THE WALL STREET JOURNA

NASDAO 11854 35 A 0.5%

STOXX 600 463.21 ▼ 0.8%

10-YR TREAS. ▼ 9/32 vield 3.429%

OIL \$74.30 ¥ \$2.77

GOLD \$1,985.70 ¥ \$8.30

EURO \$1,1042 YEN 133.67

What's News

D.IIA 33301.87 ▼ 228.96.0.68%

Business & Finance

The U.K.'s antitrust watchdog rejected Mi-crosoft's \$75 billion deal to buy Activision, raising ques-tions about whether the combination will get done. A1

- ◆ Disney accused Florida's DeSantis in a lawsuit of wag-ing a "targeted campaign of government retaliation" against the company for criti-cizing legislation he backed. Al
- Boeing said a new produc-tion problem expected to de-lay deliveries of its 737 jets this summer won't disrupt the company's overall finan-cial outlook for the year. BI
- ◆ U.S. stock indexes ended mixed, with the S&P 500 and Dow declining 0.4% and 0.7%, respectively, and the Nasdaq gaining 0.5%. B11
- *Stellantis plans to offer buyout packages to both white-collar and hourly workers as it trims costs in some areas to fund its transi-tion to electric vehicles. B1
- Kaiser Permanente
 agreed to acquire hospital
 operator Geisinger in a bid
 to create a new national
 player in the rapidly consolidating healthcare market. B2
- ◆ Tucker Carlson posted a video on Twitter in which he video on Twitter in which ne criticized the level of debate on TV shows, his first pub-lic comments since his de-parture from Fox News. **B4**
- ◆ Pras Michel, who rose to fame as a member of the Fe gees hip-hop trio, was found guilty of serving as the linch-pin of a multimillion-dollar foreign-influence scheme, B3

World-Wide

- passed a bill proposing to raise the nation's borrow-ing limit in exchange for deep cuts in government spending aiming to spending, aiming to jump-start talks with Biden ahead of an approaching deadline to avoid default. A1
- ◆ Chinese leader Xi called Ukraine's Zelensky, their first conversation since the Rus-sian invasion over a year ago, as Beijing attempts to portraj itself as a potential peace-maker in the conflict. A8
- ◆ The U.S. has agreed to give Seoul a greater voice in consultations on a potential American nuclear response to a North Korean attack in return for swearing off developing its own nuclear weapons. A9
- * The airman charged with taking and sharing highly classified intelligence docu-ments might still have access to sensitive material, prose-cutors said in court filings. A6
- ◆ Writer E. Jean Carroll testified that she was raped by Trump in the 1990s, telling the jury in a civil trial the alleged assault had scarred her over the decades since. A3
- ◆ A federal appeals court paved the way for Pence to appear before the grand jury investigating Trump's efforts to remain in power after the 2020 election. A3
- ◆ The Justice Department filed a lawsuit challenging Tennessee's recent ban on certain healthcare for transgender minors. A3

JOURNAL REPORT

private 5G. R1-10



ACK OPS

U.K. Blocks Microsoft's Deal For Activision, Imperiling Bid

The U.K.'s antitrust watchdog rejected Microsoft Corp.'s \$75 billion deal to buy game maker Activision Blizzard Inc., raising big questions about whether the combination will ever get done and scrambling both companies' short-term strategies.

The Competition and Markets Authority's ruling, issued Wednesday, said Microsoft had failed to convince the agency that actions the companies had proposed since announcing the deal would sufficiently ease the regulator's competi-

tion worries. The CMA has said the deal poses a competition threat to the U.K.'s gaming industry and has been reviewing it for months.

The decision casts a long shadow over the prospects of a deal happening at all. Microsoft and Activision said they would contest the ruling, but antitrust lawyers and academics said

contest the ruling, but antitrust lawyers and academics said such a push is an uphill battle. The CMA's investigation focused solely on the U.K. market. But because the videogame industry is complex and global, it would be very difficult for a combined Microsoft-Activision to operate com-

pletely outside that market.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the European Union's competition watchdog also are scrutinizing the deal. The U.K.'s decision wouldn't have any direct bearing on those other proceedings, but such global deals typically need the endorsement of the world's biggest competition authorities to move ahead.

The CMA's decision punctuates a shift in the approach of global antitrust enforcers toward competition issues among the world's biggest tech companies. The European Union for years has scrutinized big.

mostly U.S., tech companies over a wide swath of issues, including privacy, taxes and alleged anticompetitive behavior.

The Trump and Biden administrations in recent years have started to do the same, while competition authorities on both sides of the Atlantic have taken a harder look at deal making in the industry.

"For a very long time, competition authorities were criticized for being weak on mergers, especially in the digital Please turn to page A6

Heard on the Street: Deal or no deal, Microsoft has game... B12

House Approves Debt Bill, Sets Up **Big Battle**

GOP backs measure to sharply cut spending in exchange for lifting U.S.'s borrowing limit

By Lindsay Wise And Siobhan Hughes

By Lindsay Wise
AND Stoudhard House Republicans passed a bill proposing to raise the nation's \$31.4 trillion borrowing limit in exchange for deep cuts in government spending, aiming to jump-start talks with President Biden ahead of an approaching deadline for the federal government to avoid default.

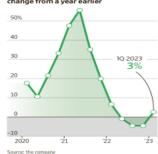
The vote was 217-215, with all Democrats voting no. Four Republicans opposed the bill, after House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R., Calif.) made last-minute changes and promises in order to keep his fractious conference mostly united. The razor-thin margin underscored the complicated politics that are expected to roil the debt-ceiling debate.

The Republicans' Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, which has no chance of passing the Democratic-controlled Senate, serves as the GOP's opening bid as it heads into expected negotiations with the president and his fellow Democrats in Congress. Republicans want the reductions in exchange for agreeing to raise the debt ceiling. Mr. Biden wants an increase with no conditions but has said he would negotiate separately on Please turn to page A4

◆ Economic crosswinds color Biden's re-election bid....... A4

Meta Sales End Streak of **Declines**

Facebook parent Meta Platforms posted its first increase in revenue after three quarters of declines, climbing 3% to \$28.6 billion. The company cited continued improvements in its advertising business, as well as its ongoing efforts to pare back spending. **B1**



Disney Sues Florida's DeSantis, Accusing Him of Retaliation

By Arian Campo-Flores And Jacob Gershman

Walt Disney Co. accused Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in a lawsuit of waging a "targeted campaign of government retalization" against the company for criticizing legislation he backed, escalating the yearlong battle between the entertainment giant and the potential 2024 presidential candidate. The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in Tallahassee, Fla., came minutes after a new board Mr. DeSantis named to oversee the district covering the company's theme parks de-

clared null and void agreements
Disney struck in February.
The suit alleges violations of
several provisions of the U.S.
Constitution and names the
five DeSantis-appointed board
members and other officials. It
says the board's action
Wednesday was the latest
strike against the company.
"This government action was
patently retaliatory, patently
antibusiness, and patently unconstitutional," the complaint
reads. "But the Governor and
his allies have made clear they
do not care and will not stop."
Taryn Fenske, a spokeswoman for the Republican gov-

ernor, said: "We are unaware of any legal right that a company has to operate its own govern-ment or maintain special privi-leges not held by other busi-nesses in the state." She added, referring to Disney, "This law-suit is yet another unfortunate example of their hope to un-dermine the will of the Florida voters and operate outside the

dermine the will of the Florida voters and operate outside the bounds of the law."

The lawsuit brings the saga involving Mr. DeSantis and Disney to the courts after a year of moves and counters between a popular governor and one of Florida's largest employers. It Please turn to page A2

SPACs Are Running Out of Money

By Amrith Ramkumar And Shane Shifflett

BY RYAN DUBE

The SPAC boom took hun-dreds of risky companies to the stock market. The next stop for many is bankruptcy court.

many is bankruptcy court.
Dozens of companies that
merged with SPACs are running out of cash, joining at
least 12 that have already
gone bankrupt after combin-

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia— High in the Andes, the elec-tric-vehicle revolution has ar-rived. It's moving no faster than 35 mph and can be a bit claustrophobic. While Tesla and other car makers pride themselves on turning out luxurious, aerody-namic EVs—some with a speed

ing with special-purpose acquisition companies.
More than 100 companies, including electric-scooter firm Bird Global Inc., smart-sock baby-monitor maker Owlet Inc. and electric-car startup Faraday Future Intelligent Electric Inc. are running out of cash, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis of the companies' cash and cash flow

topping 200 mph—Bolivia's Quantum Motors is offering a much mellower ride.

