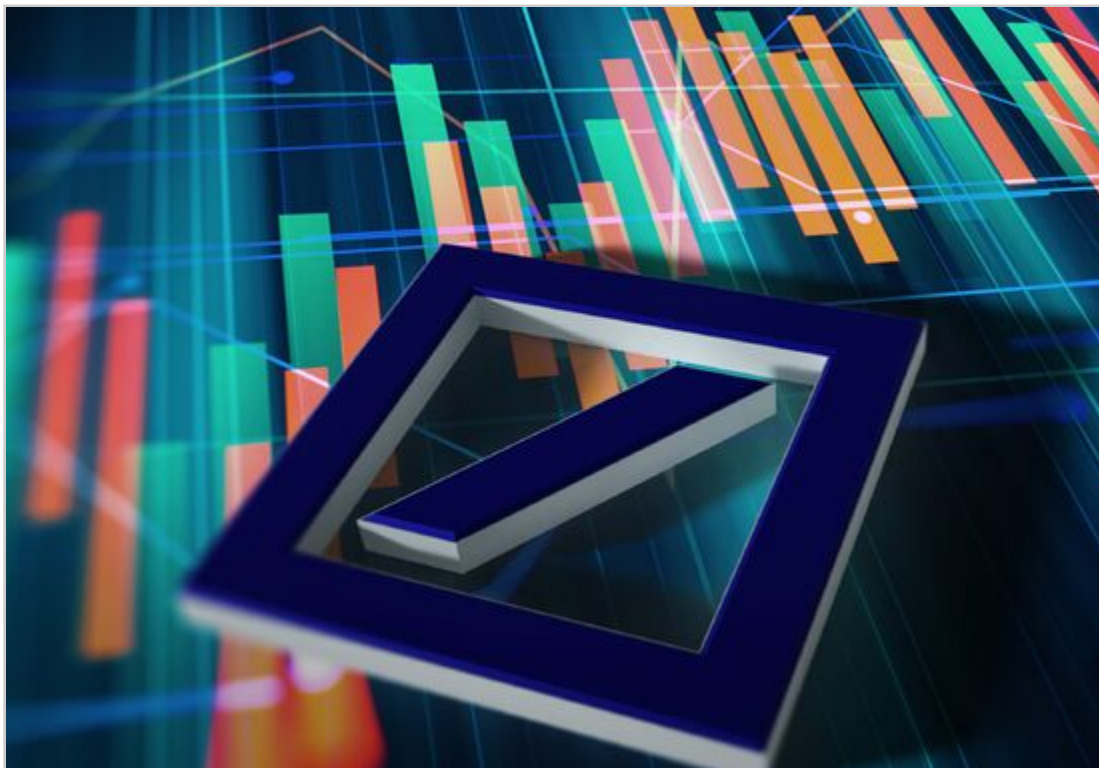
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Market data as of 04:30 pm EST.

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*Market data may be delayed depending on provider agreements.*

**The S&P 500** closed little changed in a quiet post-holiday session, with mixed jobless claims data doing [little to alter bets on the Federal Reserve's rate outlook](#). Recurring applications [rose to the highest in more than three years](#), even as weekly initial claims slipped. Bitcoin fell as traders begin to [reduce their risk exposure](#) with this year's record-breaking rally drawing to a close. China's data was downbeat. The country's finance and property companies had [shrinking workforces for the first time](#) in recent years, reflecting the damage caused by a housing market collapse and regulatory probes.



## Pepper International CEO Bullish on Stocks

Watch the Video

**South Korea's** political drama continued as the country's opposition party filed a motion to impeach Acting President Han Duck-soo for resisting pressure to appoint court judges [who might increase the likelihood of removing President Yoon Suk Yeol](#) from power. A vote may come as soon as Friday, when the Constitutional Court is set to hold its first pre-trial hearing on Yoon's impeachment.

**In corporate news,** Alibaba and E-Mart agreed to form an e-commerce venture in South Korea to better compete in the country's fast-paced online retail sector, with people familiar saying the [new entity may be valued at about \\$4 billion](#). The deal would help the companies face off against local rivals like Naver and Coupang.

