

## What's News

### Business & Finance

**UBS said Sergio Ermotti will return as chief executive to tackle the integration of Credit Suisse, less than two weeks after regulators engineered a shotgun marriage of the Swiss banking giants. A1, A4**

◆ **The White House is planning to recommend tougher rules for midsize banks following the collapse of two lenders, according to people familiar with the matter. A4**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose, aided by easing global banking concerns, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow gaining 1.4%, 1.8% and 1%, respectively. B1**

◆ **UnitedHealth Group's UnitedHealthcare said it would remove many medical procedures and devices from its list of services requiring prior authorization. A1**

◆ **Macy's Inc. said CEO Jeff Gennette will step aside in February and be succeeded by Tony Spring, who runs the retailer's Bloomingdale's chain. B1**

◆ **Several tech executives and top artificial-intelligence researchers are calling for a pause in the breakneck development of powerful new AI tools. B1**

◆ **Howard Schultz, testifying at a Senate hearing, defended Starbucks against accusations that it retaliated against pro-union workers who say they are seeking better pay and benefits. B1**

◆ **Disney laid off Isaac "Ike" Perlmutter, chairman of Marvel Entertainment, and plans to fold the comic-book publishing business into Disney Entertainment. B2**

### World-Wide

◆ **Big U.S. cities lost fewer residents last year as more immigrants moved in, fewer people died and more babies were born there, according to new census data that shows how the urban exodus that gained steam early in the pandemic is cooling. A1**

◆ **Netanyahu's plan to overhaul Israel's justice system has stirred tensions with the U.S., with Biden and congressional Democrats criticizing the proposal and Israeli lawmakers firing back. A8**

◆ **Mexican prosecutors are investigating as homicides the deaths of at least 39 migrants in a fire at a detention center in Ciudad Juárez, authorities said. A18**

◆ **Over two decades after Congress voted to green-light the invasion of Iraq, the Senate voted 66-30 to revoke the law that authorized military operations for that war. A2**

◆ **The FDA approved the over-the-counter sale of Narcan, a medication that reverses opioid overdoses. A2**

◆ **Taiwan's president arrived in the U.S. amid threats from Beijing that American politicians who engage with her could spur unspecified retaliation. A8**

◆ **Ukraine's Zelensky is urging Chinese leader Xi to meet with him as Beijing maneuvers itself as a potential peacemaker. A8**

◆ **The Republican budget proposal could take months to coalesce, the chairman of the House Budget Committee said, a delay that would complicate debt-ceiling talks. A6**

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## King Charles Greets Germans With 'Cheers'



OVER THE LIPS: Britain's King Charles III sips champagne on his first official foreign trip as monarch. It is part of a charm offensive to mend fences in Europe after Brexit. A18

## Ex-CEO Gets Encore at UBS After Merger

Ermotti to oversee integration of Credit Suisse after regulators pushed for rescue deal

BY MARGOT PATRICK AND SERENA NG

UBS Group AG said Sergio Ermotti will return as chief executive officer to tackle the integration of Credit Suisse Group AG, less than two weeks after regulators engineered a shotgun marriage of the Swiss banking giants.

horse" in Mr. Ermotti, UBS Chairman Colm Kelleher said, explaining the bank's decision to replace Mr. Hamers.

With the return of Mr. Ermotti, UBS will have two experienced fix-it bankers at the helm. Mr. Kelleher spent three decades at Morgan Stanley and guided it through the global financial crisis as its chief financial officer. He later helped reorient Morgan Stanley's business away from riskier investment banking to more stable wealth management. He returned in 2019 as its No. 2 and joined UBS last year.

Mr. Ermotti will reprise a role he played at UBS in 2008.

- ◆ **Greg Ip: Threat of a slow-boil bank crisis endures..... A2**
- ◆ **Tough task awaits Ermotti at UBS..... A4**
- ◆ **Heard on the Street: Bank's move signals worries..... B12**

## Metaverse Faces Real World Woes

BY MEGHAN BOBROWSKY

The metaverse, the virtual world that was the hot thing in tech less than two years ago, is facing a harsher reality. Walt Disney Co. has shut down the division that was developing its metaverse strategies. The Wall Street Journal reported this week. Microsoft Corp. recently shut down a social virtual-reality platform it acquired in 2017.

more on artificial intelligence on an earnings call last month.

Meanwhile, the price for virtual real estate in some online worlds, where users can hang out as avatars, has cratered. The median sale price for land in Decentraland has declined 70% from a year ago, according to WeMeta, a site that tracks land sales in the metaverse.

Meta's name change in October 2021 spurred excitement about metaverse experiences, products and platforms. But slower user adoption, driven in part by the cost of computing power, has dampened interest.

## Patients Get Break On Test Approvals

BY ANNA WILDE MATHEWS AND STEPHANIE ARMOUR

The paperwork required by health insurers to get many medical procedures or tests—one of the biggest gripes of doctors and patients—is getting rolled back. UnitedHealth Group Inc.'s UnitedHealthcare, the largest health insurer in the U.S., said Wednesday that it would cut its use of the prior authorization process. Starting in the third quarter, it will remove many procedures and medical devices from its list of services requiring the signoff.

The insurer also said it would eliminate, starting next year, many prior-authorization requirements for so-called gold-card doctors and hospitals whose requests it nearly always approves. And it aims to automate and speed up prior authorization, though that will likely take a few years.

UnitedHealthcare processes about 13 million prior-authorization requests a year, out of a volume of about 600 million claims, company officials said. They said the company's changes are projected to reduce the number of prior authorizations to about 10 million annually.

"We're not deaf to the complaints out there," said Philip Kaufman, chief growth officer at UnitedHealthcare. "We've taken a hard look at ourselves and this process."

The steps are a sign that the health-insurance industry is rethinking prior authorization, which has long been a source of frustration among doctors and patients who have said it creates administrative headaches and sometimes delays care.

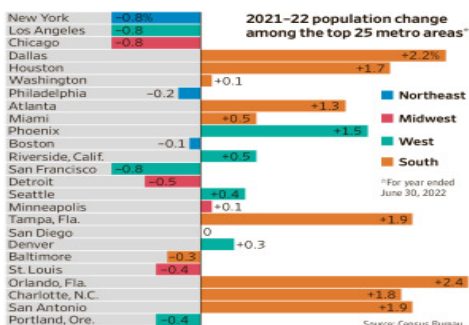
## U.S.'s Big-City Exodus Slows Down

Big cities lost fewer residents last year as more immigrants moved in, fewer people died and more babies were born there, according to new census data that shows how the urban exodus that gained steam early in the pandemic is cooling.

By Paul Overberg, John McCormick and Max Rust

The suburbs of big cities and small- and medium-size metropolitan areas continued to claim most of the nation's growth, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of population estimates for the year that ended June 30. Rural areas that gained steam early in the pandemic remained nearly flat.

The core counties of large metro areas had an estimated net loss of more than 800,000 movers to the rest of the country, but that was an improvement from a 1.2 million drop in the previous year, the Journal analysis shows.



After a sharp falloff in immigration at the peak of the pandemic, the latest data shows a revival that has helped bolster large urban counties,

with about 500,000 net arrivals from abroad last year. An uptick in births and fewer deaths also helped offset moves out of urban counties, leaving collective population growth nearly flat for the year. The pandemic spurred a burst of mobility—some temporary and some potentially permanent—that accelerated pre-existing trends on where and how people in the U.S. live. Suburban areas have emerged as the clearest winners, often gaining at the expense of the core city they encircle.

The changes that are taking hold have prompted cities to consider converting office buildings to housing and to rethink mass transit service that has lost many commuters between suburbs and downtowns. Bank regulators and investors are rethinking commercial real-estate investment.

## It's Northwestern vs. Neighbors Over New \$800 Million Stadium

'You'll have people spilling out of concerts drunk at 10:30, 11 o'clock'

BY DOUGLAS BELKIN

EVANSTON, ILL.—The most dramatic action in this suburb of Chicago has always played out in Northwestern University's pancake-yellow stadium on football Saturdays. This spring, though, the hardest hits are coming from some of its neighbors.

Residents in the tree-lined neighborhood are exercised about a plan to replace the 47,000-seat Ryan Field stadium, which opened in 1926.

No alcohol is served inside the stadium. But if Northwestern has its way, the field's replacement will accommodate those home games as well as women's lacrosse matches, 10 stadium concerts and an unlimited number of events of up to 10,000 people on the plaza around the stadium. Alcohol will be on the menu.

"You'll have people spilling out of concerts drunk at 10:30, 11 o'clock, walking around your neighborhood. There will be crimes of opportunity," said John Sorenson, who lives across a year and little else. Who's game? Please turn to page A10

## GameStop's Revival Plan Keeps Shrinking

Videogame retailer hits the brakes on e-commerce push to refocus on its stores

BY SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN AND DANA MATTIOLI

Ryan Cohen took control of GameStop Corp. in 2021 vowing to transform the faltering videogame retailer into an e-commerce juggernaut. Meme-stock investors loved the idea. Ordinary consumers, it turns out, did not. E-commerce sales didn't take off—they declined. Losses grew, and a succession of online-sales executives Mr. Cohen brought in left.

Last year, to little fanfare, the billionaire investor re-

versed course and slammed the brakes on the e-commerce push to refocus GameStop on its roughly 4,400 bricks-and-mortar stores. In other words, the original meme stock reverted to a business model with the mall at its center.

The company began slashing costs. It scrapped plans to build more warehouses to handle online orders, shut a new e-commerce customer-service center and cut several hundred corporate jobs created under Mr. Cohen.