The size of a golf cart and built like a box, Quantum's cars technically have room for three people with space up front for just the driver and two passengers snuggled into the back. Forget a trunk. Or long-distance road trips. It can Please turn to page A10

Tiny Tesla Wannabe Fits Three,

'But They Can't Be Very Fat'

Bolivia's home-grown EV has a top speed of 35 mph, a range of just 60 miles from operations data disclosed

from operations data disclosed in regulatory filings.

Shares of many of these companies trade under \$1, more than 90% below where they did when they went public, and are in danger of being delisted. Those that have raised cash typically have done it on onerous terms. Bird extended its runway by merg-please turn to page \$A4\$

INSIDE



SPORTS At NFL draft quarterback Anthony Richardson is a puzzle and a hot prospect. A16

Sole domestic maker of crucial type

of gunpowder blew up two years ago

U.S. Military Has

Explosives Problem

BY GORDON LUBOLD

MINDEN, La.—Nearly two years ago, an errant spark in-side a mill caused an explo-sion so big it destroyed all the building's equipment and blew a corrugated fiberglass wall 100 feet. It also shut down the sole

It also shut down the sole domestic source of an explo-sive the Department of De-fense relies on to produce bullets, mortar shells, artil-lery rounds and Tomahawk missiles.

missiles.

The ramshackle facility makes the original form of gunpowder, known today as black powder, a highly combustible material with hundreds of military applications. The product, for which there is no substitute, is used in small quantities in munitions to ignite more powerful explosives.

No one was hurt in the

June 2021 blast. But the fac-tory remains offline, unable to deliver its single vital component to either com-mercial or Pentagon custom-

ers.
Military suppliers consolidated at the Cold War's end, under pressure to reduce defense costs and streamline the nation's industrial base, over the nast three decades. the nation's industrial base. Over the past three decades, the number of fixed wing air craft suppliers in the U.S. ha declined from eight to three. During the same period, ma-jor surface ship producers fell from eight to two, and today, only three American companies supply over 90% of the Pentagon's missile stockpile. stockpile

stockpile.

Lower-tier defense firms are often the sole maker of vital parts—such as black powder—and a single crisis can bring production to a Please turn to page A12

FINANCIAL TIMES



The luxurious life of Russian warlord's family

Crime is not a bug in crypto — it's a feature

Sudan flight **Britons** join race to safety

UK military personnel welcome a family on board as they rush to evacuate British nationals from Khartoum yesterday before a fragile ceasefire between Sudan's two top general flights carrying hundreds of UK passport holders have landed in Cyprus, the British government faces questions over the small number of evacuees rescued so far while thousands remain trapped in Sudan. Sudanes families were meanwhile gathering at a border crossing with Egypt and at a main port, as they tried to escape the violence with little food or shelter.

shelter.

Despite gunfire and explosions still being heard across Khartoum, many residents emerged from their homes seeking food and water after days of being trapped inside by the fighting between the army and a rival para-



Call of Duty maker Activision rails at UK for barring \$75bn Microsoft deal

Watchdog blocks acquisition ◆ Britain 'closed for business', says games group ◆ Chief vows to appeal

KATE BEIOLEY AND TIM BRADSHAW — LONDON

The UK competition regulator has blocked Microsoft's \$75bn acquisition of Activision Blizzard, drawing a furious response from the video games maker that branded Britain "clearly closed for business"

The Competition and Markets Authority delivered the potentially fatal blow to Microsoft's biggest deal yesterday by concluding that the software giant could make Activision's games exclusive to its

own cloud gaming service.
The ruling comes just a month after
the CMA retreated from another key
concern, in a step that had appeared to
improve the deal's chances of success.
Activision, maker of the hit game Call
of Duty, said the ruling "contradicts the

ambitions of the UK to become an attractive country to build technology businesses."
It labelled the decision a "disservice to UK citizens, who face increasingly dire economic prospects", adding: "The UK isclearly closed for business."
In an email to staff, Activision chief executive Bobby Kotick vowed to fight to conclude the deal and said the CMA decision was "far from the final word".
Brad Smith, Microsoft vice-chair and

president, said his group remained

president, said his group remained "fully committed to this acquisition and will appeal", warning that the decision "discourages technology innovation and investment in the United Kingdom".

Activision's shares were down more than 11 per cent in midday trading.

If the deal went through, it would make Microsoft the third biggest gaming company by revenue behind China's Tencent and Japan's Sony. Microsoft will have to pay a break fee of as much as \$3bn fif falls apart.

The ruling is a buge blow to the deal's global prospects and comes ahead of regulatory decisions in the EU and the US, with the Federal Trade Commission suing to block it last year.

The companies had hoped that licensing deals signed with cloud gaming plat-

forms would be sufficient to appease the CMA. But in an update yesterday the regulator said the solution contained "significant shortcomings"; considering the fast-moving nature of the cloud gaming market. The CMA said Microsoft, which accounts for about 60 to 70 per cent of cloud gaming services, would gain control over games such as Call of Duty, Overwatch and World of Worrogt. It said Activision would have started providing games on cloud gaming services without the Microsoft merger—something Activision has denied.

ices without the Microsoft merger – something Activision has denied. During the investigation, Microsoft struck 10-year licensing deals with streaming services including Nvidia's GeForce Now service and Boosteroid, as well as pledging to bring Call of Duty to Nintendo's Switch, in a drive to prove

that owning Activision would expand

that owning Activision would expand the availability of the company's games. The FTC said that owning Activision's games could help Microsoft dominate the cloud gaming market in the same way Netflix had for video streaming. A decision is expected next month from regulators in Brussels. So far European Commission officials have been more willing to clear the deal. CMA chief executive Sarah Cardell and chair Marcus Bokkerink defended the decision, saying: "Our approach is

and chair Marcus Bokkerink defended the decision, saying: "Our approach is proportionate."
One shareholder in Activision told the Financial Times that Microsoft would "surely use every avenue to fight but ... this deal is dead already. It's a zombie deal now."
Tencent's hunt page 8

Briefing

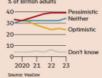
➤ Bain's Shanghai staff quizzed by Chinese police Police have visited the offices of the US management consulting group, in the latest case of foreig businesses coming under general businesses coming under scruti as US-China ties strain.— PAGE 6

US renews pledge to Seoul Washington will underline its commitment to using its nuclear arsenal to defend South Korea, with new deployments in the face of North Korea threats... PAGE 4

▶ Debt shift riles EU states Brussels' proposed overhaul of deficit rules has met objections from the bloc's biggest states, as it seeks a balance between strong

▶ Brussels in green fuel bid The EU has agreed rules that ▶ Brussels in green fuel bid The EU has agreed rules that require airlines to start using green fuels from 2025, as it steps up plans to lower emissions from a big polluting sector. — PAGE 2

Jailed Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has warned that he faces life in prison after being charged with plotting terrorism while behind bars.— PAGE 3



stalk streets of Slovyansk

The busiest businesses in Slovyansk The busiest businesses in Slorvansk are military clothing shops and kiosks selling funeral wreaths. Few residents are on the streets and factories are shut. The eastern Ukrainian city, which nine years ago suffered a three-month Russian occupation, is 25 miles from the fierce fight for Bakhmut. Yulia selberad while her husband is at the front. Were it not for soldiers' trade, she says, she would be forced to follow other shopkeepers who boarded up and left. Besleged citytens = PAGE 3

Subscribe In print and online

Tel: 1800 628 8088 www.ft.com

© THE FINANCIAL TIMES LTD 2023





Xi urges Zelenskyy to talk to Moscow as pair speak for first time since war began

Xi Jinping has urged Volodymyr Zelen-skyy to negotiate with Moscow, in the first conversation between the Chinese and Ukrainian leaders since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine more

In an almost hour-long phone call that In an almost hour-long phone call that the Ukrainian president described as "long and meaningful", Xi told Zelenskyy he would send a special representative to talk to "all parties" to seek a "political settlement" of the war, according to china's foreign ministry. "Dialogue and negotiation are the only way forward," Xi added.

But Zelenskyy's office avoided any reference to negotiations and instead "expressed hope for China's active participation in efforts to restore peace".

Ukraine has dismissed a Chinese "peace plan" put forward in February because it did not stipulate the with-drawal of Russian forces from occupied territore, But Zelenskyy has long sought a conversation with XI to persuade the Chinese leader to exert pressure on Rus-sian president Vladimir Putin to rein in his swar.

