



## Tesla overtakes Volkswagen as world's second most valuable carmaker

Reuters

Tesla Inc has overtaken Germany's Volkswagen as the world's second most valuable carmaker behind Japan's Toyota, as the meteoric rise in the US electric vehicle maker's shares reshuffles the global market.

Tesla's stock has more than doubled in value in the last three months, with its market capitalization piercing \$100 billion on Wednesday, a first for a listed US automaker.

During the rally, its value has leapfrogged more established global rivals: Honda, BMW, General Motors and Daimler. On Wednesday, it eclipsed VW's \$99.4 billion value.

Toyota still holds pole position with a market cap of \$233 billion.

## Work to start on three possible China virus vaccines

Reuters | London

Three separate research teams backed by a global coalition set up to fight epidemic diseases are to start work on developing potential vaccines against the new coronavirus that has caused a disease outbreak in China.

Its plan is to have at least one potential vaccine in clinical trials by June, offering the chance that a shot could fully developed, tested and approved for use in a year.



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## Bolstering friendly ties



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa meeting HM King Mohammed VI of Morocco, on the occasion of his fraternal visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. HM, the King hailed deep-rooted bilateral relations between Bahrain and Morocco and mulled ways to bolster them. King Hamad lauded the dedicated efforts of HM King Mohammed VI in consolidating relations between the two countries, wishing Morocco and its brotherly people further progress and prosperity.WW

# Rockets jolt Tripoli ahead of peace talks

Tripoli

The Libyan capital's only operational airport has closed again after threats by forces loyal to strongman Khalifa Haftar, dealing another setback to peace efforts as regional foreign ministers prepare to meet in Algeria yesterday.

The airport has been hit multiple times since the start of a months-long offensive by fighters led by eastern-based commander Haftar to seize Tripoli from the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA).

Mitiga airport authorities said late Wednesday they were suspending air traffic "until further notice" after Haftar's spokesman threatened to attack planes flying over the city.

"Any military or civilian aircraft, regardless of its affiliation, flying over the capital will be destroyed," warned Haftar's spokesman Ahmad al-Mesmari, adding that such flights would be considered a violation of a



Tripoli's airport has been the target of several air raids and rocket strikes since an offensive was launched on the Libyan capital in April

ceasefire in place since January 12.

Mesmari said the internationally-backed government was using the airport for military purposes as a base for Turkish soldiers sent by Ankara to support GNA leader Fayeza al-Sarraj.

The airport earlier Wednesday suspended flights for several hours after it was targeted by six Grad rockets in an offensive the GNA blamed on its rivals in Libya's five-year civil war. The attack took place just nine days after the facility reopened

following a truce.

World powers have stepped up efforts in recent weeks to find a political solution to the grinding conflict, with neighbouring Algeria the latest country to host a meeting -- set for Thursday -- to discuss ways forward.

The Algerian foreign ministry said chief diplomats from Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Niger and Mali would meet in Algiers to advance "a political settlement to the crisis through an inclusive dialogue between all parties".

## World Court orders Myanmar to protect Rohingya



Rohingya refugees walk on a road at the Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Reuters | The Hague/Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh

The International Court of Justice yesterday ordered Myanmar to take urgent measures to protect its Rohingya population from genocide, a ruling cheered by refugees as their first major legal victory since being forced from their homes.

A lawsuit launched by Gambia in November at the United Nations' highest body for disputes between states accuses Myanmar of genocide against Rohingya in violation of a 1948 convention.

The court's final decision could take years, and yesterday's ruling dealt only with Gambia's request for preliminary measures. But in a unanimous ruling by the 17 judge panel, the court said the Rohingya face an ongoing threat and Myanmar must act to protect them.

Myanmar must "take all measures within its power to prevent all acts" prohibited under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and report back within four months, presiding Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf said, reading out a summary of the judgement.

## Stand strong against Iran: US Vice President Pence



Mike Pence

AFP | Jerusalem

US Vice President Mike Pence urged world leaders gathered yesterday in Jerusalem to "stand strong" against Iran, calling it the only country where Holocaust denial is "state policy."

"We must also stand strong ... against the one government

in the world that denies the Holocaust as a matter of state policy," Pence told the event held 75 years after the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

"The world must stand strong against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Tehran denies it is trying to build a nuclear bomb and accusations of anti-Semitism, insisting that while it opposes the Jewish state and supports the Palestinian cause, it has no problem with Jewish people.

Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed a summit of leaders of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to "defend peace" in the face of global instability.

## Virus outbreak

# Indian nurse in Saudi infected by coronavirus: Minister's tweet

Agencies | Riyadh

An Indian nurse working at a hospital in southern Saudi Arabia has been infected by the coronavirus amid an outbreak that has killed 17 people in China, India's minister of state for external affairs said yesterday.

"About 100 Indian nurses, mostly from Kerala, working at al-Hayat hospital have been test-

ed and none except one nurse was found infected by coronavirus. Affected nurse is being treated at Aseer National Hospital and is recovering well," V. Muraleedharan tweeted.

Meanwhile, Dubai Airports said that it will start screening passengers arriving on direct flights from China.

Passengers arriving at Dubai International, the world's third busiest airport, will be thermally



Dubai will thermal screen all passengers arriving on direct flights from China.

screened, Dubai Airports said.

Abu Dhabi International, the base of carrier Etihad Airways, will also screen passengers arriving from China, the airport said yesterday.

"Abu Dhabi International Airport has started a screening process for passengers arriving from China in an effort to ensure the health and safety of all of our travellers," it said on Twitter.

(See page 5)