On March 21, the cost-cutting allowed GameStop to re-

Please turn to page A10

**Fan visited Disneyland a record 2,995 times in a row**

Californian, who ended up setting a Guinness record, shares his story and park tips. **In Money**

**X-factor: Looking at who could tip men's Final Four**

These four players could be the ones making the big plays for their teams. **In Sports**



**'Unstable' hits highs with the Lowes**

Rob Lowe, right, and his son John Owen created and star in Netflix series full of funny, real-life back-and-forth. **In Life**

RICH POLK/GETTY IMAGES FOR NETFLIX

**USA TODAY**

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

**MLB**  
**Opening day**

The season begins with high expectations and a handful of new rules. USA TODAY looks at the major changes and the five players who could be key to their teams' success.

**Read more in Sports**

GETTY IMAGES

**Tougher gun laws stand little chance**



Lisbeth Melgar and her daughter, Valentina, 5, sign one of the six wooden crosses placed at a makeshift memorial Tuesday near the entrance of The Covenant School in Nashville, Tenn. MARK ZALESKI/USA TODAY NETWORK

**Overdose drug Narcan gets OTC approval**

FDA's action is aimed at fentanyl, opioid scourge

Ken Alltucker  
USA TODAY

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved selling the overdose-reversal drug Narcan without a prescription, a move long sought by advocates to improve access to the lifesaving drug.

The approval would make the nasal spray used to counteract fentanyl and opioid overdoses more accessible to consumers who could buy the medication at stores without a prescription or pharmacist's recommendation.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf urged the drug's manufacturer to make Narcan widely available at an affordable price. "Today's approval of OTC naloxone nasal spray will help improve access to naloxone, increase the number of locations where it's available and help reduce opioid overdose deaths throughout the country," Califf said in a statement.

The approved branded nasal spray from Gaithersburg, Maryland-based Emergent BioSolutions is the best-known form of naloxone.

It can reverse overdoses of opioids, including street drugs such as heroin and fentanyl and prescription versions including oxycodone.

Making naloxone available more widely is seen as a key strategy to control a nationwide overdose crisis, which has been linked to more than 100,000 deaths a year in the United States. The majority of those deaths are tied to opioids, primarily illicitly manufactured fentanyl that can take multiple doses of naloxone to reverse.

Advocates believe it's important to get naloxone to the people who are most likely to be around overdoses,

See **NARCAN**, Page 8A

**Calls for action unlikely to break through walls of a divided Congress**

Joey Garrison  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers from both parties said the prospects for major gun control legislation advancing in a divided Congress are slim even as President Joe Biden said he has exhausted what he can do to address gun violence through executive action.

It appears the nation's latest mass shooting — a massacre Monday at a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee — could turn into a familiar story: calls for sweeping gun control laws, followed by inaction.

Biden has renewed his push for Congress to reinstate the nation's ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, which expired in 2004

See **GUN LAWS**, Page 6A



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

**"Why in God's name do we allow these weapons of war on our streets and our schools? I never thought when I started my public life that guns would be the No. 1 killer of children in America."**

President Joe Biden

**Limited security, attention may be motives to attack K-12 schools**

Kayla Jimenez  
USA TODAY

The aftermath of a mass shooting at a private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, that left three 9-year-olds and three school workers dead Monday has renewed debate about why shooters target schools.

There's no simple answer, but because schools may have limited security and the deaths of young people draw significant attention, they can be attractive targets for assailants, experts told USA TODAY.

Robin M. Kowalski, a psychology professor at Clemson University in South Carolina, recently studied shootings at K-12 schools and colleges and other mass killings. She and her

See **K-12 SCHOOLS**, Page 6A

USA TODAY

**WOMEN OF THE YEAR**

**Gallaudet's Roberta Cordano is paving the way for others**

Jeanine Santucci  
USA TODAY



Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano is the first deaf woman and first openly LGBTQ person to be president of Gallaudet University. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

In some ways, Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano's path would always lead her to Gallaudet University. Her parents, who are deaf, are both graduates, and many from the community she grew up in went there, too.

But Cordano says she took "the road less traveled" to become the first deaf woman and first openly LGBTQ person to be president of Gallaudet, the world's only liberal arts university for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Cordano decided from a young age she wanted to be a lawyer, and law schools didn't tend to accept Gallaudet graduates, she said, because they "didn't believe

See **CORDANO**, Page 8A

**About this project**

Roberta "Bobbi" Cordano is one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year, a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country. Meet this year's honorees at [womenoftheyear.usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com/womenoftheyear).

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**Brazilians braced for Bolsonaro's return**  
ANALYSIS, PAGE 4

**Britain's new stability rests on shaky ground**  
ROBERT SHRIMSLEY, PAGE 17

## North Korea's oil smuggling, triads and ghost ships



**FT investigation** How organised crime helped shift illicit oil and evade sanctions. Big Read, Page 15

# Ermotti returns as UBS chief to steer \$3.25bn Credit Suisse rescue mission

◆ Hamers ousted ◆ Chair hailed 'best person' for job ◆ Biggest bank tie-up since 2008 ◆ Shares rise 4%

OWEN WALKER — LONDON

UBS has ousted its chief executive and brought back former boss Sergio Ermotti to steer the takeover of Credit Suisse less than two weeks after the announcement of the contentious \$3.25bn rescue deal.

Ermotti, UBS chief executive for nine years before stepping down in 2020, will lead the effort to merge two of the world's biggest banks after Ralph Hamers was pushed aside. "I cannot emphasise how big a deal this is in terms of financial history and financial engineering that's required," UBS chair Colm Kelleher said. "It's about having the best person in our opinion to effect the execution of this merger."

He added that he had initially called

Ermotti to see if he was interested in the job on Monday last week — the day after Hamers gave a flailing performance on an analyst call on the takeover.

Hamers said he was "stepping aside in the interests of the new combined entity and its stakeholders, including Switzerland and its financial sector... I am, of course, sorry to leave UBS but circumstances have changed in ways that none of us expected."

The takeover, orchestrated by Swiss

### Inside

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- ◆ Answering 'call of duty' Page 9
- ◆ AT1 wipeout hits banks Page 10
- ◆ Lex: old guard, new reality Page 18

authorities, will create the world's fourth-largest bank, with 120,000 staff and \$3tn of assets under management. But it is politically divisive, with more than three-quarters of Swiss voters calling for the combined mega bank to be split up by new legislation.

Bondholders are also preparing legal proceedings against the Swiss government after \$17bn of high-risk securities were wiped out in the transaction.

Kelleher said Ermotti's work in scaling back UBS's investment bank a decade ago and his experience of operating at a global level were essential for overseeing the biggest bank merger since 2008. He added that Hamers, chief executive since November 2020, had put the bank "in a position to stabilise Credit Suisse and ensure a successful

integration", but that Ermotti would "hit the ground running".

Ermotti will start next week, while Hamers will remain as an adviser for a transition period.

UBS shares closed nearly 4 per cent higher, with some investors welcoming the change. "As a shareholder and bondholder, we are very happy," said Davide Serra, chief executive of Algeris, who added that Ermotti would reduce integration risk and "serve [the bank's] clients and not... investment bankers".

Since leaving UBS, Ermotti has chaired the reinsurer Swiss Re as well as a special purpose acquisition company that bought Italian luxury fashion group Ermenezeglio Zegna.

Mark Diethelm, an analyst at Vontobel, said Ermotti's experience in trans-

forming UBS after the financial crisis would be crucial, noting that the bank was "already facing significant political pressure due to its large size and importance for the country".

Hamers joined UBS from ING after 25 years at the Dutch lender, seven as chief executive. He was a surprise choice for the UBS job, despite having been hand-picked by then-chair Axel Weber.

Critics pointed to his lack of experience in wealth management and investment banking, UBS's two biggest businesses. He was viewed as a digital expert who could help cut back the bank's cost base, but his ideas took time to implement. It was more than a year before he unveiled his plan for the business, which consisted of targeting wealthy clients in the US and Asia.

## Crypto exchange Binance concealed extensive links to China for years

SCOTT CHIPOLINA — LONDON

Binance hid substantial links to China for several years, contradicting executives' claims that the crypto exchange left the country after a clampdown on the industry in late 2017, according to internal company documents seen by the Financial Times.

Chief executive Changpeng Zhao and others holding senior positions repeatedly instructed Binance staff to hide the company's presence in China. This included an office in use until at least the end of 2019, and one Chinese bank that was used to pay some employee salaries.

"We no longer publish our office addresses... people in China can directly say that our office is not in China," Zhao said in a company message in November 2017, seen by the FT.

The documents underscore the

extent to which Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, has sought to obscure the extent and location of its operations as regulators scrutinise crypto-related activity. Zhao has said that most Binance staff, other than "a small number of customer service agents", left China after 2017 when Beijing intensified its crackdown on crypto.

The exchange was sued by US regulators this week over allegations that it had illegally served American clients.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission also alleged that Binance "intentionally" did not disclose the location of its executive offices and that statements that its headquarters were wherever Zhao was located reflected "a deliberate approach to attempt to avoid regulation".

In late 2019, employees at the company discussed a media report that

claimed Binance was opening an office in Beijing. "Reminder: publicly, we have offices in Malta, Singapore and Uganda," one message said. "Please do not confirm any offices anywhere else, including China."

Binance told the FT: "It is unfortunate that anonymous sources are citing ancient history (in crypto terms) and dramatically mischaracterising events. This is not an accurate picture of Binance's operations."

