

What's News

Business & Finance

NBCUniversal Chief Executive Jeff Shell is leaving his post effective immediately after an investigation into a complaint of inappropriate conduct, parent company Comcast said. **A1**

◆ **Bed Bath & Beyond** filed for bankruptcy protection to wind down its business after years of losses and failed turnaround plans left the once-powerful retailer short of cash. **A1**

◆ **J&J is poised** to begin a roadshow to pitch shares of its consumer-healthcare business, in a big test for an IPO market that has been in the doldrums for the past year. **A1**

◆ **A number of tech** founders and billionaires are placing bets on nuclear fusion as the clean-energy holy grail for business. **B1**

◆ **Markups on new cars** were a key force behind the current bout of inflation, according to new research published this month. **B1**

◆ **Tech companies** including Google parent Alphabet and Amazon, as well as stalwarts from the food, pharmaceutical and energy sectors, highlight a busy earnings week amid concerns about the U.S. economy. **B3**

◆ **First Republic's** earnings report will give investors insight into the extent of the damage stemming from sharp deposit outflows at the bank. **B3**

◆ **Moody's downgraded** 11 regional lenders, suggesting that higher interest rates and recent bank failures have ushered in greater instability. **B8**

World-Wide

◆ **Ukraine's military** is preparing for the daunting, high-stakes undertaking of dislodging entrenched Russian enemy forces even as its troops are less well-armed than the leadership would like. **A1, A8**

◆ **France and countries** across Eastern Europe condemned remarks by China's ambassador in Paris claiming that post-Soviet states lack a firm basis for their sovereignty under international law. **A8**

◆ **Biden and Trump** are gearing up for a potential presidential-election rematch, one that would play out before a divided nation as Democrats and Republicans uneasily share control of the levers of power in Washington. **A4**

◆ **How the U.S. government** clears personnel to see and share its secrets is coming under new pressure after the alleged leak of classified information by Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira, according to federal reviews of the process and lawmakers. **A3**

◆ **The EPA is preparing** to issue new rules that would slash the amount of planet-warming greenhouse gases produced by U.S. power plants in the coming decades, according to people familiar with the matter. **A3**

◆ **Former Peruvian President** Alejandro Toledo arrived in his home country after being extradited from the U.S. to face graft charges stemming from one of Latin America's largest corruption scandals. **A18**

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U.S., Other Nations Rush to Evacuate Staff From Sudan



SEEKING SAFETY: A convoy leaves Khartoum on a road toward Port Sudan on Sunday as people fled the capital. The U.S. and other governments evacuated embassy staff as the clash between the country's top two generals worsened. **A7**

Bed Bath & Beyond Declares Bankruptcy, Closing of Stores

By SUZANNE KAPNER AND SOMA BISWAS

Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection to wind down its business after years of losses and failed turnaround plans left the once-powerful retailer short of cash.

The company had warned of a potential bankruptcy for months. It needed a \$375 million loan to get through the holidays. Then struck an unusual deal in February with a hedge fund in February to put off a bankruptcy filing, only to scrap the deal and try

this month to raise \$300 million from other investors.

None of the moves were enough, nor were efforts to stem losses by closing hundreds of stores. Sales evaporated, and its stock price declined well below \$1.

The retailer filed for chapter 11 Sunday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Newark, N.J., and said it expects to close all 360 Bed Bath & Beyond and 120 Buybuy Baby retail locations eventually. Top lender Six Street Partners has put up \$240 million in financing to keep Bed Bath & Beyond operating through the

liquidation process, the company said.

Bankruptcy gives Bed Bath & Beyond breathing room to conduct going-out-of-business sales and solicit interest from potential buyers for its remaining assets, such as its branding. Individual investors who backed Bed Bath & Beyond during its final months, when it was flooding the market with shares, will likely be wiped out in chapter 11, which prioritizes repayment of debt over shareholder recoveries.

If a bidder emerges for the business in bankruptcy, Bed

Bath & Beyond said it would pivot away from its liquidation plans to pursue a sale.

Once a pop-cultural phenomenon, Bed Bath & Beyond joins a growing list of once-ubiquitous retail chains seeking court protection. Some like J.C. Penney Co. continue to operate hundreds of stores; others like Sears and Toys 'R' Us closed most of their locations; Circuit City and Linens 'n Things disappeared altogether.

Bed Bath & Beyond's plan to close all stores is another potential blow to retail landlords. *Please turn to page A6*

J&J Unit's Listing To Test IPO Market

By CORRIE DRIEBUSCH AND PETER LOFTUS

Johnson & Johnson is poised to begin a roadshow to pitch shares of its consumer-healthcare business, the producer of household names such as Tylenol, in a test for an initial-public-offering market that has been in the doldrums for the past year.

Kenvue Inc. plans to start meeting with prospective investors as early as Monday, people familiar with the matter said. The goal is to raise \$3.5 billion or more in the offering at a valuation close to \$40 billion, the people said. IPO roadshows typically last anywhere from a few days to a week ahead of the stock's trading debut.

Assuming the company and its advisers manage to pull off

the listing, Kenvue's stock would debut on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker KVUE.

J&J's consumer business makes well-known over-the-counter medicines including Tylenol; Band-Aids and other wound-care products; baby-care products such as Johnson's Baby Shampoo; and skincare offerings such as Aveeno and Neutrogena.

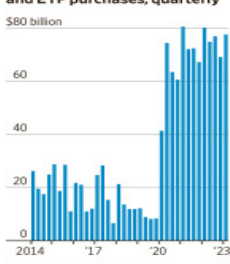
The division slated to become Kenvue generated \$14.95 billion in global sales last year, about 15.7% of J&J's total. The healthcare company generated the rest of its revenue from its larger pharmaceutical and medical-device units, which will remain part of J&J after the Kenvue separation.

The share sale would be by far the biggest of what so far *Please turn to page A6*

Stock Investors Dive Back In

Individuals bought a net \$77.7 billion in equities and ETFs on U.S. exchanges in the first quarter. **B1**

Individual investors equity and ETF purchases, quarterly



Note: Excludes 401(k)s and other retirement accounts. Source: Vanda Research

Ukraine Gears Up To Hit Russians, Show It Can Win

By DANIEL MICHAELS AND JAMES MARSON

KYIV, Ukraine—Armed forces from Ukraine are again preparing for one of the most daunting undertakings any military can attempt: dislodging an entrenched enemy.

Kyiv's forces achieved that last fall, but haven't advanced since. Now their challenge in attacking deep in Russian forces is even greater because, given the pace of Western arms shipments, its troops are less well-armed than their leaders would like.

"The stakes are high," said Mark Kimmit, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general who commanded artillery units.

"With little battlefield progress and declining attention worldwide, the Ukrainians must break out of the current stalemate or face increased calls for a cease-fire and negotiations." But if Ukraine's army can beat back gains by Russia's invasion forces and position itself for further advances, it will regain the initiative, boost civilian morale and win further support and military assistance from the U.S. and its allies. *Please turn to page A8*

- ◆ Kyiv gains hold across key river... **A8**
- ◆ Norwegian border stays open for some Russians... **A8**
- ◆ Chinese diplomat's remarks on sovereignty draw fire... **A8**

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
 How to persuade colleges to offer better financial-aid packages. **A12**



BUSINESS & FINANCE
 Two Bud Light executives placed on leave over transgender activist collaboration. **B4**

Americans Get Nostalgic For the Cable TV Experience

Streaming services offer old shows with ads, easing decisions for the overwhelmed

By SARAH KROUSE AND JESSICA TOONKEL

Andrew Rivera and his girlfriend were aimlessly scrolling through Hulu and Netflix on a recent Sunday night, overwhelmed by the variety of TV shows and movies they could watch.

After several minutes of decision paralysis, they gave up and opened another app: Pluto TV, a free streaming service whose interface mimics cable TV's. They flipped through a few channels and quickly settled on an already-started episode of the British version of "Antiques Roadshow," and eventually watched multiple episodes in a row.

Americans have never had more entertainment options,

given the ease of playing seemingly any show or movie on demand. That abundance—and the indecision it causes—is prompting some of them to rediscover the joys of channel surfing.

Mr. Rivera, who had previously downloaded Pluto TV but hadn't spent a lot of time watching it, found the experience oddly refreshing. The ad-supported streaming platform offers more than 350 niche channels that air movies of a specific genre, or old episodes of a single TV show playing on a loop. For most channels, viewers watch what is already playing—they can't choose episodes, rewind or skip ahead.

It "kind of captures that ex- *Please turn to page A10*

Small Towns Chase Climate Gold Rush

Communities commit resources to win projects spurred by federal incentives

By PHRED DVORAK AND AMRITH RAMKUMAR

WALTERBORO, S.C.—Colleton County in South Carolina is a quiet rural district best known for its hunting, fishing and, recently, a sensational murder trial.

Now it is also a player in America's new gold rush: a scramble for \$1 trillion in federal tax incentives and loans for green energy that is fueling a flood of corporate investments and reshaping local economies.

The spending is one of the biggest outlays of taxpayer-financed industrial stimulus since Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. If successful, it could transform the nation's economy by creating millions of jobs and driving up

to \$3 trillion in total clean-energy investments during the next decade.

The made-in-Washington initiative also demands a leap of faith from small communities around the country that are committing significant local resources to attract businesses, sometimes in unproven industries. Some have been burned before.

In December, Colleton snagged a \$279 million investment from Kontrolmatik Technologies Energy and Engineering, a Turkish firm that is hoping to get nearly \$1 billion in federal tax credits over the next decade by building a battery-making plant in the U.S. Kontrolmatik wants to tap into the renewable energy sector's need *Please turn to page A10*



Starting salaries dropping as hot labor market cools

Pay for new hires slowing in finance, housing and tech industries, payroll firm says. **In Money**

Disinformation spreads amid NFL draft hysteria

Sometimes teams purposefully mislead intentions in order to throw off rivals. **In Sports**



Matarazzo returns to Broadway in dream role

"Stranger Things" star talks landing bucket-list character in "Sweeney Todd" and his hopes for Dustin in final season of Netflix sci-fi hit. **In Life**

PROVIDED BY MATTHEW MURPHY AND EVAN ZIMMERMAN

USA TODAY
THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023



A USA TODAY/Suffolk Poll shows support for Biden is wide but shallow, while Trump's is narrow but deep.

