

IN BRIEF

**Boeing safety mistakes**

■ **WASHINGTON:** Boeing Co chief executive Dennis Muilenburg acknowledged the company made mistakes in the development of a key safety system known as MCAS at the centre of two fatal crashes, at a US House hearing on Wednesday. Reuters

**Syria-Turkey clash**

■ **ANKARA:** Syrian army troops clashed with Turkish forces near the border town of Ras al Ain on Wednesday, as Ankara said it reserved the right to launch another cross-border offensive against the Kurdish militia. Reuters

**Lebanon leader**

■ **BEIRUT:** Saad al-Hariri is ready to return as Prime Minister of a new Lebanese government, a senior official familiar with his thinking said, on condition it includes technocrats and can quickly implement reforms to stave off economic collapse. Reuters

**Nepal PM ill**

■ **KATHMANDU:** Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli was on Wednesday admitted to a hospital here following health complications, according to a media report. PTI

**Myanmar jail**

■ **YANGON:** A court in Myanmar sentenced five satirical performers to a year in jail with hard labour on Wednesday for shows that criticised the army's role in politics. Reuters



Hong Kong Polytechnic University students wear Guy Fawkes masks at a graduation ceremony to support the protests. (Reuters)

**Protest plan in HK party zone**

**Hong Kong:** Thousands of Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters plan to combine with fancy-dress clubbers on Thursday in the party district of Lan Kwai Fong on a potentially dangerous and rowdy Halloween.

The protesters say they will march, without police permission, from a park in the Causeway Bay shopping district through the heaving bar streets of Wan Chai to the steep, narrow foothills of the Peak above Central.

Every weekend, office-goers and clubbers spill out of the Lan Kwai Fong bars on to the streets, even without the additional presence of protesters who have thrown petrol bombs at the police, set fires and trashed buildings during five months of unrest.

A stampede at midnight on New Year's Eve in 1992, when thousands had gathered, had killed at least 20 and wounded scores. Reuters

**Chile drops trade, climate summits**

**Santiago:** Chile withdrew on Wednesday as the host of an Apec summit next month at which the US and China had been expected to sign a deal to ease trade tensions hurting the global economy, as raging street protests have gripped the South American country.

The abrupt move, which came after weeks of riots over inequality in Chile that have left at least 18 people dead, left

the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in disarray, with participating countries caught off-guard and no alternative venue lined up.

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, fighting for his political survival, said he had taken the "painful" decision to cancel the summit, as well as a high-profile international gathering on climate change in December, to focus on restoring

law and order and pushing through a new social plan.

"As President to all Chileans I must always put the problems and interests of Chileans, their needs, their desires and their hopes, first," he said in a brief statement.

The Apec summit was scheduled to bring together 20 world leaders on November 16-17. US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart

Xi Jinping had been due to sign an interim agreement to end the 15-month-old trade war.

The Trump administration said it still expected to sign the deal with China next month.

Pinera also said Chile would no longer be able to host the major UN COP25 climate summit between December 2 and December 13. The climate summit would have brought delegates from around 190 na-

tions to talks aimed at thrashing out details of how to reduce global emissions to meet the Paris climate agreement.

The UN is looking for a new venue for the conference after Pinera spoke with UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres over phone on Wednesday to inform him of Chile's withdrawal, a UN spokesman said.

With public concern at climate change having sparked

demonstrations around the globe in recent months, Chile's withdrawal — the first time a host nation had pulled out of hosting a major climate summit at such short notice — threw the process into confusion.

Costa Rica's environment minister Carlos Manuel Rodriguez said the country was in talks with Chile and would support decisions to quickly find an alternative. Reuters

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