Zhao was born in China but has Canadian citizenship and has publicly denied that Binance is a Chinese company.

"The original founding team members that were based in Shanghai left China just two months after the company was organised," Binance said, adding that it had "never been registered or incorporated in China", nor did it have any technology in the country.



### Musk backs tech industry call to halt AI arms race

Elon Musk has signed an open letter along with 1,000 tech executives and researchers calling for an end to the AI arms race. Published yesterday by the Future of Life Institute, a non-profit campaign group, it urges a "pause" in development of artificial intelligence systems such as OpenAI's GPT. It says programmers are developing "powerful digital minds that no one, not even their creators, can understand, predict or reliably control".

Call for pause — PAGE 8

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Mar 29	Prev	%Chg	Pair	Mar 29	Prev	%Chg	Yield (%)	Mar 29	Prev	Chg
S&P 500	4074.14	3971.27	1.08	E/£	1.083	1.083	0.00	US 2 yr	4.07	4.04	0.02
Nasdaq Composite	11878.06	11716.98	1.37	E/€	1.221	1.223	-0.17	US 10 yr	3.96	3.98	-0.02
Dow Jones Ind	32628.77	32394.25	0.72	E/¥	0.880	0.879	0.12	US 30 yr	3.78	3.77	0.01
FTSE 100	7564.27	7464.25	1.07	W/¥	132.505	130.965	W/E	143.518	141.881	1.16	
FTSE All-Share	4118.63	4072.45	1.08	W/€	163.211	161.448	E/India	78.947	78.839	0.14	
CAC 40	7186.90	7088.34	1.39	S/R	0.996	0.998	S/E	1.132	1.135	-0.27	
Xetra Dax	15328.78	15142.02	1.23	CRYPTO				Mar 29	Prev	%Chg	
Nikkei	27863.78	27518.25	1.33	Bitcoin (B)	26248.30	27287.93	3.36	Ether	2.683	2.58	0.06
Hang Seng	20192.40	19784.85	2.56	Ethereum	1802.31	1772.99	1.65	JPN 2 yr	0.09	0.08	0.01
MSCI World S	7294.78	7202.42	0.69	Bitcoin S	370.88	368.01	0.78	JPN 10 yr	0.30	0.31	-0.01
MSCI EM S	570.69	564.01	0.69	Bitcoin (B)	37.26	37.20	-0.16	JPN 30 yr	1.20	1.25	-0.06
MSCI ACWI S	627.48	620.52	0.15	Gold S	1962.85	1946.25	0.85	GER 2 yr	2.63	2.58	0.06
FT Wilshire 2500	5146.21	5152.87	-0.13	Oil Brent S	78.14	78.65	-0.65	GER 10 yr	2.32	2.29	0.04
FT Wilshire 5000	40143.29	40196.24	-0.13	Gold S	1962.85	1946.25	0.85	GER 30 yr	2.40	2.38	0.04

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FINHARE O'REILLY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Challenged, an Industry Soldiers On**  
In Zaporizhzhia and "the Steel Heart of Ukraine," factories and workers have been vital in fending off the Russian invasion. Page A8.

## Fall of Mogul From Empire To a Jail Cell

By MICHAEL FORSYTHE and BENJAMIN WEISER

Luc Despins, a New York bankruptcy lawyer, typically took on difficult jobs: After the energy company Enron collapsed years ago, he helped thousands of victims recover some of their money. But when Mr. Despins was appointed by a bankruptcy court last year to locate the assets of Guo Wengui, a Chinese property mogul and political provocateur who had failed to repay tens of millions of dollars to a hedge fund, the assignment presented very different challenges.

In November, protesters appeared outside his home and that of his ex-wife. Photographs of his daughters, along with their names and employers, were posted on Gettr, a social platform catering to the American right. A video online accused Mr. Despins of helping to build concentration camps on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party. Protesters even entered his office lobby, Mr. Despins testified in court.

Partners of the firm have been chased up the escalator, with people running — screaming, you know, "C.C.P. dog," he said.

It would be among the last of many harassment campaigns carried out in Mr. Guo's name by his global legion of followers. Mr. Guo may now be at the end of a remarkable trajectory, from billion-

Continued on Page A21

## In China, Billions Spent on a Withering Dream

By TARIQ PANJA

It takes only a glance at the news coverage from those days less than a decade ago, when China's soccer success seemed only a matter of determination and money, to remember how quickly and how deeply the country embraced the world's most popular sport as a national project.

At home and abroad, China's president, Xi Jinping, was pictured kicking soccer balls and watching youth matches. State media detailed his lifelong love of the game. Schools were ordered to

### Greed and Graft Helped to Undermine Global Soccer Ambitions

introduce soccer into their curriculums, and billions of dollars were earmarked for the construction of tens of thousands of fields. Major companies rushed to invest in professional teams, both at home and abroad, then stocked them with imported players — whatever the cost.

There was talk of bringing the

World Cup to China. In Beijing, there was audacious talk of winning it.

Now, though, China's great soccer dream appears to be over.

The expensive recruits have gone. Top teams have disappeared with alarming regularity. The national team shows little sign of improvement. And in perhaps the most direct sign of a failed policy, some of the top officials charged with leading China's soccer revolution have been detained amid allegations of corruption.

"The hopes were really high," Continued on Page A14



CPHOTO/SIPA USA, VIA REUTERS

Primary school students doing soccer exercises in Lianyungang, a city in Jiangsu Province, China.

## Hochul Seeks Help From Suburbs to Fix New York's Housing Crisis

This article is by Mihir Zaveri, Luis Ferré-Sadurni and Michael D. Regan.

Scarsdale, N.Y., a village about 20 miles north of New York City known for Tudor-style architecture and large, lavish estates, may seem like an unusual setting for an aging, five-story parking garage that neighbors have de-

scribed as "an eye sore," "decrepit," "unsafe" and "seedy."

But for over 40 years the site has survived multiple attempts to raze and redevelop it. The latest push, in which the village is considering plans to build hundreds of apartments there, including some that would have been affordable to people with lower incomes, has been in limbo for three years after some Scarsdale residents

### Towns Cite Concerns on Taxes and Schools

complained that new residents could strain schools and burden taxpayers.

"The second any opposition came up, it was largely put into

suspended animation," said Tim Foley, a Scarsdale resident and chief executive of the Building and Realty Institute, an industry group pushing for more housing in and around Westchester County, which includes Scarsdale.

Resistance to bigger development is a familiar dynamic in suburbs like Scarsdale, where single-

Continued on Page A22

## Mexico Treats Border Deaths As Homicides

### Identifies 8 Suspects in Migrant Center Fire

This article is by Simon Romero, Natalie Kitroeff and Eileen Sullivan.

CIUDAD JUÁREZ, Mexico — Mexican officials announced on Wednesday that they were investigating a fire at a migrant detention center in Ciudad Juárez as a homicide case, saying that government workers and private security employees had not allowed detainees to escape from the blaze that killed at least 39 people.

The authorities, in a news conference, said they had identified eight suspects, including federal and state agents, and would issue four arrest warrants on Wednesday.

"None of the public servants, nor the private security guards, took any action to open the door for the migrants who were inside where the fire was," said Sara Irene Herrerías Guerra, a top federal human rights prosecutor.

The announcement came after a video emerged appearing to show that the migrants had been trapped when the fire broke out on Monday. Uniformed figures at the center can be seen walking away from the blaze while people remain behind bars as the area fills with smoke.

The authorities said they might also investigate one migrant suspect of starting the fire.

"Our country's immigration policy is one of respect for human rights," said Rosa Icela Rodríguez, the government's secretary of security. "This unfortunate event, which is the responsibility of public servants and guards who have been identified, is not the policy of our country."

It was a striking development in a case that has drawn intense scrutiny to the Mexican government's handling of the surge of migrants flowing into the country over the past year, seeking to enter the United States.

Ciudad Juárez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas, has long prided itself on absorbing waves of newcomers, many from Mexico who come to work in factories and others from across Latin America who stop on their way to the United States.

But what used to be a transit point for U.S.-bound migrants has turned into a hub for those who be-

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## F.D.A. Will Make Anti-Opioid Drug Widely Available

### NARCAN NASAL SPRAY

### Goal of Cutting Overdose Deaths With Remedy Sold Over Counter

By JAN HOFFMAN

Narcan, a prescription nasal spray that reverses opioid overdoses, can now be sold over the counter, the Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday, authorizing a move long sought by public health officials and treatment experts, who hope wider availability of the medicine will reduce the nation's alarmingly high drug fatality rates.

By late summer, over-the-counter Narcan is expected to be for sale in big-box chains, supermarkets, convenience stores, gas stations and online retailers. New York City plans to install Narcan vending machines later this year.

The commissioner of the F.D.A., Dr. Robert M. Califf, said in a statement that the over-the-counter authorization was meant to address a "dire public health need."

"Today's approval of O.T.C. naloxone nasal spray will help improve access to naloxone, increase the number of locations where it's available and help reduce opioid overdose deaths throughout the country," Dr. Califf said. "We encourage the manufacturer to make accessibility to the product a priority by making it available as soon as possible and at an affordable price."

Narcan is a nasal spray version of naloxone, a drug that blocks an opioid's effect on the brain. As the overdose crisis has worsened, with more than 100,000 drug-related deaths in the United States for each of the last two years, millions of doses have been administered by outreach workers, health care providers and emergency responders.

But for people who use drugs, as well as for their friends and relatives, ready access to the prescription medication has been elusive.

