



### Nissan unveils new Leaf car after delays

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Nissan is showing the beefed-up version of its hit Leaf electric car as the Japanese automaker seeks to distance itself from the arrest of its star executive Carlos Ghosn. The event at Nissan Motor Co.'s Yokohama headquarters, southwest of Tokyo, was postponed when Ghosn was arrested November 19. Ghosn has been charged with underreporting his income. Tokyo prosecutors then extended his detention, adding breach of trust allegations. Ghosn also made his first public appearance since his arrest and denied each allegation in Tokyo District Court. The new 4.16 million yen (\$38,000) Leaf e+ is about the same size as the model on sale, but has more power and cruise range. The best-selling electric car competes against Tesla models and the Bolt by General Motors.

### South Korea seizes North Korean paintings due to sanctions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea says it stopped businessmen from bringing in North Korean paintings in a potential violation of U.N. sanctions. Observers say similar incidents could occur frequently as South Korea's liberal government is pushing for deeper exchanges with North Korea. The Korea Customs Service said it has nine North Korean paintings that some businessmen tried to bring in after their trip to Pyongyang last November. It said those businessmen didn't have required government permissions to take in North Korean products. South Korean media said the paintings were purchased from a North Korean art studio under U.N. sanctions. The Unification Ministry couldn't immediately confirm the report and said related government offices would consult if any acts violating U.N. sanctions occurred.

### China's Huawei unveils chip for global big data market

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese telecom equipment giant Huawei has unveiled a processor chip for data centers and cloud computing in a bid to expand into an emerging global market despite western warnings the company might be a security risk. The announcement came as Chinese vendors that rely on western technology stepped up efforts to develop their own. Huawei Technologies Ltd., the biggest global maker of network gear and the No. 2 smartphone brand, said its Kunpeng 920 chip is designed to process a growing flood of data from smartphones, entertainment, and other services. The U.S., Australia, and some other governments have labelled Huawei and other Chinese suppliers a security risk and imposed curbs on use of their technology. Huawei has denied accusations it is controlled by China's ruling Communist Party or facilitates spying.

### Nepal, Japan agree to resume commercial flights

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Japan and Nepal have agreed to allow state-run Nepal Airlines to resume flights between the two Asian nations. The agreement was signed at the beginning of a two-day visit to Nepal by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono. No Japanese airlines fly to Nepal, and Japanese tourists who visit Nepal and Nepalese students and workers who travel to Japan have been forced to take indirect flights. Nepal Airlines discontinued its flights to Japan several years ago because it did not have enough planes and officials were involved in financial irregularities.

### Japanese lawmaker under fire for LGBT comment

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese legislator is drawing criticism for his comment that "a nation would collapse" if everyone became LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender). Remarks by Katsuei Hirasawa, a veteran lawmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, were carried on Nippon News Network's national broadcast. Outrage popped up on social media. Hirasawa told a crowd in Yamashiro Prefecture in central Japan: "Criticizing LGBT would create problems, but if everyone became like them then a nation would collapse." He also said he didn't understand moves in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward and other local areas to recognize same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriages are not recognized in Japan nationally. Politicians have struggled to deal with Japan's low-birth rate without success, mostly blamed on a lack of childcare and help for working women.

### Bans dropped for two Cambodian opposition politicians

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A veteran Cambodian politician and his son have become the first among 118 opposition members banned from politics for five years to have the restriction lifted. Kong Korm and his son, Kong Bora, had their bans lifted when Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni signed a royal decree approving their application for restoration of political rights. The two were among the members of the Cambodia National Rescue Party who were banned from politics when the group was dissolved by court order in November 2017 on a contrived charge of conspiring with the United States to overthrow Prime Minister Hun Sen's government. The move against the opposition was seen as the government's effort to ensure it won last July's general election in which it swept all 125 National Assembly seats.