**Russia rebuffed** Donald Trump's call for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine, but said [it's ready for negotiations](#). Elsewhere, Azerbaijan government-backed Caliber news website reported that the Azerbaijan Airlines plane flying from Baku to Grozny was [damaged by Russia's air defense systems](#). Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment. A rescue team recovered 38 bodies at the crash site while 29 people survived.

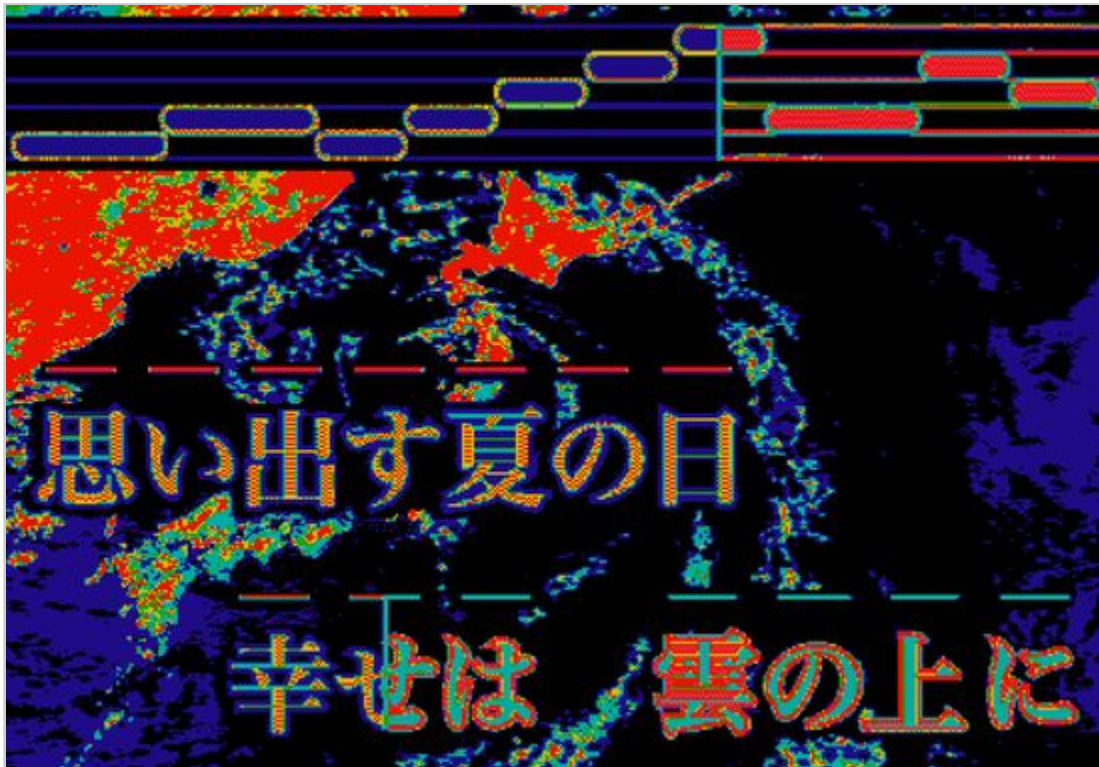


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The Big Take



## How Typhoons and Karaoke Crashed Japan's Insurance Industry

Japan's insurance giants are selling over \$56 billion in shares after getting caught colluding in the wake of costly disasters.

[Read the Story](#)

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## Opinion

**Corporate America** is facing geopolitical turmoil, the uncertainty of a second Trump administration, an increasingly polarized country and a public that's lost its faith in big business, writes Beth Kowitt. [The existential questions](#) looming over the role of the nation's biggest companies during a tumultuous moment and who is best to lead them will drive the business world's biggest stories next year.

## More Opinions



The Editors

Tether and Trump Could Be a Dangerous Combination

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Andy Mukherjee

Bollywood's Dark Past Is Threatening to Return

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## Before You Go



Bitcoin mining equipment. *Photographer: Jordan Vonderhaar/Bloomberg*

**Trump's vow** to ensure that all remaining Bitcoin is “made in the USA” may prove to be [one of the most challenging](#) to keep since blockchains are decentralized networks and the Bitcoin mining sector is becoming increasingly competitive globally.



## A Few More



How to Waste Less Food This Holiday Season



Colleges Expand Financial Aid Programs With Prices Near \$100,000

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