

WORLD  
world**Jail for not deleting  
'fake' news in  
Russia**

Moscow, Russia

Russians who refuse to take down online information that has been judged "false" by a court could be sentenced to up to a year in prison under a bill approved by MPs Tuesday in a key second reading.

Deputies in parliament's lower house voted to approve the measure that would apply to individuals on social media as well as to those working for media groups.

Senators and President Vladimir Putin still have to sign off on the bill following a formal third reading in parliament.

The law comes in the context of an ongoing crackdown on internet freedoms in Russia, where social media remains one of the few places the opposition can organise.

Those who break the rules outlined in the bill could also be subject to a 50,000-ruble (\$740, 630-euro) fine, according to an approved text distributed on the judicial site pravo.ru.

**BMW to pause UK  
output of Minis**

London, United Kingdom

BMW will stop production at its Mini factory in Oxford for several weeks to avoid supply disruption in case of a no-deal Brexit, the German auto giant said yesterday.

The carmaker will bring forward its annual maintenance shutdown at the facility in southern England to start on Monday April 1, 2019. Britain is to leave the European Union on Friday March 29 -- but trade talks have stalled, stoking concerns over a so-called hard Brexit.

"As a responsible organisation, we have scheduled next year's annual maintenance period at Mini Plant Oxford to start on 1 April, when the UK exits the EU," BMW said. The move was in order "to minimise the risk of any possible short-term parts-supply disruption in the event of a no-deal Brexit".

**Philippines toll climbs as  
searchers dig for missing**

Itoyon, Philippines

The death toll in Typhoon Mangkhut hit 74 yesterday, Philippine authorities said, as rescuers used their bare hands to sift through a massive landslide in which dozens were feared killed in the worst-hit region.

The typhoon, the most powerful to strike this year, smashed homes and flooded key agricultural regions in the northern Philippines before battering Hong Kong and southern China with fierce winds and heavy rain.

As Hong Kong gradually got back on its feet, residents from teachers to refugees mobilised to help clean up after Mangkhut, which smashed windows, felled at least 1,000 trees and sent skyscrapers swaying.

The violent storm killed four in China's southern province of Guangdong and the toll rose Tuesday to 74 on the Philippines' northern Luzon island according to police, with that number expected to further climb. Up to 40 people are still feared buried in the landslide in Itoyon unleashed Saturday as the typhoon stalled over the area and dumped a month's worth of



Rescuers carry a body bag containing a landslide victim, triggered by heavy rains during Typhoon Mangkhut.

rain in a matter of hours.

"While I said there is a 99-percent chance that all of them are dead, there is still that one-percent chance," Itoyon Mayor Victorio Palangdan told AFP.

"The rescue effort will continue until the president orders us to stop," he said. Because the

landslide destroyed roads, authorities have been unable to bring heavy equipment into the area to accelerate the search. As a result the teams were using human chains to extract debris.

The effort has been getting progressively more difficult because the rain-soaked soil has

started to harden in the scorching Philippine sun. Crews have been using water to try to soften up the soil.

The area was primed for disaster before Mangkhut hit, as it came on the heels of nearly a month of continuous monsoon rains that left the already

hazardous area soggy and dangerously loose. Almost all the storm's victims were killed in dozens of landslides unleashed along the Cordillera mountain range, a key gold mining area.

**'King of storms'**

Many of those buried in Itoyon were small-scale gold miners and their families who took refuge in a building abandoned by a large mining firm.

The Philippines has a poor record of regulating mining, with tunnel collapses and landslides regularly killing people in other gold-rush areas in recent years.

Tearful families surrounded a whiteboard bearing names of the dead and missing as others inspected recovered bodies in an attempt to identify their loved ones.

Across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, farms were flattened and flooded, with the authorities saying crop losses would likely total more than \$250 million.

That could add to the Philippines' inflation woes and worsen a spike in rice prices that has hit hard the nearly quarter of the nation's population that survives on less than \$2 a day.

**Idlib deal provides  
reprieve for civilians**

United Nations, United States

A Turkish-Russian deal to create a buffer zone in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province should avert an all-out military assault and provide reprieve for millions of civilians, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday.

Welcoming the agreement, Guterres called on all warring parties in Syria to cooperate in implementing it and ensure access for humanitarian aid to all areas of Idlib, where three million people live.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed during a meeting in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on Monday to create a demilitarised zone in Idlib.

Syria and Russia had been preparing military action in Idlib to bring the province under the control of Damascus, but Turkey, which supports some of the armed groups, had called for a ceasefire.

The United Nations had warned that an all-out assault on Idlib would trigger a humanitarian catastrophe and possibly one of the worst bloodbaths of Syria's seven-year war.

**Japanese billionaire to be first Moon tourist**

Graphic News

Elon Musk's company SpaceX has named its first private passenger on a voyage around the Moon as Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa.

Musk says Maezawa will fly to the Moon aboard a new rocket called the Big Falcon Rocket (BFR), which is still in development. The reusable 118-meter BFR will be a two-stage vehicle composed of the most powerful rocket booster ever built and a spaceship designed to carry up to 100 people.

The mission is planned for 2023, and would be the first lunar journey by humans since 1972. The average distance from Earth to the moon is 384,400km.

Maezawa, an art enthusiast, said that he would invite six to



Maezawa and Musk during training

eight artists from around the world to join him on the trip.

"They will be asked to create something after they return to Earth. These masterpieces will inspire the dreamer within all of us," he told reporters.

Maezawa will not land on the moon. He will travel on what is called a "free return trajectory", which will bring his BFR ship back to Earth after it has gone around the far side of the satellite. On Monday, Musk unveiled new artist impressions of the BFR and the spaceship which will carry passengers around the Moon. It appeared to confirm some design changes. The BFR should be able to lift 150 tonnes into low-Earth orbit -- that is more than the Saturn V rockets that lofted the Apollo.

**300 elephants pay last respects to their leader**

Daily Mail

This is the heartbreaking moment a herd of elephants gathered to pay their last respects to their dead leader.

Footage shows the animals surrounding the carcass on the banks of a lake near Anuradhapura, close to the Kalawewa reserve in Sri Lanka.

Some of the elephants use their trunks to caress the fallen giant, which had been killed by



A screen shot from the footage

Some of the elephants use their trunks to caress the fallen giant, which had been killed by a rival.

a rival.

The extraordinary sight proved a draw for locals who flocked to the scene to take pictures and video.

A clip of the incident shows around ten elephants surrounding their dead leader. But some reports suggested as many as 300 gathered nearby.

Researchers have found that elephants, like humans, grieve for the dead by frequently vis-

iting their graves, 'kissing' their bodies with their trunks and rocking to and fro with grief.

But while humans usually reserve their grief for friends and family, elephants mourn over the death of the loosest acquaintance, an Oxford University study found in 2006.

The creatures also show compassion towards the sick and dying, trying to nurse them back to health, the study found.