POLL ANALYSIS

Biden vs. Trump: Both face hurdles

Top candidates for 2024 have opposite problems

Susan Page and Rachel Looker
USA TODAY

Joe Biden and Donald Trump each face significant challenges in a potential rematch for the White House in 2024, a new USA TODAY/Suffolk Poll finds – but opposite ones.

For President Biden, expected to launch his reelection bid Tuesday, his standing among the voters who backed him in 2020 is wide but shallow, at risk of being eroded by a credible Democratic challenger for the nomination or a third-party candidate in the fall.

For former President Trump, support among his 2020 voters is deep but narrow, reinforced by controversies that are all but guaranteed to make it harder for him to expand his support in the general election.

Yin, meet yang.

The campaign of mirror images complicates some of the traditional calculations of who's up, who's down and what's ahead. The poll of 600 Biden voters and 600 Trump voters, taken by landline and cellphone April 15-18, underscores the uncertainties.

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

See POLL, Page 3A



MARWAN ALI/AP

US aid workers told to shelter in place

Aid workers and other Americans remained imperiled Sunday as battles between rival generals stretched into a second week in Khartoum, Sudan. A U.S. official said Americans need to shelter in place while the U.S. works with international partners to arrange a "safe way to get them out."

Developments on Sudan violence, 2A



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MISSING USA TODAY NETWORK INVESTIGATION

When children leave home and disappear, police often won't give them the same attention as other missing kids

No time for runaways



Mozell Jones-Grisham's son, Domonique Holley-Grisham, disappeared in 2009 at age 16. She believes the police in Rochester, N.Y., would have worked harder to find him if he had been white. MICHAEL HENSDELL/USA TODAY NETWORK

Gina Barton, Madison Scott and Tami Abdollah USA TODAY

Antonio Holley-Grisham remembers Feb. 12, 2009, as well as any 12-year-old could have. ● His big brother, Domonique, made bacon, eggs and pancakes for breakfast, then left for a floor hockey tournament. When he got back, the two of them played a video game. Antonio doesn't remember what they argued about, but he says Domonique broke the game. A short time later, Domonique, 16, got a phone call and left the house. ● Antonio hasn't seen his brother since. Neither has anyone else in the family.

"I was beating myself up, like I'm the reason why he left," said Antonio, now 26. "I still get depressed over it."

Antonio's darkest fear is that one day his brother will be found dead. Because Domonique left of his own accord, he was considered a runaway by the police in Rochester, New York, where he lived.

Around the country, classification as a runaway often means officers can put less effort into looking for a missing child, according to a USA TODAY review of more than 50 police procedural manuals. Under federal rules, runaways also are disqualified from Amber Alerts – notifications



Domonique Holley-Grisham was labeled a runaway by police, because he left his home on his own accord.

About this series

This is part of an ongoing USA TODAY Network series investigating the reasons for racial disparities in efforts to find missing children. To see previous stories and additional content, go to missing.usatoday.com.

that draw urgent and widespread attention to missing children.

In 2021, 335,000 reports of missing children were sent to the FBI. About 90% of them were found. Of those not located within six months, a disproportionate number are Black, like Domonique.

A request for the Rochester Police Department's records in Domonique's case is still pending after 10 months; an attorney for the city told USA TODAY the documents will not be released because the investigation is ongoing. But investigator

See RUNAWAYS, Page 6A

Abortion still front and center for justices

The legal fight over abortion pills shows how the high court's 2022 Dobbs ruling did not remove abortion from federal court dockets as many hoped it would.

MEGAN SMITH/
USA TODAY



John Fritze
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court has put the legal battle over the abortion pill mifepristone on pause, granting Americans full access to the medication while a challenge to the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the drug continues.

While Friday's decision was a rare win on the high court for abortion rights, it's unlikely to be the final say on the drug – and doesn't offer any insight into the potential outcome of a litany of

See ABORTION, Page 4A



Tech sector cuts out the middle managers

WORK & CAREERS, PAGE 12

Will France's big bet on nuclear pay off?

THE BIG READ, PAGE 15

Sudan exodus Nations launch rescue mission

Officers from Saudi Arabia's navy carry a child onboard their ship as they evacuate their own and other nations' citizens from Sudan yesterday.

Several western countries including the US, the UK and France have also launched evacuation efforts after a week of fighting between armed forces and a paramilitary group that has plunged the country into lawlessness and violence.

The warring sides blamed each other after a French evacuation convoy was attacked, wounding a French citizen. Egypt's foreign ministry said one of its embassy staff members had been shot but provided no further details.

The clashes have paralysed Khartoum airport, where a number of civilian aircraft have been destroyed, complicating efforts to extract thousands of foreigners who are stuck in the country. News & analysis page 3



Briefing

► **Arm breaks new ground with chip development**
The SoftBank-owned UK chip designer has laid plans to develop a semiconductor, rather than sell a blueprint to a manufacturer, to showcase its capabilities as this year's planned IPO looms. — PAGE 6

► **Lula stirs EU war debate**
The Brazilian president's remarks blaming both Russia and Ukraine for the war have highlighted the bloc's struggle to build a global coalition against Moscow. — PAGE 2

► **China presses Philippines**
Beijing has lashed out against deepening military ties with the US, amid the biggest joint exercises between Manila and Washington in 30 years. — PAGE 4

► **Fight to revitalise SVB**
Silicon Valley Bank's new owner is "fighting" to stop dozens more bankers from quitting for rivals as it seeks to rebuild the tech lender. — PAGE 8

► **Central banks buy gold**
Purchases of the precious metal have surged as central banks review investment strategies in the wake of geopolitical tensions. — PAGE 4, RUCHIR SHARMA, PAGE 17

► **Lex and Business Life**
Business Life, the Lex column and the crossword can be found today on Page 11.

Datawatch



The UK public holds a broadly negative view of the Conservative party. Some 69 per cent say it will pledge anything to win votes, compared with 58 per cent for Labour. Tories are also more likely to be seen as divided, out of date and extreme

US urges South Korea not to fill China shortfalls if Beijing bans Micron chips

◆ Seoul leader visits Washington ◆ Stakes high for Idaho tech group ◆ Yoon faces diplomatic test

DEMETRI SEVASTOPOLO — WASHINGTON

The White House has asked South Korea to urge its chipmakers not to fill any market gap in China if Beijing bans Idaho-based Micron from selling chips, as it tries to rally allies to counter Chinese economic influence.

The US made the request as President Yoon Suk-yeol prepares to travel to Washington for a state visit today, according to three people familiar with the talks between the White House and presidential office in Seoul.

China this month launched a national security review into Micron, one of three dominant players in the global DRAM memory chip market alongside South Korea's Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix.

It is not yet clear whether the Cybersecurity Administration of China will take punitive action but the stakes for Micron are high: mainland China and Hong Kong generated 25 per cent of its \$30.8bn in revenue last year.

US officials and business executives believe the CAC probe is Beijing's retaliation against President Joe Biden's steps to block China from obtaining or producing advanced semiconductors.

The Micron case has emerged as a lit-

This is the first time the US has asked an ally to enlist its companies to play a role in countering China

mus test of whether Beijing is willing to take coercive economic measures against a major US company. While the US has worked with allies to counter China on security issues in the Indo-Pacific, this is the first known occasion that it has asked an ally to enlist its companies to play an economic role.

The request puts Yoon in a complicated position. He took office last year on a platform widely regarded as more hawkish on China than that of his left-leaning predecessor, Moon Jae-in.

He provoked an angry response from Beijing this month by accusing China of attempting to change the status quo over Taiwan "by force".

But his administration has also chafed at US efforts to rally allies behind its economic security agenda, amid fears that

the long-term competitiveness of Samsung and SK Hynix could be undermined by US export controls.

The US may have some leverage over the two firms. When the US unveiled sweeping chip-related export controls on China last October, it gave South Korean companies with chip fabrication facilities in China waivers to allow them to export. Those waivers must be renewed later this year.

In December, the US put Chinese memory chip producer Yangtze Memory Technologies Corp on its "entity list" barring companies from exporting American technology to the nascent Micron rival without a hard-to-obtain licence.

The White House did not comment on specifics but said the Biden and Yoon

administrations had made "historic progress" in deepening co-operation on national and economic security issues, including efforts to protect "leading-edge technologies".

"This includes efforts to co-ordinate investments in the semiconductor sector, secure critical technologies, and address economic coercion," said the US National Security Council. "We expect the state visit to even further strengthen co-operation on all these fronts."

The South Korean embassy in Washington and Samsung did not respond to requests for comment. SK Hynix said it had not received a request from the South Korean government. Micron declined to comment.

FT View page 16
Martin Sandhu page 17



Beijing wants graduates to get their hands dirty

China's economic recovery has gained momentum since Covid-19 restrictions were lifted, but youth unemployment is soaring and Beijing is blaming young graduates who refuse to take jobs in factories or farms. It presents a looming demographic challenge for Chinese policymakers and for the cohort of university leavers who will have to support ageing parents while facing limited opportunities to start accumulating wealth. Jobless problems — PAGE 4

New version of Wall Street 'fear gauge' to measure daily market gyrations

NICHOLAS MEGAW — NEW YORK

The Vix, the volatility index popularly known as Wall Street's fear gauge, is going through its biggest shake-up in years with the creation of a new version that will track expectations of short-term market swings.

The one-day Volatility Index — or Vix1d — will be launched by exchange group Cboe today, in response to a recent transformation in derivatives markets that sparked concern over the effectiveness and relevance of the Vix. It will measure expected volatility in the S&P 500 over the next day of trading; the main Vix gauges over the next month.