Zelenskyy said "there can be no peace at the expense of territorial compro-mises", making clear his refusal to trade Ukrainian land for peace. European leaders have also been sceptical of Beijing's peace initiative. Officials suggested Xi may have made the long-awaited call to repair relations with EU capitals enraged by comments last weekend by China's ambassador to France suggesting that former Soviet states did not enjor full sovereighty. Bei-jing later backtracked on the remarks.

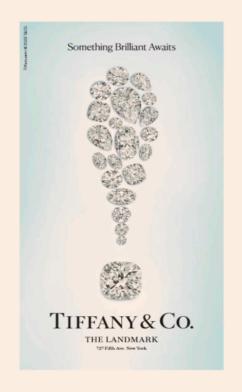
A senior EU official said that China wanted "to be regarded as a player and not discarded as being on Russia's side". It aimed to be "seen as a party in the [peace] project", the official added.

Xi told Zelenskyy that "as a permanent member of the UN Security Council . . . China would not sit idly by, nor would it add oil to the fire, still less exploit the situation for self-gain", in an apparent digat the US.

In comments on Twitter, Zelenskyy said the phone call would give "powerful impetus to the development of our bilateral relations", noting that "before the full-scale Russian invasion China was Ukraine's number one trading partner?". John Kirby, spokesperson for the White House National Security Council, said the US had not known of the call in advance but called it a "good thing". "Wolf warrior' envoy page 2

World Markets

CK PSOUNE 15		CONNENCIES						GOVERNMENT BOMDS						
	Apr 26	Prev	%chg	Pair	Apr 26	Prev	Pair	Apr 26	Prev	Yield (%)	Apr 26	Prev	Chg	
500	4084.74	4071.63	0.32	\$/E	1.104	1.098	€/\$	0.906	0.911	US 2 yr	3.94	4.05	-0.12	
taq Composite	11947.69	11799.16	1.26	\$/E	1.247	1.240	E/\$	0.802	0.806	US 10 yr	3.43	3.42	0.00	
Jones Ind	33533.38	33530.83	0.01	£/E	0.886	0.885	€/€	1.129	1.130	US 30 yr	3.68	3.65	0.03	
urofirst 300	1833.65	1850.35	-0.90	¥/\$	133.345	133.865	N/E	147.260	146.951	UK 2 yr	3.74	3.74	0.00	
Stoox 50	4344.61	4377.85	-0.76	W/E	166.268	166.014	£ inde	x 79.042	79.148	UK 10 yr	3.85	3.82	0.04	
100	7852.64	7891.13	-0.49	SFr/E	0.983	0.979	SFr/E	1.110	1.107	UK 30 yr	4.04	4.00	0.04	
All-Share	4267.92	4285.93	-0.42	СКУРТО						JPN 2 yr	-0.04	-0.04	0.00	
40	7466.66	7531.61	-0.86	CRIPIO		Apr	200	Prev	Waha	JPN 10 yr	0.46	0.47	-0.02	
a Dax	15795.73	15872.13	-Q.48	Bitcoin (\$		29805		B303.52	%chg 5.31	JPN 30 yr	1.32	1.34	-0.02	
oi .	28416.47	29620.07	-0.71			1951		1866.13	4.59	GER 2 yr	2.79	2.84	-0.05	
Seng	19757.27	19617.88	0.71	Ethereum		1351.	./5	1886.13	4.50	GER 10 yr	2.39	2.38	0.01	
World \$	2789.54	2826.85	-1.32	COMMOD	OTTIES					GER 30 yr	2.49	2.45	0.04	
IEM\$	965.60	977.38	-1.21			Apr	26	Prev	%chg					
I ACWI \$	644.61	653.15	-1.31	Oil WTI \$		77.	.03	77.07	-0.05					
Alshire 2500	5259.92	5350.04	·1.68	Oil Brent !	\$	80	49	80.77	-0.35			Prices are latest	for edition	
/ilshire 5000	41005.22	41714.27	-1.70	Gold \$ 1		1987.	40	1978.20 0.47			Di	Data provided by Morningstar		
													_	



VOL. CLXXII . . . No. 59,771

By MILIIR MASHAL

By MUJIB MASHAL
DHAROKI, India — The girls
arrive at the makeshift cricket
ground on their bicycles, a narrow
file of white athletic uniforms
breezing down a dirt track that
cuts through lush wheat fields in
India's Punjab region. They wear
their names and numbers on their

their names and numbers on their backs, their hair tied in long, neat braids. The youngest is 9, the old-est 14.

It's time for practice: a two-mile run, a couple of hours of batting, bowling and catching drills, and lots of giggles. Overseeing it all is Gulab Singh Shergill, a police offi-cer by day, their manager, mentor and champion by evening. The

ATUL LOKE FOR THE NEW YORK T Batting practice for the girls' cricket team managed by Gulab Singh Shergill, a police officer, in the rural Punjabi village of Dharoki.

ordinate with the 20-odd families through the team's WhatsApp group. His sister, Jasvir Kaur, acts as a physical therapist of sorts: tummy rubs and deep breaths for the 9-year-old who arrived for practice after overindulging at a wedding function, facedown stretches for the girl struggling with leg cramps.

For the girls the daily results.

with leg cramps.

For the girls, the daily routine is an escape from the boredom of village life. After each practice, they lie in a circle, their backs to the grass, their faces to the sky's fading light. They close their eyes for two minutes of silent reflection.

It's about a lot more than cricket.

Continued on Page A12

In India, It's Their Turn for Big-League Dreams

A New Cricket League

Opens Doors Long

Closed to Girls

girls, including his own daughter, all refer to him as "veera," mean-ing elder brother in Punjabi. But there would be no team, no dream, without the women. When

dream, without the women. When someone is struck by a ball — made of hard cork and leather — Mr. Shergill's mother, Harjeet Kaur, is there to offer comfort until the sobbing stops and the girl runs back to the pitch. Mr. Shergill's wife, Kamaldeep Kaur, helps co-

\$4.00

Ignited a Crisis For Fox Chiefs

of Redacted Content

This article is by Jim Rutenberg, Jeremy W. Peters and Michael S. Schmidt.

The day before Dominion Vot The day before Dominion Voting Systems' defamation trial
against Fox News was set to begin
in a Delaware courrhouse, the Fox
board of directors and top executives made a startling discovery
that helped lead to the breaking
point between the network and
Tucker Carlson, one of its top
stars.

stars.

Private messages sent by Mr.
Carlson that had been redacted in legal filings showed him making highly offensive and crude re-marks that went beyond the in-flammatory, often racist com-ments of his prime-time show and to the trial.

to the trial.

Despite the fact that Fox's trial lawyers had these messages for months, the board and some senior executives were now learning about their details for the first time, setting off a crisis at the highest level of the company, according to two people with knowledge of the discussions.

The discovery added pressure.

nignest level of the company, according to two people with knowledge of the discussions.

The discovery added pressure
on the Fox leadership as it sought
to find a way to avoid a trial where
Mr. Carlson — not to mention so
many others at the network —
would be questioned about the
contents of the private messages
they exchanged in the aftermath
of the 2020 presidential election.

Two days after the board's discovery, Fox settled the Dominion
case for \$787.5 million, believed to
be the highest for a defamation
trial.

Several people with knowledge

trial.

Several people with knowledge of Fox's discussions said the redacted messages were a catalyst for one of the most momentous decisions Fox and its leaders — the father-son team of Rupert and Lachlan Murdoch — had made in years: to sever ties with the host of their highest-rated and highly profitable prime-time program and a face of the network in the Trump era.

Trump era.
The company dismissed him on Monday, with a phone call from Suzanne Scott, the chief executive

ays." Mr. Carlson and Bryan Freed-

Mr. Carlson and Bryan Freedman, a lawyer representing him, did not respond to requests for comment.

On Wednesday night, Mr. Carlson posted a video on Twitter, speaking publicly for the first time since getting pushed out. Mr. Carlson did not address his exit from Fox, but railed against "completely irrelevant" debates on TV and said: "Both political parties and their donors have reached consensus on what benefits them Continued on Page A21

HOUSE APPROVES DEBT CEILING BILL. SETTING UP CLASH

REPUBLICANS VS. BIDEN

G.O.P. Seeks Talks After Slim Passage of Plan to Cut Spending

By CATIE EDMONDSON and CARL HULSE

and CARL HULSE

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday narrowly passed Republicans' bill to raise the debt ceiling while cutting spending and unraveling major elements of President Biden's domestic unraveling major elements of President Biden's domestic agenda, in a G.O.P bid to force Mr. Biden to negotiate over spending reductions or risk a catastrophic

debt default.