Naloxone access laws in every state allow pharmacists to have a standing prescription so they can dispense Narcan or a generic brand to anyone who requests it. But many pharmacies choose not

Continued on Page A23

## Acolyte of the Left Aims to Kill Race-Based College Admission

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

ROCKVILLE, Md. — For the college class he teaches on inequality, Richard D. Kahlenberg likes to ask his students about a popular yard sign.

"In This House We Believe: Black Lives Matter, Women's Rights Are Human Rights, No Human Is Illegal, Science Is Real," it says.

His students usually dismiss the sign as performative. But what bothers Mr. Kahlenberg is not the virtue signaling.

"It says nothing about class," he tells them. "Nothing about labor rights. Nothing about housing. Nothing that would actually cost upper-middle-class white liberals a dime."

Since picking up a memoir of Robert F. Kennedy at a garage sale during his senior year of high school, Mr. Kahlenberg, 59, has cast himself as a liberal champion



SHIRAN HUANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Richard D. Kahlenberg's vision of diversity is rooted in class.

of the working class. For three decades, his work, largely at a progressive think tank, has used empirical research and historical narrative to argue that the working class has been left behind.

That same research led him to a conclusion that has proved highly

Continued on Page A17

INTERNATIONAL A4-15

### Pope Francis Is Hospitalized

The Vatican said the 86-year-old pontiff was taken to a hospital in Rome, where he was being treated for a non-Covid respiratory infection. PAGE A12

NATIONAL A16-24

### The New Bluer Michigan

With a strong governor and a liberal Legislature, Democrats are testing a coalition that has beaten Republicans in the last three elections. PAGE A18

SPORTS B7-10

### Assessing the Equity Gap

The N.C.A.A. has begun addressing the disparities between men's and women's basketball. But there are differing opinions on how to move forward. PAGE B7

ARTS C1-6

### Like Father, Like Son

Rob and John Owen Lowe star in "Unstable," a new comedy series on Netflix, which exaggerates the pair's barbed dynamic, but only a little. PAGE C4

OPINION A26-27

### Nicholas Kristof

PAGE A26



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BASEBALL IS SOMETHING ELSE

2023 MLB OPENING DAY

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# The Washington Post

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Mostly sunny 55/40 • Tomorrow: Shower 69/58 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023 • B3

## Biden and Netanyahu in unusual public rift

Longtime acquaintances have sharp words on pending judicial overhaul

BY STEVE HENDRIX, TOLUOSE OLORUNNIFA AND MERYL KORNFELD

JERUSALEM — A rift between President Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rolled Jerusalem and Washington on Wednesday after a rare public spat erupted between the leaders of the longtime allies, two men who have a long personal history of cooperation as well as disagreement.

The dispute escalated late Tuesday following comments by Biden that appeared to question Netanyahu's ability or willingness to compromise on his contentious judicial-overhaul plan, which has sparked months of protests and instability in Israel. Under pressure, Netanyahu has agreed to postpone the overhaul but has shown no signs of dropping it.

Netanyahu's defiant response to Biden overnight Wednesday shook Israel's political and security establishment and exposed the prime minister to criticism for purportedly jeopardizing the country's most vital diplomatic relationship. In the United States, the exchange reverberated across the political landscape, as Republicans accused Biden of undermining a key ally, and some Democratic activists called for him to take an even stronger stance in calling out Israel for potential antidemocratic moves.

Although tensions between the United States and Israel have been on the rise since Netanyahu's new far-right government was sworn in in December, this was the first time they were on such vivid display. The back-and-forth reflects not only a highly unusual split between two longtime allies but also the latest chapter in a years-long relationship between two seasoned heads of state who are deeply familiar with each other's country.

Netanyahu and Biden have publicly touted the durability of their friendship and their coun-

SEE BIDEN ON A16

AMERICAN ICON A series examining the AR-15, a weapon with a singular hold on a divided nation



A leftist activist group in Durham, N.C., trains with firearms in October. Recent armed movements have been predominantly right wing, but that is changing. One participant here said the choice came in tandem with a rise in attacks on LGBTQ people.

## THE RADICALS' RIFLE

Armed groups on the right and left exploit the AR-15 as both tool and symbol

STORY BY HANNAH ALLAM  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM URQUHART  
IN DURHAM, N.C.

The five friends had spent the morning stalking through the trees and crossing a creek in military formation.

Now, after a quick lunch, it was time to shoot.

The first one up borrowed a trainer's rifle, peered through the scope at the target 35 yards away and pulled the trigger. "Hit!" an instructor called.

It was the first time that D, a nonbinary community organizer, had fired an AR-15.

The weight of the moment hit them later, once the adrenaline faded, as D described feeling simultaneously empowered by a new self-defense skill and burdened by a fear that made it seem reasonable, even prudent, to buy a semi-automatic rifle.

"I never wanted to be here," said D, voice trembling and eyes brimming with

SEE RIFLE ON A6



"Gun rights are civil rights," said Manny, a member of an anti-government militia group in Virginia. Most members of the group own at least two AR-15s.

## Little urgency on gun violence

NASHVILLE YIELDS A MODEST MEASURE

Still, split Congress not likely to pass research bill

BY MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR AND LIZ GOODWIN

After a shooter killed three children and three adults at a private Christian school in Nashville, lawmakers on Capitol Hill once again indicated there was little support for addressing gun violence through legislation.

While President Biden called on Congress to pass an assault weapons ban, Republicans in the GOP-controlled House reiterated their objection to any actions that would restrict access to guns, instead stressing that mental health issues remain the root cause of the country's gun violence problem. And Democrats, who narrowly control the Senate, said they were reluctant to push gun-related legislation unless they have significant support from the chamber's Republicans.

"I'm a realist," said Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), the chair of the Judiciary Committee, about the possibility of moving gun legislation through his committee without enough Republican support to overcome the 60-vote filibuster. "I know what's going to happen on the floor."

In the absence of sweeping action, some Democrats are proposing a more modest measure to boost federal research into the causes of gun violence. Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), whose district has seen two high-profile shootings in 15 months, announced a bill Wednesday that would direct \$50 million each year over five years to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study gun violence. The two detailed the legislation at a news conference featuring former students of Michigan State

SEE GUNS ON A5

Parenting: Guardians share ways they prepare and protect kids. C1

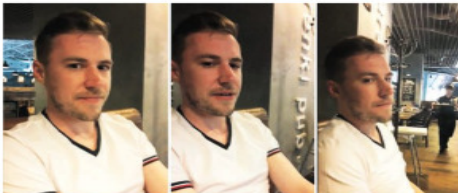
## A Brazilian student in D.C. was really a Russian spy, U.S. says

BY GREG MILLER

THE HAGUE — Like anyone who gets into his dream college, Victor Muller Ferreira was ecstatic when he was admitted to Johns Hopkins University's graduate school in Washington in 2018. "Today we made the future — we managed to get in one of the top schools in the world," he wrote in an email to those who had helped him gain entry to the elite master's program in international relations. "This is the victory that belongs to all of us man — to the entire team. Today we f---ing drink!"

The achievement was even sweeter for Ferreira because he was not the striving student from Brazil he had portrayed on his Johns Hopkins application, but a Russian intelligence operative originally from Kaliningrad, ac-

Sergey Cherkasov, a.k.a. Victor Ferreira, reported to military intelligence, according to indictment



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Photos from video obtained by the FBI show Sergey Cherkasov at a Moscow airport in about 2017. As Victor Ferreira, he was in Johns Hopkins University's master's program in international relations.

Nuclear plant: IAEA chief aims to protect Ukraine's embattled facility. A12

ording to a series of international investigations as well as an indictment the Justice Department filed in federal court Friday.

His real name is Sergey Cherkasov and he had spent nearly a decade building the fictitious Ferreira persona, according to officials and court records. His "team" was a tight circle of Russian handlers suddenly poised to have a deep-cover spy in the U.S. capital, positioned to forge connections in every corner of the American security establishment, from the State Department to the CIA.

Using the access he gained during his two years in Washington, Cherkasov filed reports to his bosses in Russia's military intelligence service, the GRU, on how senior officials in the Biden administration were responding

SEE RUSSIAN ON A4

## Residents say sirens silent as deadly tornado neared

Mississippi storm raises questions about systems in poor, rural areas

BY ANUMITA KAUR, EMMANUEL FELTON AND KASHA PATEL

ROLLING FORK, MISS. — Larry Jeffries has lived on Pecan Street for 45 years and during that time has grown accustomed to the blare of the warning siren that sits just beyond his backyard.

But on Friday night, as a powerful tornado barreled toward the small city of Rolling Fork, Jeffries and other nearby residents said

they didn't hear the siren make a peep.

"I'm not sure it would have saved lives, the tornado came in so quickly," he said. "But it would have gotten people's attention. They would have known to get inside and try to get somewhere safe."