Rob Hocking, Cboe head of product innovation, said that a recent surge in short-term options trading "provided a certain feel to the market that the

30-day just wasn't capturing". The original Vix was "still measuring exactly what it's designed to measure" but "people were looking to it to give insight into moves that it was never designed to capture", he said.

The new index was developed "to answer customer demand", he added.

Almost half of trading in S&P 500 options so far this month has been in contracts that expire on the day they are traded. Such short-term contracts allow traders to take more targeted positions around events such as economic data releases or monetary policy meetings, but the activity is not included in the calculation of the main Vix.

Short-term trading volumes have almost quadrupled since the start of 2020, thanks in part to the addition of new contracts that allow investors to make zero-day trades every day of the

week. Some analysts and regulators are worried that this could be distorting markets and causing sharp intraday price swings.

The Vix, which was launched 30 years ago this month, helped to revolutionise US markets by distilling the prices of thousands of different options contracts into a single number that became shorthand for investor expectations of market volatility. The index is used by bankers for timing fundraising deals such as initial public offerings.

However, the index has remained relatively calm throughout the stock market downturn that began last year. Some investment funds that relied on a rising Vix to hedge against stock declines performed even worse than the wider S&P 500 in 2022.

One senior IPO banker said: "The Vix doesn't work as an indicator right now."

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS					
	Apr 21	Prev %chg		Apr 21	Apr 14	Apr 21	Apr 14	Yield (%)	Apr 21	Apr 14	Chg		
S&P 500	4128.83	4129.79	-0.02	\$/£	1.997	1.101	£/€	0.911	0.909	US 2 yr	4.18	4.17	-0.01
Nasdaq Composite	12042.99	12059.56	-0.03	\$/¥	1.240	1.204	€/€	0.907	0.904	US 10 yr	3.57	3.53	0.03
Dow Jones Ind	32743.01	32788.62	-0.07	€/£	0.895	0.895	\$/€	1.130	1.121	US 30 yr	3.77	3.74	0.03
FTSE100	1858.05	1850.76	0.39	¥/£	134.435	133.460	\$/¥	147.522	146.906	UK 2 yr	3.74	3.70	0.03
Euro Stoxx 50	4403.33	4384.66	0.42	\$/¥	166.679	166.076	£ index	79.261	79.329	UK 10 yr	3.89	3.90	-0.01
FTSE All-Share	7914.13	7902.61	0.15	\$/¥	0.981	0.984	\$/¥	1.106	1.112	UK 30 yr	4.05	4.06	-0.01
FTSE Asia-Pacific	4296.24	4299.09	0.21						JPN 2 yr	-0.04	-0.05	0.01	
MSCI EM Asia	1571.00	1570.71	0.01						JPN 10 yr	0.48	0.47	-0.01	
Xetra Dax	15881.66	15795.97	0.54						JPN 30 yr	1.33	1.34	-0.01	
Nikkei	28564.37	28657.57	-0.33						GER 2 yr	2.92	2.89	0.03	
Hang Seng	20075.73	20396.97	-1.57						GER 10 yr	2.48	2.44	0.04	
MSCI World \$	2822.54	2833.39	-0.38						GER 30 yr	2.95	2.90	0.05	
MSCI EM \$	986.79	990.37	-0.06										
MSCI ACWI \$	853.14	859.43	-0.35										
FT Wilshire 2500	5343.91	5378.53	-0.61										
FT Wilshire 5000	41660.01	41925.16	-0.61										

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EXODUS IN SUDAN AFTER U.S. USHERS ENVOYS TO SAFETY

OTHER NATIONS FOLLOW

Century of Calm Gone — Western Negotiators Face Criticism

This article is by Declan Walsh,
Charlie Savage and Eric Schmitt.

NAIROBI, Kenya — It began with a helicopter evacuation of American diplomats from Sudan's capital city just after midnight Sunday, then turned into a full-fledged exodus of foreign officials and citizens of other nations as the battle raged around them.

At the United States Embassy in Khartoum, an elite team of Navy SEALs ushered up to 90 people onto aircraft before taking off for Djibouti, 800 miles away.

Hours later, a United Nations convoy began snaking its way out of the city, starting a 525-mile drive to Port Sudan on the Red Sea, while British and French diplomats were escorted to an airfield outside the city where military cargo planes were waiting. Other groups headed for Qadarif, a small town near the border with Ethiopia, and a boat chartered by Saudi Arabia carried its fleeing diplomats across the Red Sea.

After days of fruitless diplomatic efforts to get two warring Sudanese generals to lay down their weapons, foreign governments took another tack this weekend: fleeing a country, long viewed as strategically important, that has been in the grip of intense fighting for over a week.

Emotions were raw. Some Sudanese, feeling angry and abandoned, lashed out Sunday at the Western negotiators they blame for the disastrous collapse of talks that were supposed to lead to civilian rule, but instead became a flashpoint for the two generals now battling for power.

Foreign officials, some say, went too far to appease the generals, treating them nearly as statesmen when in fact the two men seized power in a coup and have long records of abuses and deception. Some Sudanese fear that now, the exit of foreign diplomats might allow an even more brutal turn in the nation's affairs.

"You put us in this mess and now you're swooping in to take
Continued on Page A5



MOHAMED NURELDIN ABDALLAH/REUTERS



MARWAN ALI/ASSOCIATED PRESS



ABUBAKARR JALLORI/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

From top, carrying water during clashes on Saturday between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese army in Khartoum North. Khartoum, Sudan's capital, was the starting point for a huge convoy headed to Port Sudan organized by the United Nations.

China Censors Are Thwarting Covid Science

Targeting International Data and Journals

By MARA HVISTENDAHL
and BENJAMIN MUELLER

Early in 2020, on the same day that a frightening new illness officially got the name Covid-19, a team of scientists from the United States and China released critical data showing how quickly the virus was spreading, and who was dying.

The study was cited in health warnings around the world and appeared to be a model of international collaboration in a moment of crisis.

Within days, though, the researchers quietly withdrew the paper, which was replaced online by a message telling scientists not to cite it. A few observers took note of the peculiar move, but the whole episode quickly faded amid the frenzy of the coronavirus pandemic.

What is now clear is that the study was not removed because of faulty research. Instead, it was withdrawn at the direction of Chinese health officials amid a crackdown on science. That effort kicked up a cloud of dust around the dates of early Covid cases, like those reported in the study.

"It was so hard to get any information out of China," said one of the authors, Ira Longini, of the University of Florida, who described the back story of the removal publicly for the first time in a recent interview. "There was so much covered up, and so much hidden."

That the Chinese government muzzled scientists, hindered international investigations and censored online discussion of the pandemic is well documented. But Beijing's stranglehold on information goes far deeper than even many pandemic researchers are aware of. Its censorship campaign has targeted international journals and scientific databases, shaking the foundations of shared scientific knowledge, a New York Times investigation found.

Under pressure from their government, Chinese scientists have withheld data, withdrawn genetic sequences from public databases and altered crucial details in journal submissions. Western journal editors enabled those efforts by agreeing to those edits or withdrawing papers for murky reasons, a review by The Times of over a dozen retracted papers found.

Groups including the World Health Organization have given credence to muddled data and inaccurate timelines.

This scientific censorship has not universally succeeded: The original version of the February 2020 paper, for example, can still be found online with some digging. But the campaign starved
Continued on Page A9

BIDEN IS OPENING LEGAL PATHWAYS FOR IMMIGRATION

BACK-DOOR MEASURES

In Humanitarian Policy, Critics See Usurping of Congress's Role

By MIRIAM JORDAN

Amid a protracted stalemate in Congress over immigration, President Biden has opened a back door to allow hundreds of thousands of new immigrants into the country, significantly expanding the use of humanitarian parole programs for people escaping war and political turmoil around the world.

The measures, introduced over the past year to offer refuge to people fleeing Ukraine, Haiti and Latin America, offer immigrants the opportunity to fly to the United States and quickly secure work authorization, provided they have a private sponsor to take responsibility for them.

As of mid-April, some 300,000 Ukrainians had arrived in the United States under various programs — a number greater than all the people from around the world admitted through the official U.S. refugee program in the last five years.

By the end of 2023, about 360,000 Venezuelans, Cubans, Nicaraguans and Haitians are expected to gain admission through a similar private sponsorship initiative introduced in January to stem unauthorized crossings at the southern border — more people than were issued immigrant visas from these countries in the last 15 years combined.

The Biden administration has also greatly expanded the number of people who are in the United States with what is known as temporary protected status, a program former President Donald J. Trump had sought to terminate. About 670,000 people from 16 countries have had their protections extended or become newly eligible since Mr. Biden took office, according to a new report from the Pew Research Center.

All told, these temporary humanitarian programs could become the largest expansion of legal immigration in decades.

"The longer Congress goes without legislating anything on immigration, the more the executive branch will do what it can within its own power based on the president's principles," said Theresa Cardinal Brown, senior adviser at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington.

The main challenge, she noted, is that "the courts can come in and say it's outside the president's authority, or an abuse of discretion, and take it all away."

Already, critics have com-
Continued on Page A11

Government Workers Are Enabling Putin's War

By ANATOLY KURMANAEV

CAIRO — Soon after his airplane took off from Moscow last fall, a Russian energy official who had just resigned took his phone and typed up the emotions he had kept bottled inside since the invasion of Ukraine.

"I am tired of feeling constant fear for myself, for my loved ones, for the future of my country and of my own." Arseny Pogoyan wrote on his social media page as he flew into a hurried exile. "I am against this inhumane war."

The outburst in September did

Many Feel Obligation to Stay in Jobs, But Others Have Fled

not receive much attention, gathering eight likes and one brief comment. After all, Mr. Pogoyan, 30, was among the hundreds of thousands of young Russian men fleeing the mobilization announced days earlier by President Vladimir V. Putin to replenish his battered military.