The control of the co

Even Republicans conceded that their legislation was headed



aker Kevin McCarthy cob-

nowhere; Mr. Biden has threat-ened to veto it, and the measure is nowhere; Mr. Biden has threatneed to veto it, and the measure is
dead on arrival in the Democraticled Senate. Without action by Congress to raise the debt limit, which
is projected to be reached as early
as this summer, the U.S. government faces a potentially catastrophic default.

But House Republicans regarded the vote as a crucial step to
strengthen their negotiating position against Mr. Biden amid questions about whether Mr. McCarthy would be able to unite his fractious conference to pass any fiscal
outline at all.

"We lifted the debt limit: we've

"We lifted the debt limit: we've "We lifted the debt limit; we've sent it to the Senate; we've done our job," Mr. McCarthy declared following the vote, vissiby pleased with the outcome after a dayslong slog to rally Republicans around the plan.

Pushing through a debt limit increase was always going to be a Continued on Page A18

Carlson's Texts

Learning at Late Hour

Suzanne Scott, the chief executive of Fox News Media. In the end, according to one of the people with knowledge of the internal discussions, Lachlan Murdoch viewed forcing out Mr. Carlson as a "business decision," just as he did the Dominion settlement.

ment.

Fox had no comment beyond its initial statement announcing that "Fox News Media and Tucker Carlson have agreed to part

related a tale she said she had waited decades to tell. "Being able to get my day in court, finally, is everything to me," she said, her shaky voice rising. "I'm happy. I'm glad that I got to tell my story." Ms. Carroll spoke of an encounter that haunted her and ended her romantic life for good. "I was ashamed. I thought it was my fault," she said, describing how she had initially been laughing and joking with Mr. Trump after she ran into him at Bergdorf Goodman in Manhattan. "It was high comedy. It was funny, and then to have it turn into the ... Her voice then trailed off. Ms. Carroll, 79, testified on Day 2 of the civil trial stemming from the lawsuit she filed against Mr. Trump last year under a New York law that granted adult sexual assault victims a one-year window to seek redress for long-ago events. Her suit, heard in federal court because she and Mr. Trump Continued on Page A22 When DeSantis Took On the Mouse, It Roared

By CHARLES HOMANS

In Vivid Detail,

Trump Accuser

Tells Her Story

This article is by Benjamin Weiser, ola Fadulu, Kate Christobek and aren Zraick.

The writer E. Jean Carroll on

Mednesday told a Manhattan jury a harrowing story of being raped in the mid-1990s by Donald J. Trump in a department-store dressing room — describing a bru-tal attack that she tried to fight off by stamping on his foot and that has left her traumatized for dec-

ades.
Just before she began testifying in federal court, the former president infuriated the judge overseeing the case by railing against the proceeding on social media. Mr. Trump, who has so far avoided the trial, was not there as Ms. Carroll related a tale she said she had waited decades to tell.

"Being able to get my day in

By CHARLES HOMANS
When Gov. Ron DeSantis of
Florida went to war against
Disney over what he labels its
"woke" corporate
sensibility and its
criticism of state
policies, Tim Wildsidelines.

Mr. Wildmon, the president of the American Family Associa-tion, a right-wing religious orga-

Disney Is Proving to Be a Wily Political Foil

nization, has more experience in this area than most: In 1995, his organization, which is known for its opposition to L.G.B.T.Q. rights, rallied a broad coalition of evangelical groups to boycott Disney after it extended family benefits to gay employees.

But since then, Mr. Wildmon has learned to temper his expectations. After an early wave of international media attention, the boycott receded from the headlines, and by the time Mr. Wildmon officially pulled the plug on it a decade later, it had had little discernible impact on Disnev's policies or revenues.

But since then, Mr. Wildmon

Disney's policies or revenues.
"It was very difficult to sustain for more than three or four years," he said. "People move on.

Continued on Page A15

NATIONAL A14-22

U.S. Bolsters Umbrella

President Biden vowed that any nuclear attack on South Korea by North Korea would "result in the end" of the government in Pyongyang. PAGE AI PAGE A16

Pope Offers Women a Vote

By DAVID McCABE and KELLEN BROWNING

and KELLEN BROWNING
British antitrust regulators
dealt a major setback on Wednesday to Microsoft's plans to acquire
the video game giant Activision
Bizzard for \$69 billion, blocking
the proposed deal and handing a
notable win to government enforcers around the world who
want to rein in Big Tech.
With its ruling, Britain's Competition and Markets Authority in-

Mixed Reviews for Film Breaks

New York's governor wants to increase incentives for film and television producers to keep them from fleeing, but the program has critics. PAGE PAGE A14

Montana Legislator Punished

Representatives voted to bar a recently elected transgender lawmaker from the House chamber for the rest of the legis-



Wednesday to give women a voice at a key bishops' meeting. Page A9.

INTERNATIONAL A4-13

U.K. Blocks Microsoft's Acquisition of Activision

A Win for Proponents of

Reining In Big Tech

flicted a possibly fatal blow to what would be the largest con-sumer tech acquisition since AOL bought Time Warner two decades ago. The agency said Microsoft's

proposals to ensure that the acqui-sition would not harm competition "failed to effectively address the

Forgetting a Dark Past

Speculation on Putin's Health

A leaked document contains the unsub-stantiated claim that the Russian leader underwent chemotherapy. PAGE A8

concerns in the cloud gaming sec-tor," a nascent part of the gaming

industry,
The surprising ruling bolstered
an effort by the Federal Trade
Commission to block the deal in
the United States and was a clear

the United States and was a clear victory for proponents of regularing tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Google and Meta, Facebook's parent company. Their efforts, fueled by fears that the companies wield too much Continued on Page A10

stry.

The Hidden Costs of Disasters

While federal funds and aid groups can ease the sting of major losses, small expenses burden flooding victims PAGE B1 trying to rebuild their lives.

First Republic's Shaky Future

The San Francisco bank is sitting on big losses and paying more to borrow than it is making on its loans.

PAGE B1

A Relentless Manchester City

With a rout of Arsenal, it is only a mat-ter of time before Pep Guardiola's squad claims the Premier League. PAGE B8

An Institution Reimagined

The Africa Center in Harlem has emerged with new leadership and a new optimism. It has the plans and space to grow, but can it raise the funds to carry out its ambitions? PAGE CI

Releasing Nazi-Era Records

Releasing Nazi-Era Records Historians and archivists are excited and concerned about a Dutch plan to make public the files of people who were accused of collaborating with th Nazis during World War II. PAGE ating with the

Charles M. Blow



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

A Love Story in Clothes

Anna Wintour remembers the designer Karl Lagerfeld, and how she has worn his creations to some of the most impor-tant events in her life. PAGE D6





PROTECTION COLD Less Angeles Time
HISTORIC SNOWPACK levels in the Eastern Sierra Nevada are expected to melt into runoff that is 225% of
normal, threatening operations at Owens Lake, above, and the Los Angeles Aqueduct, officials say.

With rising temperatures comes rising flood threat

Crews scramble to beef up defense along Los Angeles Aqueduct

By Louis Sahagún

More than a month after heavy storms eroded a section of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, work crews are still scrambling to complete repairs and shore up flood defenses in the face of a weeklong heat wave compared to the still scramble of the still scramble of the still scramble. We're doing as much as we can as quickly as possible," said Paul Liu, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. "Our crews are working 12-hour shifts." Historic snowpack levels in the Eastern Sierra are expected to melt into runoff that is 225% of normal, which translates to about 326 billion gallons of water that will need to be managed, DWP officials. And while a typical runoff sea-



THOUSANDS of birds have taken advantage of new wetlands at the lake to rest and bulk up on brine flies before migrating.

Short-lived heat wave hits state

Brief hot spell is expected to bring some of the warmest days so far this year and will be followed by a cold front. CALIFORNIA, BI

Disney lawsuit accuses DeSantis of retaliation

Media giant seeks control of resort area, says it's being targeted for protected speech.

By Meg James and Brian Contreras

Walt Disney Co. on Wednesday sued Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in the latest salvo in a long-run-ning fight over the compa-ny's self-governing powers in the area of the state that en-compasses Walt Disney World Resort.

ning fight over the company's self-governing powers in the area of the state that encompasses Walt Disney World Resort.

"A targeted campaign of government retailation — orchestrated at every step by Gov. DeSantis as punishment for Disney's protected speech — now threatens Disney's business operations. The properties of the properties

contributions.

DeSantis lashed out, launching a yearlong effort to strip Disney of its self-governing powers for its parks—sweeping privileges the company has enjoyed since 1967,

[See Disney, A11]



FLORIDA Gov. Ro FLORIDA Gov. Ron DeSantis' office calls the suit an attempt to under-mine Florida voters' will.