In the days after an EF4 tornado killed at least a dozen people here, attention has turned to whether the city's functioned properly and was sufficient the night of the storm. The city's mayor told The Washington Post he did not hear Rolling Fork's two

SEE SIRENS ON A11

Mobile homes: Twister deaths in them are rising nationwide. A10

## IN THE NEWS



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AF

Pope Francis hospitalized The pontiff sought treatment for a respiratory infection in Rome after experiencing breathing difficulty. A16

### THE NATION

A grand jury weighing Donald Trump's alleged role in hush-money payments is not expected to hear evidence in that case again until late next month. A2

The FDA approved over-the-counter sale of Narcan, a drug that is used to reverse opioid overdoses. A3

Nearly half of adolescent girls on TikTok feel addicted to it or use it longer than they intend, a report said. A3

### THE WORLD

The Senate voted to repeal decades-old authorizations for military force in the Iraq and Persian Gulf wars. A13

The Biden administration is preparing for a potentially hostile response from China to an expected meeting between House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Taiwan's leader. A14

A fire that killed dozens of men has spurred new scrutiny of Mexico's migrant-detention facilities and U.S. immigration policy. A16

### THE CLIMATE

Instead of rewiring our homes and upgrading grid infrastructure, appliances with batteries will allow us to stash energy, Michael J. Corren writes. A10

### THE ECONOMY

The White House is preparing to call for regulators to impose new rules on midsize banks, people aware of internal discussions said. A17

### THE REGION

D.C.'s U.S. attorney's office declined to prosecute 67 percent of those arrested in 2022 in cases that would have gone to Superior Court, a stark increase. B1

## INSIDE



### LOCAL LIVING

How boys bond A little taunting and teasing at times can be healthy — as long as it doesn't go too far.

### STYLE

Will Fox settle? Potentially embarrassing Dominion trial raises the \$1.6 billion question. C1

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## Mexico launches probe of migrant tragedy

Eight guards are being sought in detention center fire that left 39 dead, officials say.

By Patrick J. McDonnell and Kate Linticum

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Mexican authorities said Wednesday that the deaths of 39 men in a fire inside an immigrant detention center here are being investigated as homicides and that they were planning to arrest eight guards.

Three of those guards are government employees and five are members of a private security company, said Rosa Icela Rodríguez, Mexico's secretary of security and citizen protection.

Rodríguez accused the guards at the detention center in Ciudad Juárez of failing to release dozens of desperate migrants who remained locked behind bars Monday night as smoke billowed and flames spread.

"There is obviously a grave crime," Rodríguez said. "These were human lives. It's unforgivable."

Authorities said they also plan to arrest a migrant suspected of starting the fire.

The migrants being held at a federal detention facility just steps from El Paso, had been detained earlier in the day on the streets of this industrial border city, Rodríguez said.

She said they had been rounded up after neighbors complained that migrants were begging for money in the streets.

The migrants had been waiting for hours in a cramped holding cell when, she said, several of them began burning mattresses in protest.

Surveillance video from inside the detention center showed several staffers making no effort to help the detainees as the fire grew. One detainee kicks the bars in a futile attempt to force the door open.

The fire, the deadliest incident at a Mexican immigration facility in recent memory, has called into question the Mexican government's ability to manage a growing number of migrants in cities across its northern border even as U.S. authorities prepare to roll out new policies likely to strand even more migrants here.

And although Rodríguez and other officials, including Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, have sought to attribute the tragedy to the bad actions of a few low-level guards, [See Migrants, A4]

## L.A. activists are furious, indignant

Central American immigrants criticize Mexican president for the detainees' deaths. **WORLD, A4**



A MAN in Española, N.M., smokes fentanyl, a common occurrence in town. "We don't even really see heroin overdoses ... anymore," said a state official. "Fentanyl has changed things in ways that are unimaginable."

Photographs by Francine Orr Los Angeles Times

## A TOWN IN FIRM GRIP OF ADDICTION

Española, N.M., has struggled with drug abuse for generations. But fentanyl has made things much worse.

By Jeffrey Fleishman reporting from Española, N.M.

The caretaker at the hillside cemetery braced against the cold and walked among the graves. Crosses cast shadows on bunched flowers. A strand ofinsel gleamed from a bare tree. He looked over the rows and shut the gate, his face red, his hands small and coarse.

"I've got to come back and pick up the garbage," the caretaker said. "People leave it."

He glanced at a visitor, anticipating the question.

"We had a few kids who overdosed," he said, nodding toward the graves. "But none for a little while."

He got into his truck and headed west into Española where a familiar scene unfolded.

Shoppers and workers drove past addicts roaming Riverside



JERAMAY Martinez is legal guardian of a boy whose mom is an addict.

Drive, the main drag in this town of 10,500. Kids played in trailer parks. Contractors loaded pickups. Cars came and went from a methadone clinic. Men wearing hoodies and expectant gazes drifted toward a house with barred windows. They rustled pockets for cash. Others headed toward the marshes on the city's fringes, where, as the morning frost lifted, Cristian Madrid-Estrada, a bearded man of 23, sat with a gun holstered on his hip at the Española Pathways Shelter.

"You can't believe it sometimes," said Madrid-Estrada, the homeless shelter's chief executive. "I was here last night when my fiancée called and told me someone was trying to break into our house. He was at the [See Española, A8]

## A combo of schadenfreude and spectacle

Shopping for remnants of the Wing, whose girl-boss vibe defined corporate feminism

By Sonja Sharp

Some came seeking glory. Others, a velvet couch or a La Marzocco espresso maker.

But most shoppers who flocked to the viral estate sale at the Wing in West Hollywood over the weekend were there simply to bear witness, as a brand built on the aspirations of Instagram was dismembered by the vultures of TikTok.

"I used to take meetings here," said Caroline Wimberly, 29, who spotted the sale on the popular video app. "Even if things are out of budget, it's a spectacle."

With its millennial pink office furniture and \$137 Fork



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

PEOPLE MAKE a haul at the WeHo outpost of the women's club the Wing.

## Fentanyl dealer penalties debated

Citing prison reform, California lawmakers kill bill to increase punishment for sellers.

By Hannah Wiley

SACRAMENTO — As thousands of Californians die each year from drug overdoses fueled by fentanyl, a bitter fight has emerged in Sacramento over how lawmakers can hold dealers accountable without refilling state prisons and waging another "war on drugs."

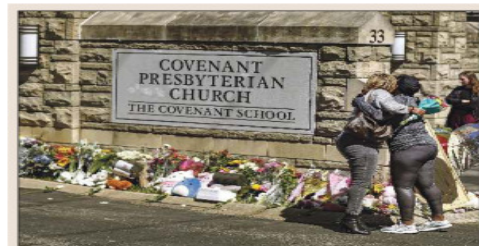
On one side of the debate are Republicans and moderate Democrats calling for stronger criminal penalties for dealers who sell the deadly drug, which is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and contributed to nearly 6,000 overdose deaths in California in 2021.

On the other are left-leaning Democrats who've spent the last decade retooling the state's penal code to favor treatment and rehabilitation over long prison sentences, and who are reluctant to embrace policies they fear could devastate Black and brown communities.

The disagreement reached a boiling point this week at the state Capitol, as Californians whose family members died from fentanyl overdoses packed a hearing room where Democrats voted down a bipartisan bill that would require warning convicted fentanyl dealers that they could face homicide charges if they sell it again. Meanwhile, a Democratic lawmaker shelved several other bills to increase [See Bills, A9]

## Over-the-counter Narcan approved

Overdose antidote will be first such drug available without a prescription. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**



WADE PAYNE Associated Press

## MOURNING IN NASHVILLE

Hundreds of people, including First Lady Jill Biden, attended a vigil for six school shooting victims. Above, visitors at the school earlier. **NATION, A7**

## D.A. steps aside in 'Rust' case

Turning the prosecution over to outside lawyers is seen as another setback in the case against Alec Baldwin. **CALENDAR, E1**

## Businesses love or loathe the rain

Wet weather is a boon for roofers but hurts restaurants and car washes. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather Shower, thunderstorm. L.A. Basin: 60/46. **B6**



## CHP officers charged in death

Six patrolmen and a sergeant face counts of manslaughter after 2020 encounter with motorist turned fatal.

By Richard Winton and James Queally

Seven California Highway Patrol officers and a nurse were charged with manslaughter Wednesday in connection with the death of a man who screamed, "I can't breathe!" as they tried to draw blood from him, prosecutors said.

Edward Bronstein was suspected of driving while intoxicated in 2020 when he was apprehended and later died in CHP custody at the agency's Altadena station.

The six officers and a sergeant who recorded the deadly encounter with Bronstein were charged with involuntary manslaughter and assault under color of authority, according to Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascon. An attending nurse at the scene was also charged with involuntary manslaughter, Gascon said.

"These officers had a legal duty to Mr. Bronstein," Gascon said as he an-

nounced the charges. "He was in their custody ... and their failure was criminally negligent."

The officers charged were Sgt. Michael Little, Dionisio Fiorella, Dusty Osmanson, Darren Parsons, Diego Romero, Justin Silva and Marciel Terry. The nurse was identified as Arbi Bahallian.

It was not immediately clear whether any of them had defense attorneys or when arraignments will take place. The officers have not been arrested and are expected to self-surrender, according to Tiffany Blacknell, director of communications [See Officers, A11]



**INTELIGENCIA ARTIFICIAL** Mil expertos piden una moratoria para ChatGPT **P26**

**FRANCIA** Un cuadro sobre la violencia sexual desata la furia de los ultras **P27**



## Los partidos reabren el debate sobre los vientres de alquiler

Polémica tras conocerse que Ana Obregón, de 68 años, recurrió en EE UU a un método ilegal en España

SILVIA BLANCO  
ELSA GARCÍA DE BLAS **Madrid**  
El debate sobre las gestaciones mediante vientres de alquiler, una práctica prohibida en España pero que está regulada en

otros países, se reabrió ayer. Los partidos tomaron posiciones después de la gran polémica generada al saberse que la actriz y presentadora Ana Obregón ha recogido una niña gestada por este método en un hospital de Miami, en EE UU. La ministra de Igualdad, Irene Montero, se refirió a los vientres de alquiler como "una forma de violencia contra las mujeres". En la misma línea, la ministra de Hacienda, María Jesús Montero, los calificó de "explotación del cuerpo de la mujer".