But among his colleagues in the energy ministry, where he worked as a press officer, his decision to leave his job was rare.

Since the war began, Russia has lost droves of tech workers as well as other professionals, a brain drain that analysts say will harm the country's economy for decades. By contrast, many government employees have fallen in line behind Mr. Putin's wartime leadership. Almost all senior Russian technocrats and a large majority of their immediate subordinates — officials who guide Russia's economy — remain in their
Continued on Page A7

Bed Bath Chain To Start Process Of Closing Shop

By JORDYN HOLMAN
and LAUREN HIRSCH

Bed Bath & Beyond came out of the 2008 downturn a winner. While competitors like Sharper Image and Linens 'n Things filed for bankruptcy, Bed Bath & Beyond actually expanded its business by acquiring other retailers. Its home-goods emporiums full of towels and kitchen aids — all available at a reduced price with that Big Blue coupon — were beacons that kept shoppers coming back.

Now, as the U.S. economy experiences another period of uncertainty, Bed Bath & Beyond is no longer on top, the result of an increasingly unwieldy corporate structure and its failure to fully reckon with the ascendance of online shopping.

On Sunday, the 52-year-old retailer said it was filing for bankruptcy protection in United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey. It said it would start the process of closing the
Continued on Page A11

New G.O.P. Tactic: Keep Abortion Off the Ballot

By KATE ZERNIKE
and MICHAEL WINES

Voters pushed back decisively after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year, approving ballot measures that established or upheld abortion rights in all six states where they appeared.

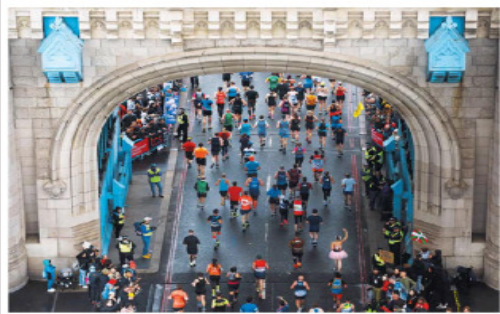
Now, with abortion rights groups pushing for similar citizen-

States Hinder Initiatives Led by Citizens

led ballot initiatives in at least six other states, Republican-controlled legislatures and anti-abortion groups are trying to stay one step ahead by making it harder to pass the measures — or to get

them on the ballot at all.

The biggest and most immediate fight is in Ohio, where a coalition of abortion rights groups is collecting signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November that would prohibit the state from banning abortion before a fetus becomes viable outside the womb, at about 24 weeks of pregnancy. That
Continued on Page A13



MATTHEW CHILDS/REUTERS

A Marathon of Marvels

Sifan Hassan triumphed in London in a stunning comeback, and Kelvin Kiptum won the men's race in nearly record time. Page D3.

NATIONAL A10-17

More Limits on Treatment

States are trying to restrict gender care for adults, from Medicaid bans to Missouri's sweeping rules. PAGE A15

A Death in Dairyland

After Brenda Statz's farmer husband, Leon, died by suicide, she took action to spare others from his fate. PAGE A14

OBITUARIES B5-6

Uplifting Female Scientists

Elizabeth Wagner Reed dedicated her career to supporting women in the field. Overlooked. PAGE B6

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

A Pall Over Israel's Ceremonies

Israelis are bracing for a tense Memorial Day and the 75th anniversary of their country's founding as a political crisis tears it apart. PAGE A4

Finland's Secret to Happiness

The Nordic country has been ranked the happiest country on earth for six consecutive years. PAGE A6

BUSINESS B1-4

NBCUniversal C.E.O. Leaving

Jeff Shell had been under investigation for having "an inappropriate relationship with a woman," the company's owner, Comcast, said. PAGE B1

Kicking the Tires on E.V.s

Buying an electric car has become more complicated because of restrictions on which models qualify for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500. PAGE B1

Lesson Learned? Probably Not.

There is little reason to think Fox News will adjust its coverage after paying a \$78.5 million defamation settlement to Dominion Voting Systems. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

The Unknown Podcaster

A host in Ireland says that keeping his face covered lets him say things he couldn't otherwise. PAGE C1

A Tour-de-Force Stage Debut

"Prima Facie" puts the misogyny of male barristers in sexual assault cases on trial. A review by Jesse Green. PAGE C1

OPINION A18-19

Linda Greenhouse

PAGE A19

SPORTS D1-7

Hip Hip Hip Hip Hip Hooray

All five pro winter season teams in the New York area reached the playoffs for the first time since 1994. PAGE D1

Soccer on a Sliver of Africa

The Spanish club A.D. Ceuta sits at a crossroads where Spain, Morocco and migrants come together. PAGE D6



The Washington Post

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Clouds and sun 63/44 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 62/47 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023 • B3

Blue cities try to sway red states on gun control

After shootings in South, Democratic push runs up against GOP legislatures

BY SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU

LOUISVILLE — Anteshia Pitts was born and raised here, and that's how she identifies — more as a Louisville native than a resident of Kentucky.

Like many of this city's residents, Pitts, 39, supports tighter gun-control laws. But she knows action will be hard to come by, because her beliefs are not shared by many of Kentucky's rural residents — especially in the Republican-controlled state legislature, which has rolled back gun restrictions in the past.

"It makes you feel very not heard. Like you as an individual don't matter. Like, we as individuals, who are dying on the streets, almost daily — nothing?" Pitts said, speaking moments after she wrote small prayers in black Sharpie on one of the crosses outside Louisville's Old National Bank.

The five crosses honor the five people who were shot and killed at a downtown bank earlier this month, exactly two weeks after six people, including three 9-year-olds, were shot and killed at the Covenant School in Nashville. Last weekend, four teenagers were shot and killed during a party in a Dadeville, Ala.

The recent mass killings in Southern states have illuminated the gaping chasm between the priorities of Democratic-led cities and their Republican-led states, and highlighted the increasing efforts by GOP state leaders to limit how local officials govern. Across the country, liberal cities are attempting to pass abortion rights legislation, a higher minimum wage and tighter gun laws — only to be quashed by Republicans in state legislatures.

"Cities are creatures of the state and have to comply with state law. But historically, there was a lot of leeway for cities to see guns on AS



RAPHAEL ALVES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Are Yanomami deaths a genocide?

First came the gold miners, the community said. Then illness and disease spiked.

The wounds the miners gouged into the earth collected water that attracted disease-bearing mosquitoes, community members said, and the rivers on which they rely turned from blue to the color of Coca-Cola.

Supplies of lifesaving drugs ran dry, leaving the sick to die of treatable conditions. Survivors lamented losing loved ones to malar-

ia and tuberculosis and worried their babies would meet the same ends.

The Yanomami, one of the Amazon's largest Indigenous groups, are suffering a crisis of malaria and malnutrition that their leaders say threatens their very existence.

Mining has poisoned the water they drink and the fish they eat with mercury. It's thinned the population of animals they hunt. Their home, a once-pristine swath of the

SEE YANOMAMI ON A11

As pandemic aid expires, schools brace for budget cuts

BY LAUREN LUMPKIN

Cinque Culver had a feeling that his children's D.C. school would be forced to take a budget cut next year. But he wasn't expecting the six-figure number he saw when he and other members of the school's parent-teacher or-

ganization got the projections. The \$256,827 cut, about 4 percent of Beers Elementary School's overall budget, was deeper than expected — costing the school positions, including an intervention coach, a special-education teacher and a music instructor, budget sheets show. The school is

projecting an uptick in enrollment next year and a big enough decline in special-education students to remove a teacher, officials said. But the reductions come after cuts this school year, such as when Beers's music position was reduced from full to part time, according to Culver.

"For the Beers family, it's a significant loss," Culver said. The looming budget crunch at Beers is unfolding at schools across D.C. and the country, as millions of dollars in coronavirus pandemic relief aid are set to expire. For the past three years, the

SEE BUDGET ON A7

To break the ice, dating app users opt for a robotic touch

Modern romance is getting automated, with an AI wingman and more

BY TAYLOR LORENZ

LOS ANGELES — Coyne Lloyd, a 35-year-old tech investor, was visiting his family in Upstate New York recently when he decided to set up some dates in the city. He fired up Hinge, his preferred dating app, and swiped on a few interesting women. After receiving a couple of matches, he turned, out of curiosity, to a new AI dating tool called Rizz to break the ice.

"There's some amount of mental work and barrier to thinking of how to compose a message [on a dating app]," Lloyd said. "It's like getting started on a term paper."

Rizz, which is meant to function as a digital wingman, helps users come up with killer opening lines and responses to potential matches. The company behind it is just one of many start-ups trying to transform romance through artificial intelligence by optimizing and automating online dating, now one of the primary ways by which people find romantic connections.

Using dating apps can be a slog. Some people complain that they have to sift through countless matches as others indiscriminately swipe; it is difficult to start conversations with strangers; and many users end up viewing the apps more as a necessary chore than an exciting opportunity to connect with someone new.

Additionally, the world is becoming more automated: Email messages auto-complete, subscription services auto-renew. SEE AI ON A12



ED RAM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Soldiers fight for control of battered city's western edge

Ukrainian troops carry ammunition to a vehicle Friday on the outskirts of Chasiv Yar. The war's longest and bloodiest battle in nearby Bakhmut has seen thousands of casualties. Story, A8

THE DISCORD LEAKS

Russia's influence surges in Africa

GOAL IS ANTI-WEST 'CONFEDERATION'

Aggressive Wagner Group rises as U.S. clout fades

BY GREG MILLER AND ROBYN DIXON

The Wagner Group is moving aggressively to establish a "confederation" of anti-Western states in Africa as the Russian mercenaries foment instability while using their paramilitary and disinformation capabilities to bolster Moscow's allies, according to leaked secret U.S. intelligence documents.

The rapid expansion of Russia's influence in Africa has been a source of growing alarm to U.S. intelligence and military officials, prompting a push over the past year to find ways to hit Wagner's network of bases and business fronts with strikes, sanctions and cyber operations, according to the documents.