Filing shows a bullying, bumbling governor

MICHAEL HILTZIK

No one needs to pay hard-earned cash to be enter-tained by a Disney prod-uct anymore. Not as of



Disney product anymore.
Not as of Wednesday, when the giant entertainment conglomerate filled a federal lawsuit to quash the efforts of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to punish it for speaking out against DeSantis' "Don't Say Gay" law.

The 77-page legal court in Gainesville, Fla., aims to stop what it terms" a tarment of the stop what it terms "a tarment retailation — orchestrated at every step by Gov. DeSantis as punishment for Disney's protected speech."

That campaign, the lawsuit says, "threatens Disney's business operations, jeopardizes its economic future in the region, and violates its constitutional rights."

Whether Disney can make that claim stick in federal court is anyone's good case that the only thing that DeSantis and his entourage find objectionable about the company is its speech, and specifically its objection to the "Don't Say Gay" law.

DeSantis didn't complain about Disney in any way before that. He certainly didn't refuse Disney's \$107.000 in contributions to his political campaigns. Nor did Florida Campaigns. Nor florida Republicans refuse any of the \$7.6 million received from the company over the last 20 years or so. They started copping an attitude about Disney only when they figured it would be a high-profile foll in their campaigns against attitude about Disney only when they figured it would be a high-profile foil in their campaigns against

REMA EFFENDING

A BUILDING in Istanbul undergoes demolition on the day a family from an adjacent block moved from the apartment they owned into a rented home.

No home away from home

In Istanbul, those who forsake earthquake death traps face another challenge: a housing shortage

By Hannah Lucinda Smith

ISTANBUL — From his second-story apartment on the western edge of Istanbul, Ismail Cirtsuren watched workers file past his window toward the building next

toward the building next door.

Demolition was about to start at the Cinar Residence, a complex of 13 apartment buildings, each six stories tall.

His building — his fam-ily's home for three decades — was due to be knocked down in late March, leaving

just over a month to find somewhere else to live.

"The life here is finished," Ciftsuren, 74, declared.

His family was caught in a double crisis: Istanbul, much like Los Angeles, is feasible to the control of the c

They and many of their neighbors had opposed a private developer's plan to replace their complex with luxury high-rises, continuing to resist even after a massive earthquake killed tens to the country. But they lost.

The sky was gray and it was drizzling as buildozers arrived, the conclusion of a nearly yearlong legal battle. Ciftsuren paced from room to room as the sounds of demolition from the building next door rolled through his floorboards and rattled [See Turkey, A4]

Warnings didn't stop abuse of kids

Santa Monica has settled a slew of suits over molestations by civilian police staffer.

By RICHARD WINTON

In nearly three decades as a civilian employee with the Santa Monica Police Department and the city, Eric Uller was considered a standout public servant who won awards for his technological innovations.

But his biggest claim to fame was his work as a volunteer in the Police Activities League, where, beginning in the late 1980s, he

worked with boys and girls in the nonprofit's afterschool program.

Uller was a familiar face at the PAL center that served Santa Monica's Latino neighborhoods, often traveling in a police vehicle and befriending generations of youths.

It took decades to uncover that Uller was a sexual predator, the center of a stunning series of crimes that destroyed the lives of children and exposed grave questions as to why it took so long for authorities to uncover what he was doing.

Now, more than 200 people have come forward to say they were abused by Uller, they were they were abused by Uller, they were they were abused by Uller, they were they



LAKERS CAN'T FINISH

Ja Morant, right, of the Memphis Grizzlies leans into Jarred Vanderbilt of the Lakers in Game 5 of their NBA series, won by Memphis. **sports, B12**

Former gynecologist James Heaps was a noted cancer specialist who preyed on his pa-tients. CALIFORNIA, B1

It's the return of the silver screen

At CinemaCon in Las Vegas, stars and studios say streaming is out and theaters are back in. CALENDAR, E1

Weather Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 78/55. **B6**

Partly sunny 71/54 • Tomorrow: Rain 64/55 B6

Foreign nationals struggle to escape fighting in Sudan



The Saudi-flagged ferry passenger ship Amanah, carrying 1,687 civilians from more than 50 countries fleeing violence in Sudan, arrives Wednesday in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. Many Americans and other foreign citizens have had to make their own escape plans amid fraught evacuation efforts by their governments. Story, A15

Carroll: Trump raped her, 'shattered' reputation

BY SHAYNA JACOBS, KIM BELLWARE AND MARK BERMAN

NEW YORK — E. Jean Carroll, a writer who has accused Donald Trump of raping her nearly three decades ago, testified Wednesday in searing detail about what she

in searing detail about what she says was a brutal assault carried out by the future president of the United States.

Taking the stand as part of her lawsuit against Trump, Carroll laid out the core of her case against him: Trump violently attacked her, Carroll said, leaving her emotionally scarred. And when she publicly accused him decades lat-



er, Carroll said, Trump's denials caused her further torment.

"I'm here because Donald Trump raped me, and when I wrote about it, he said it didn't happen," Carroll said. "He lied and shattered my reputation, and I'm here to try to get my life back."

Trump has said the episode never happened and assailed Carroll, calling her a liar. She sued him for battery and defamation last year, leading to the civil trial unfolding in Manhattan.

Carroll said the attack took place when she ran into Trump at Bergdorf Goodman, an upscale Manhattan department store, in the mid-1990s. They were both

public figures who, Carroll said, ran in similar media circles: Trump was a celebrity real estate magnate and tabloid fixture, while Carroll was an advice columnist with a cable news TV show.

They recognized each other, Carroll said, and their encounter started off light and fun. Trump was "very personable," she said. He wanted help picking a gift for another woman, Carroll said, and shewas "delighted" to come along.

But things quickly turned dark, she said.

Carroll testified that she went

into a dressing room with Trump.
Then, she alleged, he restrained
SEE CARROLL ON AS

U.S. drifts toward cliff as debt ceiling bill passes House

GOP CUTS TARGET PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES

Biden spurns McCarthy talks, seeks 'clean' measure

House Republicans on Wednesday approved a bill that would raise the debt ceiling, slash federal spending and repeal Presi-dent Biden's programs to combat climate change and reduce stu-dent debt, defying Democratic ob-jections in a move that inched the United States closer to a fiscal crisis.

crisis.

Ignoring repeated warnings that the GOP's brinkmanship could unleash vast economic turnoil, Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) muscled his narrow, quar-

vote, accelerating a high-stakes clash with the White House with as few as six weeks remaining before the government could de-

For House Republicans, the outcome marked a realization of a risky wager they placed after assuming a majority in January: They bet they could use the debt ceiling, the legal limit on how much money the country can borrow to pay its bills, as political leverage. Since Congress must pass a new law to raise or suspend the cap, the GOP seized on the possibility of a looming fiscal SEE DEBT CEILING ON A4

THE DISCORD LEAKS

Russia can fund war for a year despite sanctions

U.S. military documents detail Moscow's efforts toward a workaround

U.S. intelligence holds that assia will be able to fund the war Russia will be able to fund the war in Ukraine for at least another year, even under the heavy and increasing weight of unprecedented sanctions, according to leaked military documents.

The previously unreported documents provide a rare glimpse into Washington's under-

standing of the effectiveness of its own economic measures, and of the tenor of the response they have met in Russia, where U.S. intelligence finds that senior officials, agencies and the staff of oligarchs are fretting over the painful disruptions — and adapting to them.

While some of Russia's economic elites might not agree with the country's course in Ukraine, and sanctions have hurt their businesses, they are unlikely to withdraw support for Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to an assessment that appears to date from early March.

"Moscow is relying on in-SEE RUSSIA ON A12

China's buildup: Suspected military activity in UAE worries U.S. A12

Disney, alleging political retaliation, sues DeSantis

BY AARON GREGG AND LORI ROZSA

AND LORI ROZSA

The high-stakes standoff between two Florida heavyweights

— Ron DeSantis and the Walt
Disney Co. — escalated Wednesday when the company sued the
governor over what it calls a
"relentless campaign to weaponize government power" and
squelch free speech.

The lawsuit was filed minutes
after the expected presidential
contender's handpicked board
declared a Disney-friendly deal
null and void, the latest in a
tit-for-tat feud that began a year
ago when the corporate giant
took a stance against a DeSantis-

took a stance against a DeSantis-backed education bill critics dub

backed education bill critics dub "don't say gay." Now the fight between DeSan-tis and a hallmark of American childhood has turned so acrimo-nious, it is spilling into the 2024 presidential race and threatening to pose yet another challenge to the Florida leader's still-unan-nounced campaign. DeSantis's poll numbers have slipped in

recent weeks, and Republican op-ponents are seizing on the feud to cast him as a zealot bent on punishing a private enterprise over their opposition to one of his signature laws.

