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NEWS SUMMARY 13 November 2018

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Dow plunges 600 points as Apple leads tech rout

Apple shares sank by 5% on Monday, dragging down US markets and wiping more than \$40 billion off the tech giant's market value. The fall followed a profit warning from some of the firm's suppliers, which exacerbated concerns that demand for iPhones is slowing.

White House to consider Commerce Department auto tariff recommendations: officials

The U.S. Commerce Department has submitted draft recommendations to the White House on its investigation into whether to impose tariffs of up to 25% on imported cars and parts on national security grounds.

Janet Yellen sees 3 or 4 Fed rate hikes in the next 12 months - Bloomberg

Former Fed chair Janet Yellen expects the central bank to hike rates three or four times in the next 12 months, according to Bloomberg.

U.S. Treasury's Mnuchin spoke with China Vice Premier Liu - WSJ

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has resumed discussions with China Vice Premier Liu He, with the two speaking by telephone on Friday, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing sources.

Brexit talks are nearing their endgame, May says

Prime Minister Theresa May said there were still considerable unresolved issues with the European Union over Brexit as the two sides approached the "endgame" in negotiations for departure from the bloc.

Labour aims to force May to publish Brexit legal advice

The Labour Party said it would try to force the government in a special vote on Tuesday to publish its legal advice on leaving the European Union, including on how the deal will handle the sensitive issue of the Irish border.

Third of small UK firms see post-Brexit sterling slump - survey

34% of small- and medium-sized British companies said they expected sterling to fall by more than 10% after the country leaves the European Union in March next year.

UK consumer spending sags in October - Visa

British consumers fell by 0.2% year-on-year in October, the first drop in three months, Visa said, based on inflation-adjusted usage data of its debit, credit and prepaid cards.

General Electric seeks urgent asset sales as bond fears rise

General Electric Co will sell assets with "urgency" to reduce its high debt as GE shares tumbled as much as 10% and the cost of insuring its debt hit a six-year high.

EBRD report warns government transparency not improving

A report from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development warned that perceived transparency in government policymaking in its 38 economy bloc had not improved since the start of the decade.

Japan central bank's total assets exceed country's GDP: data

The Bank of Japan's total assets rose to 553.6 trillion yen (\$4.87 trillion), surpassing the country's gross domestic product for the first time. Japan's nominal GDP for the April-June quarter was an annualized 552.8 trillion yen, government data showed earlier this year.

Japan's Aso: will meet U.S. VP Pence but not as part of economic dialogue

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said he was scheduled to meet U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Tuesday, but their meeting would not be part of the economic dialogue between the two countries.

Venezuelan inflation approaches 150,000% as Maduro's efforts to curb huge price increases fail

The Bloomberg Café Con Leche Index, which gauges Venezuela's inflation through the price of a cup of coffee, showed an annual inflation rate of 149,900% after its latest reading. The staggering inflation print comes after the Venezuelan government issued a new currency, the "sovereign bolivar."

Oil prices fall after Trump calls on OPEC not to cut supply

Oil prices fell by more than 1% early on Tuesday after U.S. President Donald Trump put pressure on OPEC not to cut supply to prop up the market.

Gas to overtake coal as world's second largest energy source by 2030: IEA

The International Energy Agency said Natural gas is expected to overtake coal as the world's second largest energy source after oil by 2030 due to a drive to cut air pollution and the rise in liquefied natural gas use.

Canada's Trudeau says in talks with Pakistan over Asia Bibi

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said talks are underway with the Pakistani government over a Pakistani Christian woman whose acquittal on blasphemy charges against Islam last month sparked mass protests in the South Asian country.

North Korea hiding military bases that could launch nuclear missiles at the US, reports show

North Korea has at least 13 operating missile bases that its government has not declared, a network designed to maintain Pyongyang's ability to launch missiles capable of reaching the continental US even after joint air strikes by South Korean and American forces.

I'll be 'surprised' if Trump is re-elected: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Monday that he would be surprised if U.S. President Donald Trump wins another White House term in 2020.

Papua New Guinea PM's firm won \$32m contract despite 'serious irregularities'

A company owned by Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, won a \$32 milliom government contract to build bridges in the country via a process with "serious procurement irregularities" that may have violated anti-corruption guidelines, the Guardian can reveal.

Hong Kong moves to tighten tour guide rules as visitors overwhelm Lantau after mega bridge opens

The Hong Kong Tourism Commission said it would push for the Travel Industry Bill to undergo a second reading by the end of the year after Tung Chung was inundated with holidaymakers led by agents from mainland China allegedly operating illegally.

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