At a time when Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin has been preoccupied with Kremlin infighting over the paramilitary group's deepening involvement in the war in Ukraine, U.S. officials depict Wagner's expanding global footprint as a potential vulnerability.

One document in the trove lists nearly a dozen "kinetic" and other options that could be pursued as part of "coordinated U.S. and allied disruption efforts." The files propose providing targeting information to help Ukraine forces kill Wagner commanders, and

SEE RUSSIA ON A9

Envoys exit, but Sudan is still full of foreigners

BY JOHN HUDSON, KATHARINE HORNOLD AND ANNABELLE TIMST

More foreign powers evacuated diplomatic staff from Sudan on Sunday despite continued fighting between the Sudanese army and paramilitary forces in the capital, Khartoum, that has trapped millions of civilians on the front line.

One person was injured when a French diplomatic convoy came under fire in the city, Sudan's military said. An Egyptian diplomat was also shot and injured, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said.

Hundreds of U.N. staffers began a 19-hour exodus by road. The British and Dutch governments evacuated their embassies, officials said on Twitter, while the German Defense Ministry confirmed that it had started a mission to fly out German nationals — one of the only nations to do so.

"Our goal, in this dangerous situation in Sudan, is to fly out as many German nationals as possible from Khartoum," the ministry said on

SEE SUDAN ON A10

IN THE NEWS



AMANDA ANDRADE-ROKOSZ/REUTERS

Fetterman's return After a hospitalization for depression, the Democratic senator is back on the Hill and looking to reintroduce himself. C1

THE NATION The federal trial of the man charged with killing 11 people and wounding two at a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018 is set to begin this week. A2

THE WORLD Indian authorities have arrested a self-described Sikh separatist after a months-long chase, officials said. A10

THE ECONOMY Of the celebrities who retained a blue check mark after a purge by

Twitter, at least one insisted he never wanted it. A15

THE REGION Inflation and construction costs have led Montgomery County officials to consider delaying some school projects. B1

THE WEEK AHEAD **MONDAY** President Biden and first lady Jill Biden host the Council of Chief State School Officers' Teachers of the Year at

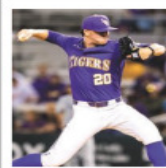
the White House. **Biden discusses** gun control with Democratic Tennessee lawmakers. **The Supreme Court** issues orders and hears oral arguments.

TUESDAY The president speaks at the North America's Building Trades Unions legislative conference. **Biden** and the first lady visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yool and his wife, Kim Keon Hee. **The Supreme Court** hears oral arguments.

WEDNESDAY The president and the first lady host a state dinner in honor of Yoon and Kim. **The Supreme Court** hears oral arguments. **THURSDAY** Yoon addresses a joint meeting of Congress. **The Commerce** Department issues its first estimate of the first-quarter GDP.

FRIDAY Biden presents the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy to the Air Force Falcons at the White House.

INSIDE



SPORTS Seeking speed Velocity is climbing in college baseball, and pitchers want more. D1

STYLE Fraternal guidance A new docuseries explores the Black Panther who shaped Tupac: his mother. C1

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WORLD NEWS.....A8

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NBC chief departs under a cloud

Jeff Shell quits, saying he had 'inappropriate relationship' with a female employee.

BY MEG JAMES

NBCUniversal Chief Executive Jeff Shell has stepped down after three years in the top role due to "an inappropriate relationship," parent company Comcast Corp. announced Sunday, making him the latest high-powered Hollywood player to lose his job over misconduct.

Comcast said in a statement that the company and Shell "mutually agreed" that he would depart effective immediately, after an investigation into inappropriate behavior led by outside counsel.

"Today is my last day as CEO of NBCUniversal," Shell said in a statement. "I had an inappropriate relationship with a woman in the company, which I deeply regret. I'm truly sorry I let my Comcast and NBCUniversal colleagues down, they are the most talented people in the business and the opportunity to work with them the last 19 years has been a privilege."

Comcast does not plan to immediately start a search for Shell's successor.

Instead, Comcast President Mike Cavanaugh will take over Shell's senior executive team and lead the entertainment company in the interim. Comcast CEO Brian Roberts and Cavanaugh said in a note to employees. Nine executives, including Donna Langley, Mark Lazarus and Frances Berwick, had reported to Shell.

"We are disappointed to share this news with you," Roberts and Cavanaugh said in the memo. "We built this company on a culture of integrity. Nothing is more important than how we treat each other. You should count on your leaders to create a safe and respectful workplace."

The nature of the inappropriate relationship was [See NBCUniversal, A8]



A FLOODED VINEYARD in Corcoran, where a levee system is struggling to hold back water from snowmelt.

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

WILL MELTED SNOW DROWN TOWN?

An aging wall of dirt is all that's preventing floodwaters from inundating Corcoran.

BY JESSICA GARRISON, SUSANNE RUST AND IAN JAMES

CORCORAN, Calif. — Just west of this normally dusty prison town, a civic nightmare is unfolding: Tulare Lake, a body of water that did not exist just two months ago, now stretches to the horizon — a vast, murky sea in which the tops of telephone poles can be seen stretching eerily into the distance.

Anxious residents in this Central Valley town of 22,000 know all too well that the only thing keeping this growing lake from inundating their homes and businesses — as well as one of the state's largest and most crowded prison complexes — is a 14.5-mile-long dirt levee that rises up from sordid earth to the west, south and east.

And that levee, according to city officials and local farmers, could be in big trouble.

They worry that this non-descript earthwork may be too low to hold back the millions of gallons of melted snow that are expected to course into the Tulare Lake Basin as summer sunshine warms the slopes of the Sierra Nevada. They worry even more that with water sloshing against the levee for up to two years, it may start to erode and breach.

Many here say they are perplexed and frightened that state and federal officials don't seem to be taking the threat seriously, since the federal government has estimated that flooding would cause \$6 billion worth of damage. They note that both California State Prison, Corcoran, and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, a dual prison complex that holds about 8,000 incarcerated men and employs many local residents [See Levee, A5]

A mother asks how her ex was able to buy gun to kill their son

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

HANFORD, Calif. — On a chilly Monday morning in March 2020, Christy Camara drove to pick up her 10-year-old son for school.

Wyland — a quiet boy with big brown eyes and a wry sense of humor beyond his years — was staying at his grandparents' house, where his father lived after the divorce.

As Camara neared, police officers blocked her. Yellow crime scene tape surrounded the stucco house.

In this small Central Valley city — where Camara and her ex-husband went to the same elementary school — their son attended — the faces were familiar: The fireman Camara went to high school with. The officer who was friends with her father. No one would look her in the eye.

Her ex-husband, Victor Gomes, had shot Wyland in the head before killing himself.

He used a Glock pistol he bought from a nearby gun [See Wyland, A6]



CHRISTY CAMARA holds a photo of her son, Wyland. A restraining order was supposed to prevent her ex-husband from buying a gun.

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

'It's not like he bought it on the black market. He went out and bought it at a California licensed gun dealer.'

— JOSEPH M. ALIOTO JR., former federal prosecutor and Christy Camara's attorney

COLUMN ONE

Ancient epics to inspire a modern one

Los Angeles resident practices art of Iranian storytelling to support women back home, where they're forbidden from such performances

By Deborah Netburn

In a lavish West Hollywood banquet hall adorned with the colors of spring, the Iranian epic storyteller Gordafarid strides across the stage like a mythical heroine, dressed in a white embroidered vest, black bell sleeves and white knee-high boots. A silver beaded scarf is arranged like a crown on top of her long, dark hair.

It is Nowruz — the Persian New Year — and the Iranian American Jewish Federation has invited the 46-year-old to perform along with other Iranian female artists — drummers, dancers and singers. The event and fundraiser is a celebration of the country's cultural heritage and a tribute to the female artists back home who are forbidden by the government to sing, dance or play music in public.

The audience falls quiet as Gordafarid's commanding, raspy alto fills the room with melodic Persian. With a mixture of prose, poetry, [See Gordafarid, A12]



GORDAFARID, an L.A. resident, is the first known woman to master Naqqali, a storytelling art historically performed by men, for men.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

Developers find legal footing to fight NIMBYism

By JACK FLEMMING

The last group that tried to build multifamily housing in La Cañada Flintridge received a dead rat in the mail.

The package's message couldn't have been clearer, echoing the words that a former city planning commissioner said at a public hearing in 2013: "We like the way it is now."

Tucked in a verdant crook of the Verdugo and San Gabriel mountains, the city is a peaceful refuge from the bustle of Los Angeles, an affluent bastion of beautiful single-family homes on large, leafy lots.

It's expensive, with an average home value of \$1.99 million. And it's little; while the rest of Southern California swelled with residents over the last four decades, La Cañada Flintridge's population has hovered around 20,000 since 1980.

For decades the city developed a reputation as being fiercely anti-development in a conflict that came down on clear ideological lines: quality of life versus free market capitalism. To the slow-growthers, the foes were developers trying

to get rich at the town's expense.

But the current fight — over the future of a 1.29-acre lot holding an aging Christian Science church building at 600 Foothill Blvd. — has pitted them against a harder group to demonize, those trying to get people into desperately needed affordable housing.

And their foes are playing a card that past builders never used. Because the state says the city has not complied with its housing rules, the developers might get to bypass La Cañada Flintridge city planners altogether and build an even bigger project than the one they originally proposed.

The city's battle over development dates to the 1980s when the founder of now-shuttered sporting goods retailer Sport Chalet looked to build the company's corporate headquarters on Foothill Boulevard.