Meanwhile, Disease is refusing to back down, setting the stage for a protracted legal fight that has some Florida residents on edge. The outcome could have implications for DeSantis far beyond the Magic Kingdom—though analysts noted his base may also be drawn to a strongarm approach against a large employer that even Democrats concede has enjoyed privileges other companies do not. "DeSantis essentially picked

panies do not.

"DeSantis essentially picked
the fight," said Doug Heye, a
longtime Republican strategist
unaffiliated with any of the GOP
presidential campaigns. "So
when you pick the fight and then
you lose it, it's very easy to see real
problems."

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District Court for the Northern District Of Florida on Wednesday

SEE DISNEY ON A22



A White House welcome for South Korea's first couple

After a day of business between President Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol that included the unveiling of a deterrence framework to counter aggression from North Korea the two leaders toast during a state dinner at the White House, where they were joined by their wives, top officials, executives and celebrities among the nearly 200 guests. $\mathbf{Coverage}$, $\mathbf{C1}$

Fox insiders: Host was too much trouble for Murdochs

BY SARAH ELLISON AND JEREMY BARR

Tucker Carlson had dinner with s ultimate boss, Rupert Mur-och, two weeks ago in Los Ange-s, and everything seemed just

But according to people familiar with their conversation and Murdoch's thinking, the 92-year-old billionaire founder of Fox News had grown weary of some of Carlson's increasingly far-right commentary on his nightly prime-time show—as well as some of the swaggering host's behind-the-scenes attitude.

At that particular moment, he was disturbed by Carlson's stance on Ukraine. Agraphic on Carlson's show had referred to Volodymyr Zelensky, president of the be-sieged nation, as a "Ukrainian pimp," and the host had repeatedly SEE CARLSON ON A2 e. But according to people famil-

IN THE NEWS



Three years of covid Staffing problems and burnout haunt health-care workers, even as they are buoyed by their mission. A20

THE NATION In Missourl, transgen-der adults contemplate rationing their medica-tion as an emergency order threatens gender-

Montana Republicans voted to bar a transgen der Democratic lawmak-er from the state House

The Supreme Court voiced concerns about how much money a Minnesota county kept from the sale of a seized property. As

THE WORLD
Nearly three months
after two devastating
earthquakes, Turkey is
dealing with mountains
of rubble that have sparked fears of environmental and alth risks. A10 health risks. A10 Singapore executed a man convicted of conspiring to traffic two pounds of cannabis he was not alleged to have directly handled, A13

your recycling knowl-edge — and help you sort out what you might be doing incorrectly. A17

THE ECONOMY

THE ECONOMY
U.K. regulators
blocked Microsoft's
\$69 billion attempt at
buying Activision Blizzard, citing worries that
the acquisition could
make Microsoft overly
dominant in gaming, A19
First Republic Bank's
shares fell sharply, continuing an astonishing
decline that poses a fresh
challenge for the Biden
administration and industry regulators. A19

THE REGION

THE REGION
D.C. Police Chief Robert J. Contee III is planning to retire after two years in the post, the mayor announced. Bt
D.C. Council members floated a funding proposal to make Metrobus service free in the city, a move that could kill a K
Street transit project. Bt
Troopers sent to investigate Irvo Otieno's death at a Virginia mental hospital found that

tal hospital found that restraints used on the man had been cleaned and stowed before they got there, a court filing said. B3

INSIDE



LOCAL LIVING Being upstanders

loves a puzzle Actress sleuths her *Love & Death" character's perplexing behavior. **C1**

CONTENT © 2023 The Washington Post / Year 146, No. 53468 70628 21100 3

Mi casa, su casa: Popularity of home sharing grows

Trend is fueled by rising rents and costs of owning and maintaining a house. **In Money**

5 players who could slip or slide as NFL draft begins

Promising prospects, including Jalen Carter, face some uncertainty in first round. **In Sports**



Sammy Hagar jumps back into busy schedule

After pandemic hiatus, Red Rocker is energized about new music, upcoming shows and owning his crazy. In Life

USA TODAY NETWORK

THE NATION'S NEWS I \$3 I THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

House passes **GOP** debt limit plan

Deep cuts draw Dems' ire; bill heads to Senate

WASHINGTON – The House on Wednesday passed a Republican debt ceiling plan that includes \$4.5 trillion in cuts and raises the debt ceiling until May 2024, but Democrats say it won't

May 2024, but Democrats say it won't ward off a potential government default this summer.

Just before the evening vote, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused Republicans of "playing with fire" by not raising a clean debt ceiling. They raised the debt ceiling three times during the Trump administration, she said, but now they are using the full faith and credit of the U.S. to try and force spending cuts Democrats will not accept.

The passage sets the stage for a debt ceiling showdown between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., who have disputed government spending levels and have

government spending levels and have

See DEBT PLAN, Page 2A



President Joe Biden greets South Korea's Yoon Suk Yeol, who touted the countries' "alliance of values" Wednesday. MEGAN SMITH/USA TODAY

S. Korea, US seek to deter the North

Biden plans increased show of military might

Maureen Groppe and Joey Garrison

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that he is increasing demonstrations of mili-tary might in the Indo-Pacific and ex-panding collaboration with South Ko-rea in hopes of deterring an attack by North Korea.

North Korea.

In exchange, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol reaffirmed his nation's commitment not to develop its own nuclear weapons.

Biden and Yoon delivered the joint statement after a bilateral meeting at the White House. It's the centerpiece of the new initiatives on cybersecurity, economic investments and more that

See SOUTH KOREA, Page 2A





1-800-872-0001, USATODAYSERVICE.COM



In a video game created and tested at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the anesthesia mask doubles as the game controller as apprehensive children ages 2 to 10 are prepped for surgery. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CHRIS VON HOLLE

Kids' surgery is no fun, but now it can be easier

Ohio caregiver's new video game helps children prepare

Ashley R. Williams

Imagine being a child being prepped for surgery, surrounded by scalpels and strangers wearing masks, hats and gloves. An anesthesia mask hovers over your face in a brightly lit operating room.

An Ohio nurse practitioner and clinical researcher created a breath-controlled video game that makes the process less stressful for kids.

Abby Hess, of Cincinnati Children's Hospital, invented EZ Induction. The video game, in which the anesthesia mask is the game controller, helps children ages 2 to 10 relax when it's time to go under.

The game gets children familiar with breathing through a mask.



Abby Hess invented EZ Induction. She wanted to find a way to calm young patients, "and kids are so engaged and comfortable with technology," she says.

"I wanted to find a way to make this experience much easier for pa-tients, and kids are so engaged and comfortable with technology," Hess

told USA TODAY.

Hess and the Cincinnati Children's Innovation Ventures team dren's Innovation Ventures team have tested the game on hundreds of patients through stages of research and development, she says.

"I consistently have seen parents say: This was wonderful. This really helped my child and it actually."

say: 'This was wonderful. This really helped my child, and it actually helped my anxiety, too,' "Hess said. Studies show the highest point of preoperative anxiety in kids usually happens just before they're rolled into the operating room. Hess sees that nervousness every day.

See GAME, Page 6A

At Vatican, a 'crack in stained glass ceiling'

Women will have a vote at crucial bishops summit

John Bacon

Pope Francis ordered unprecedented changes Wednesday for the Vatican's upcoming bishops conference, for the first time providing women the right to vote and expanding access to the faithful who are not clergy.

Changes include allowing participation of 70 non-bishop members at the Synod of Bishops set for Oct. 10 from each of the seven regional conferences around the world. Half of the additions are expected to be women. Young people also are to be included.

The Women's Ordination Conference—a group working to ordain women as priests, deacons and bishops—lauded the changes, saying they resulted from a collaboration in which the group played a founding role.

"This is a significant crack in the stained glass ceiling, and the result of sustained advocacy," the conference said in a statement.

said in a statement.



Pope Francis has ordered that the next Synod of Bishops will feature a greater role for women, young people and people who are not clergy. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

synod is the Catholic Church's a few weeks at a time to debate particular top deliberative body. The first of a two-part synod gathering in Rome is expect-ed to address church governance, the role of women in the church and perhaps topics. The meetings wrap up with the bishops voting on proposals to be sent to the pope, who deliberates and then re-sponds to the ideas. Only men, however, the most controversial topic within the church: LGBTQ relationships, according to the National Catholic Reporter.