El Partido Popular, sin embargo, dio un giro en su postura y dijo estar dispuesto a abrir un debate "sosegado y serio" para regular este tipo de gestaciones siempre que "no medie en ningún caso una contraprestación económica", según fuentes de su dirección. Y señaló la contradicción de que en España esté prohibida la práctica, pero los niños engendrados por esta vía en otros países puedan ser registrados.

El caso de Ana Obregón generó además polémica por la edad a la que llega a ser madre, 68 años, que la inhabilitaría para optar a una adopción en España. Ella perdió hace tres años al que era su único hijo, Aless. **PÁGINAS 22 Y 23**

## Marlaska vincula a De los Cobos con los fondos del 'caso Kitchen'

ÓSCAR LÓPEZ-FONSECA, **Madrid**  
El ministro del Interior, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, vinculó ayer su pérdida de confianza en el coronel Diego Pérez de los Cobos como jefe de la Guardia Civil de Madrid con su papel en el control de los fondos reservados utilizados en el caso Kitchen, el espionaje ilegal a Luis Bárcenas durante el Gobierno del PP. Lo dijo en el Congreso, donde deslizó que se mantienen las "razones objetivas" para su destitución, que ha sido anulada por el Tribunal Supremo. **PÁGINAS 14 Y 15**

## El Barça se ve forzado a pedir un crédito de 500 millones para su estadio

D. CORDERO / J. I. IRIGOYEN  
**Barcelona**  
El FC Barcelona necesita 1.500 millones de euros para financiar la remodelación del Camp Nou, y hacer las obras previstas para junio. Para ello negocia un crédito de 500 millones a cinco años con los bancos estadounidenses Goldman Sachs y JP Morgan, según fuentes del club. **PÁGINA 34**



**EL PAPA, INGRESADO POR PROBLEMAS RESPIRATORIOS** Francisco fue trasladado en la tarde de ayer al hospital Gemelli de Roma, donde recibirá terapia durante "algunos días", según el Vaticano. En la imagen, el Papa era ayudado ayer en una audiencia antes de acudir a la clínica. / VINCENTO PINTO (AP/LAPRESSE) **PÁGINA 4**

## El Gobierno pacta con la Iglesia el fin de dos privilegios fiscales

La institución católica pagará dos impuestos municipales que aportarán unos 16 millones, pero mantendrá la exención del IBI

JOSÉ MARCOS, **Madrid**  
La Iglesia católica española pagará dos impuestos de los que estaba exenta: el de Construcciones, Instalaciones y Obras (ICIO) y el de Contribuciones Especiales, que aportarán a los municipios unos 16 millones de euros al año. Así lo acordaron ayer el ministro de la Presidencia, Félix Bolaños, y el nuncio apostólico, Bernardito Auza, en una reunión en el Minis-

terio de Exteriores. El Ejecutivo considera que de esta forma pone fin al régimen fiscal privilegiado de la Iglesia, que en lo sucesivo será idéntico al de cualquier organización sin ánimo de lucro.

La Iglesia seguirá sin pagar por sus inmuebles tributos como el Impuesto de Bienes Inmuebles o el de Sucesiones, Donaciones y Transmisiones Patrimoniales, tal y como acordó el Estado con el

Vaticano en 1979. El Ejecutivo se planteó en 2018 modificar los acuerdos con la Santa Sede para acabar con la exención del IBI por los edificios no dedicados al culto, pero ese cambio no se llevó a cabo. La vicepresidenta Yolanda Díaz insistió ayer en avanzar por esa vía. Y dijo: "Se ha dado un paso, pero no nos conformamos: trabajamos para revisar las exenciones en el IBF". **PÁGINA 16**

**MANOLO GARCÍA**  
Gira de teatros 2023  
05 Oct. MALLORCA (AUDITORIUM DE PALMA)  
21 Oct. VIGO (AUDITORIUM MAR DE VIGO)  
12 Nov. SAN SEBASTIÁN (TEATRO EL KURSAAAL)  
09 Dic. GIJÓN (TEATRO DE LA LABORAL)  
A LA VENTA EL 20 DE ABRIL  
Más fechas en: MANOLOGARCIA.COM

## Zelenski invita a Xi a Kiev para explorar su plan de paz

LUIS DE VEGA, **Kiev**  
ENVIADO ESPECIAL  
El presidente de Ucrania, Volodimir Zelenski, anunció ayer que ha invitado a su homólogo chino, Xi Jinping, a visitar Ucrania, después de que la semana pasada Xi

se reuniera con Vladimir Putin en Moscú y le presentara su plan de paz para Ucrania de 12 puntos. "Estamos listos para verlo", dijo Zelenski. Los dos gobiernos reconocen tener abiertos canales de comunicación. **PÁGINA 2**

## Sánchez llega hoy a una China que intenta elevar su perfil internacional

## Inteligencia artificial Quieren ponerle un freno

Mil expertos, encabezados por Elon Musk, alertan sobre "grandes riesgos para la humanidad". P.28



## El Tata Martino ya tiene un pie en la Bombonera

Recibió la propuesta de Riquelme y hoy podría dar el sí. P.36

Tema del día • Una bilateral marcada por la situación económica

# Fernández apeló a la sequía para pedirle a Biden apoyo ante el Fondo Monetario

Fue recibido en el Salón Oval y ante la prensa acreditada en la Casa Blanca habló de "la peor sequía desde 1929, que ha complicado mucho nuestra economía". Acto seguido refirió que esto es lo que están planteando a los organismos

de crédito, y pidió el acompañamiento de EE.UU. en la gestión. El mismo planteo le hizo el ministro Sergio Massa a la número dos del Fondo, que mañana dará a conocer cuánto flexibilizará las metas del programa con Argentina. P.3

### Cristina acusa a EE.UU.

Un senador republicano pidió sancionarla por corrupción. Ella dice que desde Washington buscan "proscribirla".



REUTERS

Al final, Fernández tuvo su foto. Después de dos cancelaciones, Biden lo recibió en la Casa Blanca.

SON DEL EJÉRCITO, EN BARILOCHE

## La Corte ordenó suspender la entrega de tierras a mapuches

En un fallo votado por unanimidad, el Tribunal invocó razones de gravedad institucional. Es porque se investiga si el Gobierno nacional no apeló a propósito el fallo de un juzgado de Bariloche que ordenaba esa entrega, dejando vencer los plazos. Bajo sospecha están la abogada de la Procura-

ción del Tesoro y funcionarios del Ministerio de Defensa. La Corte declaró procedentes las quejas interpuestas por el Ejército y el Ministerio Público Fiscal, y ordenó la suspensión de entrega de 180 hectáreas en manos de esa fuerza armada desde 1937 a una comunidad mapuche. P.12

PERSECUCIÓN A JUECES Y FISCALES

## Espionaje ilegal: Rosatti denunció que habilitaron cuatro teléfonos a su nombre

El presidente de la Corte Suprema presentó una denuncia penal en Comodoro Py para que se investigue el robo de su identidad en un trámite hecho en la provincia de Misiones. Allí también se hizo el hackeo al celular del ex ministro de Seguridad porteño, Marcelo D'Alessandro. P.8

SUSPENDEN SU AGENDA

## Internan al Papa y se reabren las incógnitas sobre su continuidad

Francisco sufrió una infección pulmonar y quedará varios días en la Clínica Gemelli. Se temió al principio por un problema cardíaco. Resurgieron las dudas sobre si Bergoglio podrá sostener el enorme esfuerzo del papado. Ya él había jugado con la idea de la renuncia. P.20



Malestar. En la audiencia matutina.

POR EL CONFLICTO DE 2008

## Rossi acusó al campo de instalar la violencia política en el país

Con un discurso casi de campaña, el jefe de Gabinete lo dijo en su presentación ante el Congreso. P.13



## No embarque, Bolsonaro diz que vai depor 'sem problema'

Ao embarcar no aeroporto de Orlando (EUA) para retorno ao Brasil após três meses fora do país, Jair Bolsonaro (PL) afirmou que vai depor "sem problema nenhum" à PF sobre o caso das joias sauditas, em oitiva no dia 5. O ex-presidente disse que não vai liderar a oposição ao governo e que a direita não é irresponsável. **Política A4**



Jair Bolsonaro no aeroporto de Orlando, antes de embarcar para o Brasil. Reprodução/CNN

## Regra limita aumento de gasto a 70% da alta da receita

Proposta avaliada por Lula deve criar travas para evitar variação abrupta de despesa

A nova regra fiscal apresentada a Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT) por Fernando Haddad (Fazenda) para substituir o teto de gastos prevê que o crescimento de despesas federais se limite a 70% do avanço das receitas projetado para o mesmo ano.

O modelo, já avaliado pelo presidente, foi pensado para os gastos terem aumento real (acima da inflação), mas em ritmo mais moderado que o da arrecadação — combinação necessária para reduzir gradualmente o déficit e frear o endividamento.

Tal como foi desenhada, a proposta é pró-cíclica, ou seja, permite mais despesas quando há ampliação da receita, ao mesmo tempo em que impõe moderação em fases de baixa. Evitar isso era uma das metas de economistas do próprio PT.

