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Cover: A demonstrator in Manila pauses during a protest of Trump's Nov. 14 visit to the Philippines. Photograph by Aaron Favila/AP Photo



Americas

● The Trump administration slashed the size of two national monuments in Utah, breaking up what remains into five smaller monuments. Together, the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante areas will lose about 2 million acres to potential development.



● Canada scrapped a plan to buy 18 Boeing fighter jets, according to reports.

The decision escalates a long-running trade dispute with the company. The country will buy older Boeing planes from Australia instead.



● Wildfires in the Los Angeles area quickly covered tens of thousands of acres, destroying thousands of structures by the morning of Dec. 6.

● Representative John Conyers Jr., Democrat of Michigan, resigned on Dec. 5 after several former employees accused him of sexual harassment. The next day, attention shifted to Senator Al Franken, Democrat of Minnesota, after Democratic senators, led by Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, called on him to resign over allegations of harassment and groping.

● Venezuela said it would launch a digital currency backed by oil reserves, gold, and diamonds to circumvent U.S. sanctions. ▷ 38

● In contrast to poor performance among retailers generally, Home Depot announced it would buy back \$15 billion in shares and raised its annual sales target to \$120 billion.

● CVS Health agreed to buy Aetna for **\$67.5b** combining the largest drugstore chain in the U.S. with the country's third-biggest health insurer. ▷ 21

Europe

● Apple agreed to pay Ireland

\$15.4b

in taxes after the European Union determined it had gotten too sweet a deal. The money will go into an escrow account while Apple appeals the ruling.

● U.K.-based Cineworld solidified a deal to buy fellow theater chain Regal Entertainment for

\$3.6b

after a horrific summer for U.S. movie ticket sales. Cineworld shares dipped on the news.

● Nestlé said it would pay \$2.3 billion for Atrium Innovations, a Canadian maker of nutritional supplements, furthering its push into health products.

Asia

● Volkswagen's Lamborghini brand unveiled its long-anticipated SUV, named the Urus, after an ancestor of the cow. Prices start at \$200,000.



● Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri officially rescinded his resignation on Dec. 5, after his cabinet affirmed the country's commitment to regional neutrality. The reversal intensified suspicion that Saudi Arabia was exerting influence over Lebanon's politics.

● Houthi rebels killed former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Dec. 4. Three days earlier, he seemed to end an alliance with the rebels in their fight against a Saudi Arabia-led military intervention.



● Donald Trump said the U.S. would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a drastic change in policy that risks destabilizing the region.

● The International Olympic Committee barred Russia from this winter's games over alleged state-sponsored doping during the 2014 competitions in Sochi. Individual athletes will still be allowed to compete, but not under the Russian flag.

● “So there’s only one thing left to do. Ryan Patrick Bolger, will you marry me?”

Australian lawmaker Tim Wilson, proposing to his longtime partner during debate on the country's same-sex marriage bill, which is expected to pass easily. Bolger said yes.

● The United Nations political affairs chief, Jeffrey Feltman, flew to North Korea on Dec. 5 to try to temper the country's nuclear provocations. He's the most senior UN official to visit the country in five years.

● Xiaomi began shopping for an investment bank to handle what may be the largest tech IPO on record. The Chinese smartphone maker was last valued at \$46 billion.

Africa

● Nigeria's police chief launched an investigation of its Special Anti-Robbery Squad after videos of alleged brutality surfaced. Twitter was flush with tales of mistreatment shared under the hashtag #ENDSARS.

● The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration's travel ban to take effect while it's being challenged in court. The ban will restrict visitors from Chad, Libya, and Somalia, as well as Iran, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.