For more than half a century, popes have summoned the world's bishops for

sponds to the ideas. Only men, nowever, have been involved in the voting.

"It's an important change," said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, a top organizer of the synod. "It's not a revolution."

Contributing: The Associated Press

espectáculos

Meryl Streep, una travectoria convertida en marca de prestigio

Con más de 50 años como actriz y tres Oscar en su haber. acaba de ganar el Princesa de Asturias de las Artes



La Feria del Libro abre con 500 stands v 1500 expositores

Hoy será el acto inaugural; propone, en el predio de la Rural, una nutrida agenda cultural hasta el 15 de mayo. Página 24



NACION

JUEVES 27 DE ABRIL DE 2023 | LANACION.COM.AR

El blue se tomó un respiro y bajó a \$474, pero no logran frenar la caída de reservas

DÓLAR. Tras la fuerte escalada, el paralelo cayó \$21; el BCRA tuvo que vender US\$49 millones

Las fuertes intervenciones oficiales en el mercado de bonos, que permi-tieron que los tipos de cambio financieros retrocedieran el martes por primera vez tras siete ruedas de escalada, se vieron reflejadas ayer en el dólar blue. Aún en un clima de volatilidad (la cotización llegó a caer a \$465), al final de la rueda el paralelo cerróa \$474, una baja de \$21 frente a

la jornada anterior (-4,4%). Por segunda rueda consecutiva, el Gobierno intentó mantener a raya las cotizaciones de los activos que surgen de la compraventa de bo-nos soberanos. Así, el dólar MEP se vendió a \$446.43, una caída de \$1.07 frente al cierre previo. En cambio, el contado con liquidación se negocióa

\$469,29, una suba diaria de \$3,27. Este respiro en los dólares libres no incidió en el mercado oficial. In-cluso con el auxilio del dólar soja, el Banco Central tuvo que sacrificar ayer US\$49 millones de sus reservas para dar curso a pedidos de compra que venían demorados. Página 8

Massa espera un aval de Cristina que no afecte su trato con el FMI

Convocan a gremios y a empresarios a un acuerdo

El titular de Economía busca estabilizar por 90 días precios y salarios

El ministro de Economía, Sergio Massa, anunció ayer que convocará a gremialistas y a empresarios para acordar un pacto de estabilización de precios y salarios por 90 días, período que coincide con las PASO. Lo hizo en una reunión que mantuvo ayer con la CGT v con los movimientos sociales, en la que se volvió a criticara operadores del mercado por la corrida cambiaria. Página 14

Hacinamiento, detrás de un derrumbe trágico



"Fue como si la casa se estremeciera", recuerda Marvin Meza, uno de los 120 ocupantes del PH ubicado en Rivadavia 8758, en Floresta, que anteanoche se derrumbó y dejó dos muertos—una chica de 12 años y un joven de 19—, además de una mujer de saparecida y 25 personas heridas, todas fuera de peligro. Falta de mantenimiento de la vivienda, sobreocupación y la irregularidad de las reformas parecen las posibles causas del colapso. Página 22

El Papa le da el voto a la mujer en un sínodo de obispos

VATICANO. Participarán en las asambleas de octubre con derecho a sufragar. Página 4

Una pistola "fantasma" siembra dudas en la investigación del crimen del colectivero

Gustavo Carabajal

Tras la liberación de los dos sospechosos que habían sido deteni-dos horas después del homicidio del chofer de la línea 620 Daniel Barrientos, ocurrido el 3 de abril pasado en el barrio Vernazza, de Virrey del Pino, partido de La Matanza, un perfil genético sin dueño y un arma "fantasma" son las únicas pruebas que sobreviven en la investigación.

Sin embargo, un peritaje expuso que esa pistola, una Beretta calíbre 40, con número de serie A-33075-M, que había sido robada el 20 de enero pasado en Morón, no fue usada para matara Barrientos. Continúa en la página 26

Un municipio oficialista también se va del IOMA

PROVINCIA. Tigre permitió que sus empleados dejen la obra social; se suma a San Nicolás y Capitán Sarmiento, Página 20

Aprueban la vacuna para prevenir el dengue

SALUD. La Anmat autorizó el suero del laboratorio japonés Takeda; prevén que llegue en la primavera Página 23

Una colecta para salvar a un grande del fútbol

AYUDA. Independiente debe más de US\$20 millones y recurre a Santiago Maratea. Deportes

FOLHA DE S.PAULO

DESDE 1921



UM JORNAL A SERVIÇO DO BRASIL

ANO 103 * Nº 34.357

QUINTA-FEIRA, 27 DE ABRIL DE 2023

R\$ 6.00

Xi telefona a Zelenski e diz que vai enviar negociador

O líder chinês Xi Jinping fa-lou pela primeira vez, por telefone, com o presidente ucraniano Volodimir Zelenski desde o começo da invasão iniciada pela Rús-sia, aliada da China. O diálogo era aguardado des-de que Pequim apresentou um plano de paz bem-visto por Kiev e Moscou, mas re-jeitado por EUA e Europa. Xi afirmou que vai enviar à Ucrânia "e a outros países" um negociador para o fim do conflito. Mundo A13

Análise Igor Gielow China aproveita posição e impasse militar para fazer sua jogada por paz A13



Jair Bolsonaro (PL) deixa a sede da PF em Brasilia, onde prestou depoimento sobre os atos golpistas de janeiro Pedro Ladeia/Folhapress

Bolsonaro fala à PF que houve engano ao postar vídeo golpista

Ex-presidente depõe por duas horas e diz que estava sob efeito de medicamentos quando divulgou ataque às urnas

Jair Bolsonaro (PL) afirmou nesta quarta-feira (26) a in-vestigadores da Polícia Fede-ral ter publicado por engaral ter publicado por enga-no em uma rede social um vídeo questionando a lisura das urnas eletrônicas dois dias após os ataques gol-pistas às sedes dos três Po-deres. Ele disse que estava sob efeito de medicamen-tos quando fez a postagem.

A versão foi relatada por representantes da defesa do ex-presidente após de-poimento de duas horas e poimento de duas horas e meia em Brasília. O político é alvo no inquérito que mira os autores intelectuais da ação que desaguou na invasão e depredação das sedes do Palácio do Planalto, do Congresso e do STF (Supremo Tribunal Federal).

Ao longo de seu mandato, Ao longo de seu mandato, Bolsonaro acumulou decla-rações de cunho golpista e resistiu a reconhecer o re-sultado das eleições. O depoimento desta quar-ta foi o segundo dado por ele à PF desde que deixou o car-go Antes foi chamado para o

go. Antes, foi chamado para explicar o caso das joias re-cebidas de autoridades da Arábia Saudita. Política M



SONDA JAPONESA FAZ IMAGENS DA TERRA E REGISTRA ECLIPSE ANTES DE PERDER CONTATO

A empresa ispace divulgou registros do módulo Hakuto-R, feitos desde dezembro, antes de iniciar a descida à Lua, quando ficou sem sinal a 30 s da alunissagem

ilustrada C1 Formação clássica dos Titas se reúne após 30 anos de banda e faz turnê

sporte B5 Dicionário Michaelis cria verbete para Pelé, sinônimo de 'fora do comum'

turismo C7 No Itaim Bibi e com filial do Gero, Fasano abre o maior dos dez hotéis do grupo

SERIES FOLHA

Dez cidades preservadas que aiudam a contar a história brasileira ca



Da esq. à dir.: Arnaldo Antunes, Charles Gavin, Branco Mello, Tony Belotto, Sérgio Britto, Nando Reis e Paulo Miklos Bob Wolfenson

ATMOSFERA

São Paulo hoje

Rio 21° 31° 21° 21° 27° Brasília 21° 27° 21° 27° Ribeirão 20° 28° 21° 28°

Brasil recebe aval para buscar Thiago Brennand

Os Emirados Árabes Unidos autorizaram a extra-dição de Thiago Brennand, com cinco prisões preven-tivas decretadas e acusado de crimes sexuais. O minis-tro da Justiça, Flávio Dino, disse que o governo brasi-leiro vai acelerar a vinda do empresário. cotidia

na crise alvinegra

Heroínas e vilões

Juca Kfouri

A crise moral que asso-la o Corinthians desde a estúpida contratação do técnico Alexi Stival, o Cuca, que deve desculpas às mulheres do mundo, revelou jogadoras corajo-sas no clube e homúnculos do porte do general Augusto Heleno. Esporte BS

Papa decide que, pela 1ª vez, mulheres votarão no sínodo

O Vaticano anunciou que permitirá, no próximo sínodo, em outubro, que mulheres e leigos votem, em decisão iné-dita que marca mais um passo do pontificado de Fran-cisco para tornar a Igreja Católica mais plural. Mundo Al

EDITORIAIS A2

A CPI e Bolsonaro Sobre a comissão e o depoimento do ex-presidente.