The proposal went through 34 public hearings and won approval from the City Council, but an opposition group called Friends of 9101 sprouted up soon after, ousting the council members who favored the project [See NIMBY, A7]

Trump now faces trial alleging rape
Jury selection is set for Tuesday in suit filed by former advice columnist who says he assaulted her in 1990s. **NATION, A4**

DWP settles suit in electrocutions
L.A. utility agrees to pay \$38 million over downed power line that killed father and daughter in 2021. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Kings lose in OT; series tied at 2-2
L.A. blows 3-0 lead after first period, completing its collapse when the Oilers score in overtime in a 5-4 final. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather
Cloudy; then sunny.
L.A. Basin: 72/56. **B6**





SALUD José María Martín: "Es un bochorno ser el estanco de Europa" **P24**

ENERGÍA Portugal toma la delantera en la revolución verde **P43**



El gasto militar de Europa se acelera tras la invasión rusa

La inversión en defensa creció en 2022 un 3,6%, a niveles similares a los de la Guerra Fría. Finlandia, Países Bajos y Bélgica encabezan las subidas

CARLOS TORRALBA, Madrid

La invasión rusa de Ucrania ha disparado el gasto militar en Europa a niveles de la Guerra Fría. Los datos que publica hoy el Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones para la Paz de Estocolmo (SIPRI, por sus siglas en inglés) revelan que, en su conjunto, los países europeos dedicaron a defensa 350.000 millones de euros, con un incremento del 3,6%. El aumento viene impulsado por Finlandia (36%), Países Bajos (13%) o Bélgica (12%). Otros países de Europa oriental, como Rumania, República Checa y Letonia, también registraron subidas superiores al 10% en términos reales (es decir, descontado el efecto de la inflación). "Resulta razonable pensar que el gasto militar seguirá aumentando en los próximos años", sostiene el investigador del SIPRI Diego Lopes, que destaca que varios gobiernos han diseñado planes para mejorar esta década las capacidades de sus ejércitos. Los países que pertenecen a la OTAN tienen además el compromiso de aumentar el gasto militar al 2% del PIB. **PÁGINA 2**

SERGUÉI MELNIK
General ucranio

"La calma actual me preocupa. En Chechenia, Rusia también se retiró" **P3**



ALBERT GARCÍA

Barcelona celebra un Sant Jordi de récord

Barcelona tuvo ayer, al fin, un Sant Jordi sin interferencias. Sin la pandemia ni los aguaceros de años anteriores, miles de personas se lanzaron a la calle desde primera hora a una fiesta que se

desbordó. Era el día de los libros y las rosas, de las que se vendieron hasta seis millones, una cantidad récord. En la imagen, dos mujeres se abrazan en uno de los puestos de libros. **PÁGINAS 26 Y 27**

deportes

Alcaraz impone su ley sin piedad

El tenista gana el torneo Conde de Godó tras derrotar a Tsitsipas (6-3 y 6-4)

El Barça deja atrás las dudas con una victoria sobre el Atlético (1-0)

El keniano Kiptum se queda a 16 segundos del récord de maratón **PÁGINAS 31 A 40**



Alcaraz besaba ayer el trofeo del Conde de Godó. / J. MONFORT (AP / LAPRES SE)

El 63% de los incendios forestales se originaron por negligencias

La Fiscalía explora vías para investigar los fuegos, cada vez más vilulentos

REYES RINCÓN, Madrid

La sequía extrema y las altas temperaturas han precipitado que Interior adelante la campaña contra los incendios, un riesgo que se acrecienta a medida que se acerca el verano. Los datos de la Fiscalía de Medio Ambiente revelan que en 2022 el 63% de los fuegos se originaron por negligencias y que el 25% fueron intencionados. **PÁGINA 14**

Sánchez equipara a PP y Vox en política ambiental

P15

España evacua en avión a 104 civiles de Sudán en una operación militar

MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ, Madrid

España evacuó anoche a 104 civiles de Sudán, sumido en un enfrentamiento civil desde el día 15. Un avión A400M del Ejército del Aire trasladó a Yibuti a más de 30 españoles y unos 70 ciudadanos de otros países europeos y latinoamericanos. En el mismo vuelo, Exteriores sacó al personal de la Embajada en Jartum, que ha echado el cierre. **PÁGINA 9**

Las plantaciones ilegales ponen en jaque el sistema eléctrico

La marihuana funde los plomos

I. FARIZA / J. ARROYO
Madrid / Granada

Los crecientes cultivos ilegales de marihuana están poniendo en jaque el sistema eléctrico, principalmente a la compañía Endesa, que calcula que este negocio consume tanto como la ciudad de Sevilla en un año. **PÁGINA 43**

Maratón de Londres Debut y hazaña

Sifan Hassan (foto) paró a elongar pero igual ganó en los metros finales. Un keniano hizo el segundo mejor tiempo de la historia. **DEP.**



Hay 348 argentinos prófugos buscados por Interpol

Las causas son abuso sexual, venta de drogas, homicidios. **P.36**

Tema del día • Después del renunciamento de Fernández

Cristina busca ahora bajar a otros candidatos para evitar las PASO

El cristinismo pretende que no haya primarias presidenciales en el Frente de Todos, y que sea la vicepresidenta la que designe a dedo al candidato del oficialismo. El titular de la AFIP, Carlos Castagneto, fue quien blanqueó la estrategia al señalar que "si Cristina lo

dice, bancamos a Sergio Massa". La vice reaparecerá el jueves en un acto en La Plata, donde se espera que anticipe alguna definición. En su entorno creen que Fernández los quiso perjudicar al no avisarles que se bajaba de la reelección. **P.3**

De la Editora

Silvia Fesquet

¿Y si dejan de tomarnos por estúpidos? **P.2**

ESCASEZ DE DIVISAS

Reservas: por la brecha, se frena más la liquidación de dólares-soja

El viernes, el blue y los dólares libres anotaron nuevos récords, y se agrandó la diferencia entre los \$ 300 que se paga a los productores por cada dólar, con el valor de mercado. Las cerealeras dicen que ya anticiparon al Central US\$ 1.250 millones y no consiguen más granos. **P.6**

Otra gestión ante el FMI

Parte del equipo económico viaja el jueves mientras acusan a la oposición de sabotear las negociaciones

CONSEJO DE LA MAGISTRATURA

Confirman la desaparición de 82 carpetas con datos de jueces

La Oficina de Declaraciones Juradas detectó que en el robo del 30 de julio pasado a oficinas del Consejo se sustrajo esa cantidad de documentación sensible, con 277 anexos que fueron abiertos y 55 documentos manipulados. Lo vinculan con el hackeo a celulares. **P.12**

EX PRESIDENTE

Toledo llegó a Perú para ser juzgado por corrupción y lavado de dinero

Fue extraditado desde Estados Unidos. Lo acusan de haber recibido al menos US\$ 20 millones de sobornos en su gestión de parte de la constructora Odebrecht. **P.24**



Barco y un gol sin festejo. Ex Independiente, le marcó el primero del 2-0.

River avanza a paso firme y se afianza en la punta

Ganó el clásico 2-0 a Independiente, con un golazo de Barco y otro de Borja. Mantiene los 6 puntos sobre el segundo, San Lorenzo, y le sacó 18 de diferencia a Boca, que empató sobre la hora 2-2 en Rosario con Central, en el minuto 99. **DEPORTIVO**

POR UN INCENDIO EN URUGUAY

Otra vez humo y olor a quemado en la Ciudad

El fuego se detectó en el departamento de San José, entre Colonia y Montevideo. Fue un incendio forestal que pasó inadvertido para los uruguayos pero que se sintió en esta orilla, con sus clásicas manifestaciones: picazón

en la garganta, olor fuerte y baja visibilidad. Pasadas las 13 llegó la confirmación de la causa desde el Servicio Meteorológico Nacional. Por incendios forestales varios hay un historial de invasión de humo en la Ciudad. **P.30**

Imagens do 8/1 mostram Lula irritado e falhas internas

A divulgação das cerca de 160 horas de gravação das câmeras do circuito interno do Palácio do Planalto relativas ao dia 8 de janeiro expõe momentos de irritação do presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT), conversas acaloradas entre ministros e uma sequência de falhas de segurança que proporcionaram uma ação desimpedida dos vândalos. **Política A4**

Marcus André Melo A política da culpa

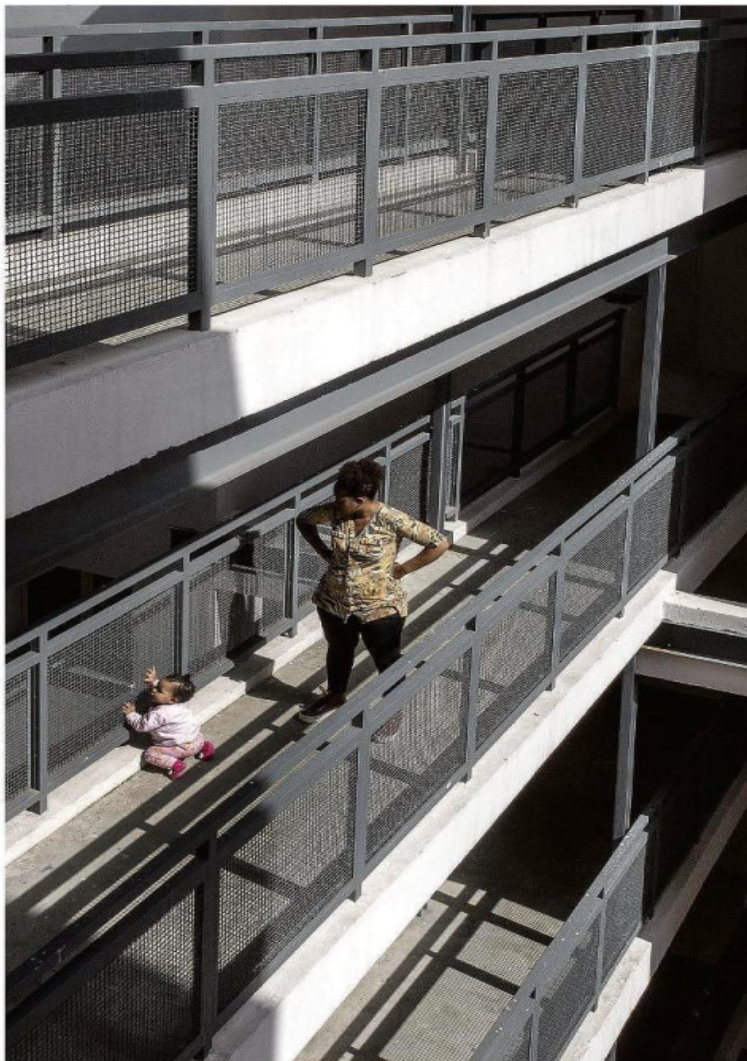
A CPI será a arena onde o jogo da atribuição de culpa terá lugar após a divulgação das imagens da invasão do palácio presidencial. O valor relativo do apoio do superbloco de Arthur Lira subiu muito: qual o preço a ser pago para que controle a CPI a favor do governo? **Opinião A2**