Por isso, a tendência é que o governo inclua travas para impedir que o gasto acompanhe o ritmo da arrecadação se esta tiver alta expressiva, ou ainda que seja preciso cortar despesas porque a receita caiu de forma significativa. **Mercado A15**

## Polícia investiga mais dois alunos por ataque em SP

A polícia investiga mais dois alunos suspeitos de terem participado e incentivado o ataque a escola que deixou uma professora morta e cinco feridos em São Paulo. Um deles se encontrou com o agressor antes do ato, e outro elogiou a ação na internet. **Cotidiano B2**

## MÔNICA BERGAMO TJ-SP ordena que shopping Eldorado seja penhorado

Ilustrada C2

## agrofolha expectativas do agronegócio

## Supersafra no campo

Agro vê queda de custos e espera safra boa em 2023, o que garantiria rentabilidade ao produtor, mas setor se preocupa com crédito e invasão de terras. **A33 a A36**

## ilustrada C1

Filme 'Tetris' mostra como o jogo fugiu da Rússia soviética para ganhar o mundo

## ilustrada C6

Briga de integrantes do Secos e Molhados ameaça série sobre o grupo no Canal Brasil

## turismo C8

Projeto de tirolesa no Pão de Açúcar, no Rio, divide opiniões sobre impacto ambiental

## EDITORIAIS A2

Tragédias nas escolas. Acerca de atentados praticados por estudantes.

## Choque elétrico

Sobre restrições a carros movidos a gasolina na UE.



Vielha da favela Villa 31, na região central de Buenos Aires, com cerca de 45 mil moradores; comunidade cresceu junto com alta da pobreza. Fernando Canzian/Folhapress



## CHARLES 3º USA BRACELETE INDÍGENA EM 1º RETRATO

Pintura a óleo de autoria de Alastair Barfor, primeira de Charles 3º como monarca do Reino Unido; o item representado no pulso do rei foi presente de Domingos Peas, líder indígena achuar

## Hiperinflação volta a ameaçar Argentina, e pobreza dá salto

Com a inflação anual em três dígitos, gastar rápido é a melhor maneira de "poupar" pesos que "queimam na mão", como se diz na Argentina. Há cada vez menos ingresso de dólares, e a pressão inflacionária aumenta em ano de eleição, relata Fernando Canzian.

Em dez anos, a pobreza cresceu mais de 15 pontos e atinge 43% dos argentinos, pelos dados oficiais. Nesse grupo está Olegario Valdemar Lago, morador da favela Villa 31, em Buenos Aires, a quem a reportagem reencontrou na mesma casa após 16 anos. **Mercado A22**

## Estados definem ICMS único de R\$ 1,45 por litro de gasolina

Estados chegaram a acordo e definiram a alíquota única de ICMS sobre a gasolina em R\$ 1,45 por litro, o que deve elevar o preço do combustível — a maior taxa hoje é do Piauí, R\$ 1,24/litro. A medida vale a partir de 1º de julho. **Mercado A24**

## Em meio a cortes, big techs demitem equipes de ética em IA

Mercado A32

## Fernanda Torres Voltarei da pausa, por certo, mudada

Escrevi livros, roteiros, programas e, por 13 anos, mantive colunas na Folha enquanto me desdobrava como atriz. Pela primeira vez, me sinto incapaz de equilibrar mais de um prato no ar. Tiro quatro meses de recesso. Volto, por certo, mudada. **Ilustrada C6**

## ANÁLISE

Raphael Hernandez GPT evolui muito, mas com problemas e mais perigoso

Mercado A32

Viagem de Lula à China deve ser remarcada para o dia 11 de abril **A13**

lefigaro.fr

# LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais

## INSTITUTIONS

ARNAUD TEYSSIER-  
JEAN-LOUIS BOURLANGES :  
LA V<sup>e</sup> RÉPUBLIQUE EN DÉBAT PAGE 18



## LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

JAVIER CERCAS, LE GRAND  
ROMANCIER ESPAGNOL DEVENU  
MAÎTRE DU POLAR NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT



### VIOLENCES

Darmanin sonne  
la charge contre  
les Insoumis PAGE 4

### ALLEMAGNE

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s'essaie  
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### UKRAÏNE

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### COVID-19

Origine du virus :  
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Le président  
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Les pizzas Buitoni  
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### CHAMPS LIBRES

• Courbefy,  
ce village  
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« milliardaire  
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• Les  
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Bastie et  
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• Le tête à tête  
de Charles  
Jaigu

• L'analyse  
de Sophie  
de Ravinel

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### FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question  
de mercredi :  
Êtes-vous favorable  
à une pause de la réforme  
des retraites, comme le  
réclame Laurent Berger ?

OUI 44% NON 56%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 188 659

### Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr

Pensez-vous  
que le mouvement  
d'opposition à la réforme  
des retraites  
va s'essouffler ?

DESSINS FABIAN CLAIREFOND

# Borne et les syndicats : l'impossible dialogue ?

La première ministre invite les responsables des centrales à Matignon pour renouer un lien, mais refuse d'aborder avec eux la question du report de l'âge de départ à la retraite à 64 ans.

Peuvent-ils encore dialoguer ? Les syndicats sont invités à Matignon en début de semaine prochaine par Élisabeth Borne, à la veille d'une onzième journée de

mobilisation contre la réforme des retraites, prévue le 6 avril. Une rencontre qui pourrait rapidement virer au dialogue de sourds. Le numéro un de la CFDT,

Laurent Berger, qui a répondu favorablement à l'initiative de Matignon, est bien décidé à aborder la question centrale du report de l'âge de départ à 64 ans.

Un sujet sur lequel l'exécutif, qui compte évoquer plus largement la question du travail, reste inflexible. En attendant les décisions du Conseil constitutionnel,

attendues pour le 14 avril, le gouvernement mise sur les remous créés par l'élection de la nouvelle direction de la CGT pour fracturer le front syndical.

→ GUILLAUME TABARD : POUR MACRON, LE DANGER DE LA FRAGILITÉ DES SIENS → RÉFORME DES RETRAITES : VAGUE DE DÉPARTS CHEZ LES JEUNES RÉPUBLICAINS PAGES 2, 4 ET 5

## À Orsay, le duel au sommet Degas-Manet



Édouard Manet et Edgar Degas se sont observés, admirés, puis brouillés, écrivant de concert une des plus belles pages de l'impressionnisme. Les voilà réunis à Paris dans une exposition riche de leurs chefs-d'œuvre venus du monde entier. PAGES 30 ET 31



ÉDITORIAL par Laurence de Charette ldecharette@lefigaro.fr

## La République timorée

Est-il temps pour le gouvernement, railleront sans doute les esprits moqueurs, de se pencher sur les ravages du séparatisme quand la France entière ou presque s'exaspère au sujet des retraites ? Assurément. Plus que d'un passage en force au Parlement, la colère qui jaillit comme par spasmes dans les rues depuis la crise des « gilets jaunes » se nourrit de l'affaiblissement de l'État, de son impuissance à répondre aux grands défis de la globalisation, de ses capitulations ; et les violences qui prospèrent en son sein visent, elles, délibérément, son effondrement. Dans un tel contexte, n'est-il pas, précisément, urgent de tenter de sauver ce qu'il reste de l'universalisme, sans lequel la République ne tient plus ?

Dix-huit mois après sa promulgation, Sonia Backès, secrétaire d'État à la Citoyenneté, présente le bilan modeste d'une loi elle-même timidement intitulée « loi confortant les principes de la République ». On aura, certes, fermé temporairement plusieurs mosquées dispensant des prêches ouvertement salafistes, dissout une poignée d'associations trop manifestement radicalisées, et tout juste commencé d'examiner d'un peu plus près les

circuits financiers qui alimentent l'hydre islamiste. L'actualité ne cesse pour autant de révéler combien la dynamique séparatiste s'est emparée de nos sociétés, et tout particulièrement de l'école, institution soumise à une guerre de territoire, désormais ébranlée dans ses fondements et contestée jusque dans ses enseignements. Les récentes tribulations de l'imam Iqouissen, ce prédicateur frériste fiché S connu pour ses discours de haine contre l'Occident et ses valeurs, que nos voisins ont fini par expulser à notre place, ont cruellement souligné nos pusillanimités, nos empêchements multiples et si pleins d'absurdité. Pour contrer les funestes desseins de l'islam politique, il faudra, à n'en pas douter, déployer un peu plus de volonté...

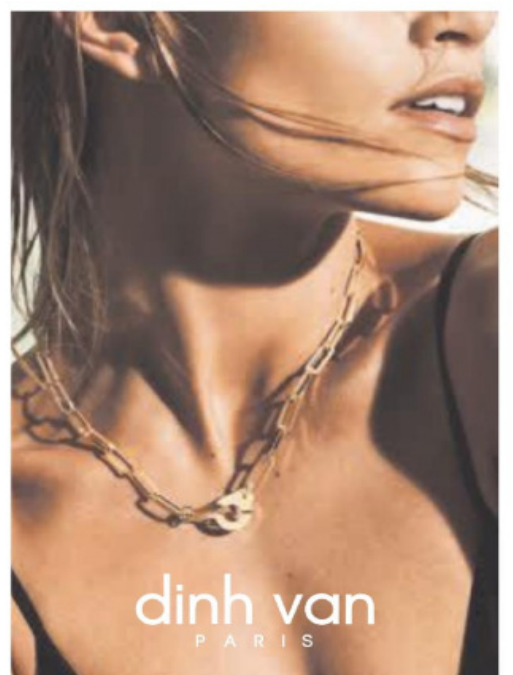
### Modeste bilan de la loi séparatisme

Et tandis qu'à Sainte-Soline, Rennes ou Paris sévissent, en marge des manifestations, des extrémismes qui ont trop souvent montré leur connivence intellectuelle et morale avec l'islamisme, on ne peut qu'espérer un véritable sursaut de clairvoyance et de fermeté. ■

## « L'islam politique veut mettre la République à genoux »

Dix-huit mois après la promulgation de la loi contre le séparatisme, la secrétaire d'État à la Citoyenneté, Sonia Backès, dresse un premier bilan de l'action gouvernementale pour *Le Figaro*. Quelque 3 000 contrôles ont été effectués et 187 établissements, dont plusieurs mosquées, ont été fermés temporairement ou définitivement. Si les prêches et discours antirépublicains se font plus discrets, le radicalisme islamique demeure une menace bien réelle sur tout le territoire et s'infiltré jusque dans les villages.

