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USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: USA Today

Coronavirus fallout: study says people aren't downloading flight and hotel apps

As the coronavirus continues to spread, upending the tech industry and causing tremors in the business sector, consumers and companies alike are wary of flying and booking hotel stays.

New data collected by the attribution company AppsFlyer revealed that travel app bookings have declined steadily since news about the respiratory illness began to circulate.

The Asia Pacific region, which generally includes China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, was affected the most by the slowdown in flights, with a 22% drop in bookings and a 27% drop in travel app revenue from Jan. 21 to Feb. 9, AppsFlyer found. The impact of coronavirus in the U.S. was notably less severe. North America saw a 7% drop in bookings and a 10% revenue fall. "We believe this is because most travel in this market is domestic, where coronavirus is seen as less of a threat," Brian Quinn, president at AppsFlyer, said in a statement.



Foto: The New York Times

Ocasio-Cortez Builds Progressive Campaign Arm to Challenge Democrats

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez plans on Friday to endorse an all-female slate of progressive candidates through her new political action committee, using her clout in the insurgent left and the considerable campaign funds she has drawn to counter the Democratic establishment in key races around the country.

The endorsements of over a dozen congressional candidates — including one who is challenging Senate Democrats' preferred candidate in Texas — amount to a powerful stamp of approval for a diverse group of newcomers. They also are a clear sign that Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, a celebrity of the liberal left, intends to leverage her influence among activists to try to reshape the Democratic Party.

The move also underlines the struggle among Democrats that is defining the race for the presidency, which is pitting Senator Bernie Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist, against more moderate candidates who are presenting themselves as better able to appeal to a broad section of voters in taking on President Trump. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez has traversed the country to campaign for Mr. Sanders, and her efforts to pull Congress to the left parallel his bid to deploy his progressive message to emerge as the Democratic nominee, an effort that has instilled fear in many centrist lawmakers who believe it could cost them their seats.

Ms. Ocasio-Cortez said that she was not sure what her next move in politics would be — and that she sometimes wondered how long she would stay in politics. Until then, she said she would work to elect more people like herself to serve in the House and Senate.



Foto: Reuters

Wall Street extends losses after data shows business activity stalls

U.S. stocks fell further on Friday after data showed U.S. business activity in the manufacturing and services sectors stalled in February, as companies grew increasingly concerned about the coronavirus.

At 9:49 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI was down 283.47 points, or 0.97%, at 28,936.51, while the S&P 500 .SPX was down 34.78 points, or 1.03%, at 3,338.45. The Nasdaq Composite .IXIC was down 136.59 points, or 1.40%, at 9,614.38.



Foto: The Guardian

Revealed: quarter of all tweets about climate crisis produced by bots

The social media conversation over the climate crisis is being reshaped by an army of automated Twitter bots, with a new analysis finding that a quarter of all tweets about climate on an average day are produced by bots.

The stunning levels of Twitter bot activity on topics related to global heating and the climate crisis is distorting the online discourse to include far more climate science denialism than it would otherwise.

An analysis of millions of tweets from around the period when Donald Trump announced the US would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement found that bots tended to applaud the president for his actions and spread misinformation about the science.