'Minidoc' da mala é estratégia contra crime em Cubica

Passageiros adotaram a prática de filmar o despacho de suas bagagens no aeroporto de Guarulhos. A precaução surgiu após duas brasileiras ficarem 38 dias presas na Alemanha, porque golpistas puseram etiquetas com os nomes delas em malas cheias de cocaína. **Cotidiano B3**

Advogados negros ampliam espaço em grandes bancas

Política A11



Eduardo Knapp/Folhapress

ANTIGO HOTEL DE LUXO VIRA MORADIA POPULAR

Local no centro de São Paulo que barrou Elza Soares e Garrincha, por serem negros, reabre com apartamentos de até 55m²; Rosângela Pereira é uma das novas moradoras **Cotidiano B2**

Inadimplência de trabalhador dispara no microcrédito

Avanço do crédito direcionado é defendido pelo governo Lula (PT), que busca estimular a economia

A cada 10 trabalhadores formais e informais que recorreram ao microcrédito, 2 estavam com as contas atrasadas em fevereiro. De acordo com os dados mais recentes divulgados pelo Banco Central, a inadimplência atingiu 20,7%, um recorde em um cenário de juros elevados e desaceleração da atividade econômica.

A escalada da inadimplência nessa linha de crédito se intensificou a partir de setembro do ano passado, acumulando alta de 16,6 pontos percentuais em 12 meses até fevereiro. O microcrédito é um tipo de crédito direcionado, no qual instituições financeiras devem destinar parte dos recursos dos depósitos à vista.

Nos últimos quatro anos, o crescimento anual médio da modalidade foi superior a 24%, de acordo com o BC. O crédito direcionado tem regras definidas pelo governo, e algumas linhas de empréstimo, em razão de subsídios, têm taxas menores. Em sua maioria, são concedidas por bancos públicos.

A modalidade representa cerca de 40% do saldo de crédito total do sistema financeiro, com um estoque de R\$ 2,18 trilhões.

Um crescimento mais forte do crédito direcionado é defendido pelo governo do presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT), que busca medidas para fomentar investimentos e estimular a economia. **Mercado A14**

Giovana Madalosso Os escravos de luxo da Faria Lima

Ninguém fala sobre o que acontece nas agências de publicidade. As grandes marcas que estão nas telas bancando as boazinhas com o consumidor —subitamente verdes, feministas e antirracistas— fecham os olhos para um esquema de exploração e abuso. **Mercado A15**

Bolsa brasileira está barata, mas juro emperra alta

As ações que compõem o índice Ibovespa, principal referência do mercado no país, estão na média mais baratas que no pior da pandemia, em 2020, mas não necessariamente mais atraentes. Incerteza com patamar de juro inibe trajetória alstista nos próximos 12 meses. **Mercado A16**

Balanco de bancos deve refletir piora da economia no 1º tri

Com caso Americanas e juros altos, resultados devem mostrar desaceleração. Analistas preveem números melhores de BB e Itaú e piores de Bradesco e Santander. **Mercado A14**

esportes B5 Invicto até 2026

Real Madrid amplia soberania e assegura topo do Ranking Folha por mais 4 anos

ilustrada C1

Filmes pornôs com personagens de games são recordistas de busca em sites

ENTREVISTA DA 2ª Oswaldo Ramos

Investimento no Brasil precisa ter planos A, B e C

É "trabalho grande" explicar ao investidor de fora que o Brasil tem mudanças de curto prazo, diz o principal executivo da montadora chinesa GWM no país. Empresa se prepara para fazer modelo híbrido e flex em Iracemápolis (SP), com investimento de R\$ 10 bilhões. **Mercado A20**

EDITORIAIS A2

Casuísmo trabalhista Acerca de risco de retrocesso na reforma da CLT.

Ainda o MST

Sobre pressão do movimento por cargos e verbas.

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Presença de advogados negros em grandes escritórios de SP cresceu de menos de 1% para 11% entre 2019 e 2022; Ana Carolina Lourenço, que alisava o cabelo para ser aceita, atua na área cível e no comitê de inclusão do Machado Meyer **Karime Xavier/Folhapress**

LE FIGARO

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

FIGARO SANTÉ
DES POLLUANTS
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Lumière sur la Nouvelle ID.7 100% électrique

Rendez-vous en dernière page.



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Sous le feu des critiques, le gouvernement tente de se remettre en marche
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À Zaporijjia, près du front, l'usine forge les armes ukrainiennes
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Roland-Garros : alerte rouge pour Djokovic et Nadal
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Pourquoi Nestlé se déleste de ses pizzas surgelées en Europe
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- En Australie, le ramadan devient un festival multiculturel
- La tribune de Patrick Stefanini
- Des entretiens avec Brice Couturier et Erell Thevenon-Poullenc et avec Jean-Paul Bouttes
- La chronique de Nicolas Baverez

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FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de samedi :
L'augmentation de la rémunération des enseignants annoncée par Emmanuel Macron vous semble-t-elle suffisante ?

OUI 59% NON 41%

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 107101

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Êtes-vous favorable au développement de l'éolien en mer ?

SÉCURITÉ, CIRCULATION, COÛTS

JO 2024 : à Paris, la droite tire le signal d'alarme

L'opposition parisienne exprime son inquiétude devant le niveau d'impréparation et les faiblesses de la capitale à seulement quinze mois de cet événement d'envergure planétaire.

La ville de Paris est-elle en mesure d'organiser dignement les prochains Jeux olympiques ? Au vu des retards et des problèmes récurrents que connaît déjà la capitale, nombre d'élus de droite et du centre, Rachida Dati en tête, se posent la question. Ils font part de leur inquiétude face à l'impréparation de la métropole. Sécurité, circulation, propreté, capacité d'hébergement, coûts de l'événement..., beaucoup de points suscitent des doutes. La droite parisienne envisage donc de mettre en place une délégation pour suivre pas à pas l'organisation de ce rendez-vous mondial.

→ RACHIDA DATI : « NOUS SOMMES INQUIETS CAR, À 400 JOURS, CHACUN SENT QUE PARIS N'EST PAS PRÊTE » PAGES 2, 3 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Des convois de dizaines de véhicules blancs de l'ONU sortaient dimanche de Khartoum et se dirigeaient vers Port-Soudan. C'est par avion que la France, elle, a évacué ses premiers ressortissants vers Djibouti. PAGE 4

Éolien : l'Europe veut quadrupler la production en mer du Nord

Neuf pays européens se réunissent lundi à Ostende (Belgique) pour un sommet consacré à l'énergie éolienne. Objectif : faire de la mer du Nord la « plus grande centrale électrique verte » de l'Europe, en multipliant par quatre la capacité de production d'ici à 2030 et par dix à horizon 2050. Un défi pour les industriels, qui peinent à suivre le mouvement et redoutent la concurrence de la Chine.
PAGES 20 ET 21

ÉDITORIAL par Yves Thréard ythreard@lefigaro.fr

Le revers de la médaille

Le plus inaccessible des exploits olympiques n'est pas sportif, mais financier. Il n'a jamais été atteint, car aucun pays organisateur n'a réussi à respecter le budget initial. Celui-ci a été multiplié par sept à Tokyo, en 2021 et, auparavant, par trois à Rio, Londres ou Pékin. Qu'en sera-t-il pour Paris 2024 ? La capitale française a précisément vanté son bon équipement préexistant pour faire valoir sa candidature, à l'économie. N'empêche, l'expérience montre que c'est toujours le contribuable qui finit par payer la course à ce qui reste un bien éphémère prestige planétaire. Les Jeux en valent peut-être la chandelle, mais c'est là le revers de la médaille ! À quinze mois de l'ouverture des épreuves, les esprits commencent donc à s'échauffer. Sourde jusqu'à présent, la controverse monte. L'inquiétude est de plus en plus vive. Pour beaucoup, Paris, sa région et la France seront difficilement prêtes dans les temps pour accueillir plus de 10 000 athlètes et des centaines de milliers de visiteurs étrangers. La sécurité est le défi majeur. La cérémonie d'ouverture sur la Seine donne des sueurs froides à tous les experts et le re-

crutement en masse d'agents pour le maintien de l'ordre ne va pas de soi. Le scandale du Stade de France, à l'occasion de la Coupe d'Europe de football, en mai dernier, est gravé dans les mémoires ! Les transports sont l'autre grand sujet, entre les embouteillages routiers et la crainte de grèves dans les métros, RER et bus, déjà bondés. Sur les grands chantiers en cours, à commencer par ceux de Notre-Dame et de la tour Eiffel, la course contre la montre est engagée. Enfin, l'accessibilité aux handicapés demeure un point noir. À Paris, Rachida Dati sonne l'alerte. La chef de l'opposition municipale décerne la médaille d'or de l'amateurisme à Anne Hidalgo. La critique n'est pas dénuée d'arrière-pensées, mais l'attitude de la maire de la capitale pendant le conflit des retraites n'a pas été de nature à rassurer. Son bilan n'est pas reluisant. Et il risque fort de s'aggraver si son action ne se hisse pas à la hauteur du rêve olympique. ■

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Real story on reel

Documentary shows how ethnic village in Yunnan changed its destiny **LIFE, PAGE 17**

Growth impetus spurs local development **BUSINESS, PAGE 13**

No letup in conflict

China vows to protect its citizens as fighting in Sudan rages on **WORLD, PAGE 12**



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MONDAY, April 24, 2023

Measures set to strengthen foreign trade

Efforts to expand, upgrade activity will also aid global recovery, experts say

By **LIU ZHIHUA** and **ZHONG NAN**

China will step up efforts to stabilize foreign trade performance while improving the trade structure through a raft of policy measures, government officials said at a news conference on Sunday.