PAGES 10, 11 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



dinh van  
PARIS



**Patents surge**  
Chinese firms continue to grow in innovation prowess  
BUSINESS, PAGE 14

**Asia-Pacific nations urged to act on security**  
CHINA, PAGE 4

**Back on guard**  
Gold medalist starts preparing for Paris Olympics  
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# CHINA DAILY

中國日報

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THURSDAY, March 30, 2023

## Chinese level of trust in govt tops global list

Survey results linked to continued economic growth, people's prosperity

By ZHANG YI  
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The Chinese government's efforts to maintain economic growth and keep improving people's lives are major factors behind the high level of trust in China's government among the nation's citizens, a level that has once again surpassed those of other countries surveyed.

Among Chinese citizens interviewed by Edelman, a leading global public relations consultancy, 89 percent said that they trust their government — the highest percentage of all the countries surveyed.

About 32,000 respondents from 28 countries participated in the online surveys in November.

The China report of the 2023 Edelman Trust Barometer, an annual trust and credibility survey, was released on Wednesday.

The percentage of Chinese who said they trust their government has consistently remained at the top of the list in Edelman reports in recent years.

Edelman Global President and Chief Operating Officer Matthew Harrington said there is a sense of understanding and appreciation for China's government that focuses on the continued growth and prosperity of the population.

The government worked hard to protect its citizens during the COVID-19 epidemic over the past three years, which also resulted in trust from the population, he said.

Fan Hong, director of the National Image Communication and Research Center at Tsinghua University, said the high level of trust showed that in the face of a challenging external environment, the Chinese government has continued to take positive actions.

Efforts were made by the government in solving social issues, promoting economic development, improving people's lives and creating a green environment, and this has won recognition and trust from the people, she said.

See Survey, page 3

## Marathon events gather pace after three-year hiatus

By MA ZHENHUAN in Hangzhou  
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Road running in China is picking up pace again, three years after the COVID-19 pandemic control measures prevented people gathering in large numbers for events.

A total of 133 road races across the country have been registered for the first six months of the year, according to the 2023 Chinese Athletics Association Road Running Work Report released recently by the Chinese Athletics Association. The races include 61 marathons, the report said.

Last Sunday marked a major comeback for marathons, with 26 held nationwide and more than 300,000 runners participating. Seventeen of the marathons featured fields of more than 10,000 runners.

The strong recovery in the number of marathons demonstrates the revival of social and regional development, said Lao Zibo, a professor with the China Tourism Academy's Yangtze

River Tourism Research Base. "There is a positive relationship between marathons and the level of economic development," Lao said. "Chinese people have made a historic leap from a subsistence existence to a relatively comfortable life through years of hard work, therefore, more and more Chinese people participate in marathons."

About 15,000 runners took part in the Lishui Marathon in Zhejiang province on Sunday morning after an almost three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Events included a full marathon, half-marathon, health run and family fun run, according to the organizing committee.

"I was deeply impressed by the beautiful route," said Yang Xiaojun from Jinhua, Zhejiang province, who was runner-up in the men's full marathon behind Cen Wanjiang, from Guizhou province, who claimed the men's title.

See Marathon, page 3



More than 25,000 runners participate on Sunday in the 2023 Suzhou Marathon in Suzhou, Jiangsu province. GUAN YUNAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



## Detention center blaze in Mexico

Above: A Venezuelan girl lights a candle at a vigil on Tuesday outside a Mexican immigration detention center where a fire killed at least 38 people on Monday.

HERIKA MARTINEZ / AFP

Right: A migrant woman breaks down on Monday as an ambulance rushes a person she knows to the hospital after the fire. OMAR ORNELAS / THE EL PASO TIMES VIA AP

See story, page 10



## US bill called move to hamper China

By ZHAO RUINAN  
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The United States House of Representatives' unanimous passage of a bill on Monday calling for revocation of China's "developing country" status shows that Washington, driven by a zero-sum mentality, intends to hamper China's growth, experts said.

The so-called PRC **Inside** Is Not a Developing Country Act would, if enacted, require the US State Department to advocate that international organizations change China's status from a developing country to an upper middle-income country, high-income country or developed country.

Introduced by Representatives Young Kim, a Republican from California, and Gerry Connolly, a Democrat from Virginia, the bill urges the US government to oppose the labeling or treatment of China as a developing country under the terms of any treaty or other international agreement to which the

US is a party, such as in the World Trade Organization.

It was unclear whether the bill would be considered in the Senate. For a bill to become law, both the House and the Senate would need to pass it and the president's signature would be required.

Xu Liping, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' National Institute of International Strategy, said the move shows the intention of some politicians in Washington to hamper China's development and maintain US global hegemony.

"Determining whether a country is a developing or developed country is not the job of any single country, but the international community," he said.

In addition, a country itself should be the one to initiate any change in its status, rather than having it determined by another country, Xu said, adding that passage of the bill was illogical and reflected ulterior motives.

Zhao Yongsheng, a professor at the Institute of Regional and International Studies at the Uni-

versity of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said there is no universal consensus as to what constitutes a developed country, or what can be defined as a developing country.

Criteria range from economic factors such as per capita GDP to noneconomic factors like average life expectancy, levels of education and technological development, Zhao said.

Wei Nanzhi, a researcher at the Institute of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the move is an "old trick" of the US.

"Setting an agenda against what Washington perceives as a threat, and then working with its allies to hype it up — this is a common practice for the US as a hegemonic country."

"The US government likes to set up a strong external enemy to push forward internal changes. This is, in fact, a domestic mobilization with an underlying warning sign to Americans: China is a dangerous enemy, and we must unite to solve our internal problems," she said.

## Restructure of Alibaba drives up share price

By FAN FEIFEI  
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The historic restructuring of Alibaba Group will make the tech heavyweight more agile to capture new business opportunities, gain a higher market valuation and inject vitality into technological innovation through its diverse business units, experts said.

The revamp comes on the heels of the country's emphasis on encouraging and supporting the private sector and platform enterprises, which are playing a vital role in bolstering economic growth and expanding employment, they added.

Shares of Alibaba surged 12.23 percent on Wednesday to close at HK\$94.55 (\$12.05) on the Hong Kong bourse. Other tech companies, including JD and Baidu, also saw their share price rally.

Experts said the overhaul is likely to spur a reevaluation of Alibaba by allowing its individual business units to raise funds separately, and pave the way for other Chinese tech giants to undergo similar restructuring.

Alibaba announced on Tuesday night it will split its business into six main units, with each separate business having the flexibility to raise outside capital and seek its own initial public offering, the most significant organizational change to the company in its 24-year history.

The six units will cover cloud intelligence, Taobao Tmall commerce, local services, Cainiao smart logistics, global digital commerce and digital media and entertainment, said Zhang Yong, chairman and CEO of Alibaba, in an internal letter to employees.

Alibaba said on Wednesday it will further discuss the new organizational and governance structure on Thursday. The restructuring announcement came one day after Alibaba founder Jack Ma was spotted at a primary school in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, making his first public appearance on the Chinese mainland in more than a year.

"The new overhaul plan will allow each business unit to operate independently, and enable quicker responses to external changes amid intensifying competition from domestic rivals," said Pan Heli, co-director of the Digital Economy and Financial Innovation Research Center at Zhejiang University's International Business School.

As one of China's leading private enterprises, Alibaba is proactively seeking transformation and reinvigorating its growth, Pan said. The government's efforts to support the development of private businesses have greatly boosted confidence of private entrepreneurs and stabilized market expectations, he added.

Each of the units will be managed by its own chief executive and board of directors, the company said. Zhang will continue to serve as chairman and CEO of Alibaba, which will follow a holding company management model.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Tuesday that China will guide and support private enterprises and platform enterprises to participate in the country's major technological innovation projects.

Shen Meng, director of boutique investment bank Chanson & Co, said the revamp will stimulate the vitality of the different business units and further unlock the valuation potential of the units by allowing them to raise capital and go public separately.

## COUPLES PUT MARRIAGE ON THE BACK BURNER

Financial pressures deter those in big cities from starting a family

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai  
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Zhang Jingjing, 33, has been in a relationship for three and a half years, but while spending a lot of time with her boyfriend, she feels no obligation to marry him.

"It's more like an agreement between us to continue the relationship, rather than taking it to the next stage," said Zhang, who comes from Beijing and uses an alias.

The couple met after she relocated to Shanghai for work in 2019.

Although Zhang draws the line at marrying her partner, she said he is gentle, easygoing and



kind. He was born in Taiwan and raised in the United States, so if the couple did decide to marry, they would need to decide where to settle.

"Many women feel the pressure to be married when they reach the age of 30 or so, but not me. I no longer care about how others view me, which has lifted a great weight off my mind," said Zhang, who works for a multinational company.

See Marriage, page 2

**INSIDE**

**Qipao maker spots an opportunity**  
Life, page 17

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