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# USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: Reuters India

## China to allow in U.S. experts amid spread of virus even as it slams U.S. actions

China has agreed to allow U.S. health experts into the country as part of a World Health Organization (WHO) effort to help fight the fast-spreading coronavirus, even as it accused the United States on Monday of whipping up panic over the disease with travel restrictions and evacuations.

"China has accepted the United States' offer to incorporate a group of experts into a World Health Organization mission to China to learn more about and combat the virus," White House spokesman Judd Deere said.

The death toll in China from the newly identified virus, which emerged in the city of Wuhan, rose to 361 as of Sunday, up by 57 from a day earlier, the National Health Commission said. Chinese stocks plunged on Monday, the first day of trading following an extended Lunar New Year holiday.

Countries continued to evacuate their citizens from Wuhan. The United States, which flew nearly 200 people out last week, is planning "a handful more flights." Russia was due to start evacuating its citizens on Monday, and Canada said 304 of its citizens were seeking to be flown out.



Foto: USATODAY.com

## Rise in sea levels is accelerating along U.S. coasts, report warns

The rate of sea level rise along much of the U.S. coastline continues to accelerate, according to a new report.

The report's key message "is a clear trend toward acceleration in rates of sea-level rise at 25 of our 32 tide-gauge stations," said Virginia Institute of Marine Science emeritus professor John Boon in a statement. "Acceleration can be a game changer in terms of impacts and planning, so we really need to pay heed to these patterns."

Boon and other researchers at William & Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science released the report Monday.

Sea level rise acceleration was highest along the Gulf Coast, where Grand Island, Louisiana, saw a nearly 8 millimeter yearly increase, double the global average, according to the report. Galveston and Rockport in Texas also had significant increases.

The report includes 51 years of water level observations, from January 1969 through December 2019. Worldwide, sea level has risen about 8 inches since 1880 but, unlike water in a bathtub, it doesn't rise evenly. In the past 100 years, it has climbed about a foot or more in some U.S. cities because of ocean currents and land subsidence. As the planet's temperature warms, so do the seas. Heat-trapping greenhouse gases because more land ice (glaciers and ice sheets) to melt and water to expand. Warmer water simply takes up more room than cooler water.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also has warned about sea level rise acceleration. It has noted that by the end of the century, global sea level is likely to rise at least one foot above 2000 levels, even if greenhouse gas emissions follow a relatively low pathway in coming decades.

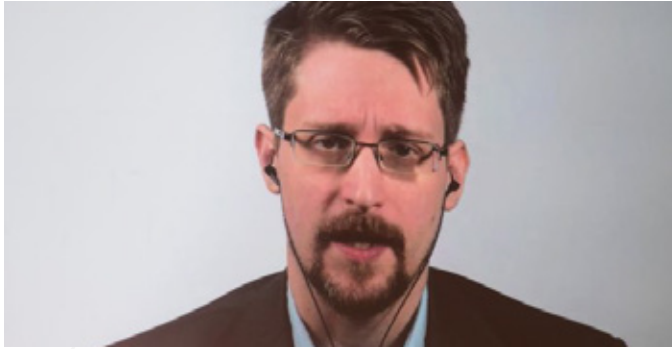


Foto: New York Post

## Accused CIA leaker thought Edward Snowden should be executed: witness

The former CIA staffer accused of passing top secret documents to WikiLeaks was a vocal critic of fellow CIA leaker Edward Snowden – and thought he should be executed, a onetime colleague testified Friday. “He believed Snowden should be executed,” CIA developer Jeremy Weber told jurors as he recalled Joshua Schulte’s vocal disgust of the ex-CIA staffer and National Security Agency contractor’s leak of highly classified documents. “He seemed to have the feeling that [Snowden] betrayed his country,” said Weber, who is testifying under a false name to protect his identity. “He might have called him a traitor.” Weber testified that he couldn’t remember exactly when those conversations took place, but that they were before the now-31-year-old allegedly snapped after losing certain work privileges because of a beef with another colleague.

Prosecutor’s claim Schulte – feeling slighted at work – hacked into servers to steal the information that would later comprise the massive WikiLeaks dumps dubbed “Vault 7” and “Vault 8”, which began appearing on Twitter March 7, 2017.

Snowden currently is living in Russia, where he’s been granted permanent residency following a request for asylum.



Foto: NPR

## Trump Administration Suspends New Yorkers From Trusted Traveler Programs

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security says it will no longer allow New York state residents to enroll in programs intended to expedite international travel because of a state law that blocks immigration authorities from accessing motor vehicle records.

New York’s “Green Light” law, which took effect in December, allows immigrants without legal status to apply for driver’s licenses. It also includes a provision barring state officials at the Department of Motor Vehicles from sharing data with immigration authorities unless a judge orders them to do so. Ken Cuccinelli, acting deputy secretary at DHS, told reporters on a conference call Thursday that the state law was “dangerous — really thoughtless in terms of unintended consequences.”

“President Trump certainly made it clear that if sanctuary city politicians — and sanctuary state, as well — won’t keep their people safe, we’ll do the best we can to keep them safe,” Cuccinelli said.

In a statement released Thursday, the state’s attorney general, Letitia James, pointed out that more than a dozen other states and the District of Columbia share similar laws. As for New York itself, the top prosecutor vowed that the state “will not back down.”