Experts said the country is expected to further vitalize enterprises in the foreign trade sector while forging stronger trade cooperation with developed as well as emerging economies, amid negative factors including rising protectionism and weakening global demand.

Such endeavors will expand and upgrade China's trade and also will be conducive to global economic recovery, they said.

Wang Shouwen, vice-minister of commerce and China's international trade representative, told the news conference that domestic enterprises involved in foreign trade are challenged by increases in trade risks, pressure to enhance profitability and inconveniences in participating in foreign trade fairs, though uncertainties in external demand remain the biggest issue.

"We will try hard to create more trade opportunities," he said, adding that, to that end, the country will widely resume offline trade fairs, improve the efficiency of processing APEC business travel card applications, and facilitate the orderly resumption of international passenger flights.

Wang said the country will stabilize foreign trade in key products such as automobiles, ensure development of foreign-trade enterprises, and enhance the formats and environment for foreign trade.

Key measures will include helping automakers to establish and improve their global marketing and service networks, ensuring funding for large-scale equipment projects, and accelerating the revision of the catalog of encouraged technologies and products for import.

They also will include encouraging banks to better meet financing demand from small and medium-sized foreign-trade enterprises, guiding companies that are engaged in trade processing to move to central, western and north-eastern regions of the nation, and supporting the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in developing digital trade.

Wu Haiping, director-general of the General Administration of Customs' department of general operations, said that in order to address the difficulties and bottlenecks faced by foreign-trade enterprises, the customs authority will focus on improving trade facilitation, streamlining import and export logistics, optimizing the business environment at ports, reducing enterprises' cost burdens and supporting the development of new foreign trade formats.

"We will continuously enrich, adjust and improve relevant measures and explore new customs support initiatives to support China's foreign trade this year," he said, adding that 90,000 companies registered in the first quarter of the year to engage in export and import activities, up 59.8 percent year-on-year.

According to Zhou Maohua, an analyst at China Everbright Bank, foreign-trade enterprises, especially some small and medium-sized ones, still face high costs for raw materials, difficulties in securing financing, fluctuations in the global foreign exchange market and uncertainties in external demand.

"China has a complete industrial system and resilient supply chains, and the country's foreign trade sector has gained strength in recent years due to continuous upgrades in products and trade structures, growing diversification of trading partners and development of business models including cross-border e-commerce," Zhou said.

See **Trade, page 3**

Little bookworm



A boy is engrossed in reading a book at Liaoning Provincial Library in Shenyang on Sunday, which marked the World Book and Copyright Day. **XU HUIYANG / FOR CHINA DAILY**

Philippines urged to respect 'one China'

By **ZHANG YUNBI**
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Beijing urged Manila to properly handle the Taiwan question and maritime issues, and "substantially respond to China's justified concerns" during State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang's just-concluded visit to the Philippines.

Qin's visit, from Friday through Sunday, incorporated meetings with several prominent political leaders, including Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.

The United States' reinforced military collaboration with the Philippines and its attempts to

involve Manila deeper in the China-US tension on the Taiwan question have cast a shadow over the ties between China and the Philippines, analysts said.

Issues such as the Taiwan question and maritime concerns were high on the agenda, and Qin urged the Philippines to "respect China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity".

Observers said that Qin's visit and comments made by both sides underline the countries' willingness to keep the China-Philippines relations afloat.

During their meeting on Saturday, Marcos told Qin that the Taiwan question is part of China's internal affairs, and the Philippines will, as always, stay committed to the one-China policy.

Manila will continue to subscribe to self-reliance, being independent and not taking sides, and it is willing to deepen its friendship with Beijing, expand collaboration and strengthen communication, Marcos said.

The Philippines will also properly handle maritime issues, prevent them from disturbing the bigger picture of bilateral ties and champion peace and prosperity in the region, he added.

Qin noted that the two sides are "faced with a new situation and fresh challenges", according to an official readout from the Foreign Ministry.

Both sides are expected to stay true to the right path in their relations, "embark on in-depth communication, boost mutual trust, overcome difficulties, rule out disturbances, create good conditions for advancing cooperation", and ensure that the ties move forward



State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang (right) is greeted by Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr in Manila on Saturday during his three-day official visit to the Philippines. **ROUELLE UMALI / XINHUA**

on the right track in a sound and stable manner, Qin said.

Marcos recalled that he had accompanied his father, then Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, to China 48 years ago when the right decision was made to establish the two nations' diplomatic ties. He called it "a great legacy".

Qin said all developments that have taken place since the ties were established show that mutual trust, friendly coexistence, subscription to credibility and justice and win-win cooperation "serve the fundamental interests of both sides".

Beijing expects Manila to properly perceive the trend of history, act on the region's bigger picture of peace and stability, and work for the fundamental interests of the people of both countries, he said. Successful and painful experiences both offer lessons to learn from, he added.

In January, following Marcos' first state visit to China as Philippine president, the two countries issued a joint statement that described the nations as "close neighbors, kin and partners". Qin said that Manila is expected to work with Beijing to "realize this great hope".

Zhang Lil, professor and director of the Center of Chinese Diplomacy Studies at China Foreign Affairs University, said Qin's visit shows that "China's official position and policy remains unchanged

when it comes to developing friendly ties with the Philippine government and people".

"Although Washington has been energetically meddling in East Asia affairs and has recently intensified its interference in affairs related to the Philippines to a great extent, Beijing sincerely hopes that China and the Philippines remain good neighbors, partners and friends," Zhang said.

The reunification of China is an unstoppable trend, and "the Philippines should be careful on the Taiwan question, avoid taking a wrong side over this matter and falling into the trap set up by the US", Zhang added.

Chen Xiangmiao, an associate research fellow at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, said the two sides should "intensify their efforts in preventing their relations from falling prey to the US' strategies in Southeast Asia and the 'Indo-Pacific Strategy'".

Currently, Sino-Philippine ties are at a critical phase of developing into a comprehensive strategic partnership, and the two countries need more top-level discussions and could consider building a strategic dialogue mechanism, Chen said. "They should further prioritize proper tackling of maritime disputes and build more trust in military and defense areas," he added.

Change 8 to test use of 3D printing tech to build on moon

By **ZHAO LEI**
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Chinese scientists plan to use the Change 8 lunar mission to explore the feasibility of using 3D printing technology to construct buildings on the moon, according to the chief planner of the country's lunar programs.

Wu Weiren, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a leading scientist at the China National Space Administration, said the Change 8 robotic probe — the third to be placed on the moon in the country's next lunar exploration endeavor — is set to land on the moon's South Pole to conduct on-site investigations of the environment and mineral composition at the landing site, and to check if some advanced technologies, 3D printing for example, can be done on the lunar surface using lunar materials in the future.

"If we wish to stay on the moon for a long time, we need to set up stations by using the moon's own materials," he said in a recent interview, ahead of the Space Day of China that falls on Monday.

"Lunar soil will be our raw material and it will be printed into construction units. Professors at several domestic universities, such as Tongji University in Shanghai and Xi'an Jiaotong University in Shaanxi province, have already begun studying the possible applications of 3D printing technology on the moon," he said.

China has a grand road map for exploration and development programs on our nearest celestial neighbor in the coming years, the chief planner said.

The very next step in China's lunar adventure — the Change 6 robotic mission — is set to land on the moon's far side from where it will bring back soil and rock samples. Change 5 has already retrieved samples from the moon's near side. "If Change 6 succeeds, it will be the first time we get samples from the moon's far side," Wu said.

The Change 6 probe consists of four components — an orbiter, a lander, an ascender and a reentry module — and is scheduled for launch around 2025.

The Earth's gravity creates tidal friction that slows the moon's rotation. Over time, the same face of the moon has become tidally locked, forever pointed toward the planet. This is the near side.

The other side, or the far side, has been extensively photographed from various spacecraft, starting with a Soviet probe in 1959, but no probe touched down on its surface until January 2019 when China's Change 4 mission soft-landed in the Von Karman crater.

The lander and rover of Change 4 have been working on the moon for more than four years and have continued to enable scientists to closely observe and conduct surveys on the far side.

After Change 6, the Change 7 robotic probe will be sent to land on the moon's South Pole to perform "high-precision investigations", Wu said.

See **Lunar, page 3**

Inside

See more, **pages 5-8**

NATION TO WITNESS QUICK AI EXPANSION, EXPERTS SAY

Tech heavyweights step up development efforts as concerns voiced over new problems

By **FAN FEIFEI**
fanfeifei@chinadaily.com.cn

Artificial intelligence technology is expected to witness speedy growth in China and inject fresh momentum into a new round of industrial development, experts said.

This expansion comes as Chinese tech heavyweights step up efforts to develop their own AI-powered large language models amid a worldwide frenzy surrounding ChatGPT, they said.

Created in November by OpenAI, a startup based in the United States, ChatGPT is an acronym for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer. This intelligent chatbot is a computer program designed to stimulate conversation with human



users, especially over the internet.

Large language models are AI models fed huge amounts of text data for use in a variety of tasks, ranging from natural language processing to machine translation. Chinese AI companies, experts said, should pool more resources into improving computing power, algorithms and quality of data, and increase investment in basic scientific research, including mathematics, statistics and computer science, to gain a competitive edge in the race to develop chatbots.

See **AI, page 2**

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INSIDE

Sport climbers eye glory at Paris Games

Sports, page 20