### Bluefin sold for \$3 million in first 2019 sale at Tokyo market

TOKYO (AP) — A 612-pound bluefin tuna sold for a record 333.6 million yen (\$3 million) in the first auction of 2019, after Tokyo's famed Tsukiji market was moved to a new site on the city's waterfront. The winning bid for the prized but threatened species at the predawn auction was more than double the 2013 annual New Year auction. It was paid by Kiyomura Corp., whose owner, Kiyoshi Kimura, runs the Sushi Zanmai chain. Kimura has often won the annual auction in the past. Japanese broadcaster NHK showed a beaming Kimura, who said: "The quality of the tuna I bought is the best."



**POLLUTION SOLUTION.** New electric-powered taxis are charged at a public charging station in Shenzhen city in south China's Guangdong province. One of China's major cities has reached an environmental milestone: an almost all-electric-powered taxi fleet. The high-tech hub of Shenzhen announced at the start of this year that 99 percent of the 21,689 taxis operating in the city are electric. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

## Giving up gas: China's Shenzhen switches to electric taxis

SHENZHEN, China (AP) — One of China's major cities has reached an environmental milestone: an almost entirely electric-powered taxi fleet.

The high-tech hub of Shenzhen in southern China announced at the start of this year that 99 percent of the 21,689 taxis operating in the city are electric. Last year, it still had 7,500 gasoline-powered taxis on the roads. A few can still be found, but electric ones far outnumber

them.

The metropolis of 12.5 million is the second to achieve this feat in China and the largest. The northern China city of Taiyuan, with a population of 4.3 million, has had only electric taxis since 2016. Shenzhen's bus fleet has been all-electric since 2017. It's one of 13 pilot cities promoting alternative-energy public transport to cut smog and develop the alternative-energy industry.

## Waning iPhone demand highlights Chinese consumer anxiety

By Joe McDonald  
AP Business Writer

BEIJING — Apple's \$1,000 iPhone is a tough sell to consumers in China unnerved by an economic slump and the trade war with the U.S.

CEO Tim Cook said in a letter to shareholders that demand for iPhones is waning and revenue for the last quarter of 2018 will fall well below projections, a decrease he traced mainly to China.

The iPhone is Apple's biggest product, accounting for about 60 percent of its revenue in the July-September quarter, the latest data reported. Its stock had fallen 10 percent, the worst drop in five years, wiping out about \$75 billion in market value.

Apple is the latest company grappling with increasing Chinese consumer anxiety. Other brand names such as Ford Motor Co. and jeweller Tiffany & Co. already have reported abrupt declines in sales to Chinese buyers.

China still is one of the fastest-growing economies, with 2018's expansion forecast at

about 6.5 percent. But China's tariff fight with the U.S. and an avalanche of bad news about tumbling auto and real estate sales are undermining consumer confidence after two decades of almost unbroken rapid growth.

"It's definitely worrying," said China specialist David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Overall, consumption growth is slowing down in China."

The Apple news shows how vulnerable many big U.S. companies are to a slowdown in China, especially as the world's two biggest economies seek to settle a contentious trade dispute.

"It's not going to be just Apple," Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White Council of Economic Advisers, told CNN.

He said many companies have a lot of sales in China and will "be watching their earnings downgraded next year until we get a deal with China. And I think that puts a lot of pressure on China to make a deal."

Emily Li, a 37-year-old advertising designer in Beijing, said she is putting off replacing her

Continued on page 4

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**Asian Currency Exchange Rates**  
Units per U.S. dollar as of 1/18

Bangladesh Taka	83.274
Cambodian Riel	3998.9
China Renminbi	6.7765
Fijian Dollar	2.0864
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8434
Indian Rupee	71.211
Indonesian Rupiah	14160
Iranian Rial	42016
Japanese Yen	109.74
Laos New Kip	8568.8
Malaysian Ringgit	4.11
Nepal Rupee	114.49
Pakistani Rupee	138.76
Papua N.G. Kina	3.36
Philippine Peso	52.656
Russian Ruble	66.309
Saudi Riyal	3.7504
Singapore Dollar	1.358
South Korean Won	1123.3
Sri Lankan Rupee	181.65
Taiwan Dollar	30.85
Thai Baht	31.74
Vietnam Dong	23263