Pena sem manicômio A respeito de desativação dos hospitais de custódia.

Polícia pede, e Justiça manda tirar Telegram do ar no país

A Justiça Federal do Espí-rito Santo mandou retirar o Telegram do ar no Brasil após a empresa não forne-cer à PF dados completos de grupos antissemitas fre-quentados pelo autor de ataque a escola no estado, segundo investigadores. Foi imposta multa diária de R\$ 1 milhão caso o apli-cativo descumpra a ordem anterior que exigiu as in-formações. A empresa não se manifestou. Cotidiano BI

Ex-presidente na Agrishow gera malestar com governo

Após a feira do agronegó-cio em Ribeirão Preto (SP) cio em Ribeirão Preto (SP) informar que Jair Bolsona-ro participará da abertu-ra, na segunda-feira (1º), o ministro da Agricultura, Carlos Fávaro, declinou de ir ao evento, que pode fi-car sem representantes do governo Lula. Mercado A26

Para alterar marco do saneamento, PT quer projeto de lei

O deputado José Guima-rães (PT-CE) defende o en-vio ao Congresso de proje-to de lei mudando o marco do saneamento. A ação tenta atender ao presiden-te da Câmara, Arthur Lira, descontente com alterações feitas pelo gover-no via decreto. Mercado A23

Petro troca ministros na Colômbia em meio a crise

Com dificuldades para aprovar reformas no Congresso, o presidente co-lombiano realizou a troca de sete ministros, en-tre eles o da Fazenda. A16







Misión de Observación de la OEA espera unos comicios libres y transparentes

Domingo clave: Continuismo, alternancia o antisistema

- Votar es crucial porque se puede ganar con solo un voto.
- Jóvenes plantean que se analice bien antes de sufragar.
- Premian a operador político con un jugoso salario en RREE.



LEO RUBIN SENADOR 40 9

más importante para renegociar el Anexo C será el aspecto económico

Para Brasil, lo

PÁGINA 17





la ley para evitar el conflicto de intereses en la función pública

CON ESTA EDICIÓN FASCICIALO DESADROLLO DE CONTENIDOS EN EL ABLA N. 7.

Custis you of shario

COMPRA OPCIONAL 1 LEVENDA'S OHE ASSAULTE N. 2. G. 55,000

COMPRA OPCIONAL 2 DE MINERO DE MUZICIA thrc G. 70,000

LA PICK UP

Calidad, Durabilidad y Conflabilidad



Abdo promulgó

Nenecho trasladó a los damnificados a una zona que es también inundable

PÁGINA 19

Fallo de la Corte permite que Belén Whittingslow pueda volver al Paraguay

Transmisión completa de las elecciones

Integrados. Este 30 de abril, Monumental, Telefuturo, NPY y Última Hora ar-

FALTAN

Chicanero serial: Cárdenas vuelve a accionar para evitar la cárcel

PÁCINA 50





lefigaro.fr

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



REPORTAGE À HAWAÏ, L'ENVERS SOMBRE D'UNE CARTE POSTALE ENSOLEILLÉE PAGE 14

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE GEORGE SAND, INTRÉPIDE VOYAGEUSE ET INFATIGABLE ÉPISTOLIÈRE **notre supplément**



UKRAINE Kiev se bat aussi sur le front de la corruption PAGE 6

HANDICAP Accessibilité: Macron annonce le passage à un système de sanctions PAGE 10

FAUNE

Hérissons, renards. grenouilles et faucons ont aussi leur hôpital à Beauval PAGE 11

Charlotte Yven et Loïs Berrehar à l'assaut de l'Atlantique en double mixte PAGE 12

ÉNERGIE

La Russie vend son pétrole aux pays du Golfe PAGE 22

MUSIQUE

Freddie Mercury: la légende de Queen aux enchères PAGE 32

 Le tête à tête de Charles Jaigu

 Les tribunes de Pierre-Henri Tavoillot et de Victor

Delage Les chroniques d'Eugénie Bastié et

de Luc Ferry · L'analyse de Tanguy Berthemet

FIGARO **OUI** IGARO **NON**

Réponses à la question de mercredi : Faut-il sanctionner

financièrement les patients qui ne se rendent pas à leurs rendez-vous médicaux?

80%

NON 20% TOTAL DE VOTANTS: 157841

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr

Avez-vous été convaincu par la feuille de route présentée par Élisabeth Borne?

HEODORE TRIMMER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Borne présente sa feuille de route sans convaincre

La première ministre, qui espère survivre au-delà du cap des « cent jours », a détaillé un catalogue de mesures tout en reculant sur l'immigration. Les oppositions sont sceptiques.

Emploi, santé, école, écologie, justice, sécurité... Élisabeth Borne a présenté mercredi, depuis l'Élysée, les priorités du gouvernement pour les pro-chains mois. Avec ce long ca-

talogue de mesures, la première ministre espère passer le cap des « cent jours », fixé par Emmanuel Macron. Mais cette nouvelle « feuille de route » ne résout en rien la crise politique

dans laquelle l'exécutif se retrouve plongé depuis la sé-quence de la réforme des re-traites. En témoigne le traites. En témoigne le nouveau recul du gouvernement sur la loi immigration,

faute d'avoir pu dégager une majorité pour la voter. Les op-positions n'ont d'ailleurs pas caché leur hostilité face aux déclarations d'intention d'Élisabeth Borne: Olivier Faure

(PS) égratigne une «feuille de route sans souffle », quand Ma-rine Le Pen (RN) juge qu' « Em-manuel Macron et Élisabeth Borne n'ont plus rien à dire ni à

→ OLIVIER DUSSOPT: «JE NE CONNAIS RIEN DE PLUS EFFICACE CONTRE LA PRÉCARITÉ QUE LE TRAVAIL.» → IMMIGRATION: UN RECUL DE PEUR DE «DIVISER LE PAYS»
→ L'OPÉRATION SURVIE DES MINISTRES ISSUS DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE → «VOUS ÉTES HORS SOL»: LE DIFFICILE QUOTIDIEN D'UNE DÉPUTÉE RENAISSANCE DU LOT PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'ÉDITORIAL.



Le Figaro a pu suivre un entraînement virtuel à la guerre de haute intensité depuis le poste de commandement rmelon. Commencée en février, l'opération Orion vise à préparer l'armée française à «toutes les menaces». PAGE 8

Pénurie de médicaments: le plan de Bruxelles sera-t-il suffisant?

La Commission européenne préconise toute une série de mesures afin d'assurer un bon approvisionnement de l'UE en médicaments dont la fabrication a été délocalisée en Chine ou en Inde. Elle souhaite imposer aux labo-ratoires une obligation de signaler les risques de pénurie six mois à l'avance, ainsi que les moyens d'y remédier. Les groupes pharmaceutiques s'inquiètent d'une ré-glementation tatillonne et peu efficace. PAGE 20



Les tiroirs vides

i c'est une intelligence artificielle qui a généré le discours d'Élisabeth Borne, l'être humain a encore de beaux jours devant lui, le système de rem-placement n'est pas encore au point. Ni souffle, ni rythme, ni variations de ton. Ni souffle, ni rythme, ni variations de ton. Des phrases qui défilent, construites à la chai-ne, sans que jamais la sensibilité, l'esprit, le cœur n'accrochent à ce qu'ils entendent. C'est froid, c'est plat, faussement technique, vraiment flou: métallique, robotique. On pense à Marc Bloch: « Étre précis, c'est se tenir proche du concret, ce n'est pas étiqueter à tour de brus des friedre vides. de bras des tiroirs vides. »

de brus des tirons vides. »

Il est vrai que la période est un peu confuse, mais, du désordre du moment, nous avions cru tirer deux enseignements. La politique devait reprendre ses droits sur la technocratie et le gouvernement, par nécessité plus que par conviction, devait basculer à droite. Au lieu de ça, nous avons retrouvé les meilleurs sons de la techno parade, et la loi immigra-tion, symbole déjà timide du retour de l'autorité de l'État, a été renvoyée à une date ulté-rieure. Si, de Mayotte aux côtes italiennes, tout indique que la pression migratoire est une urgence absolue, si huit Français sur dix veulent faciliter les expulsions de clandestins,

le sujet semble moins important que « Mon accompagnateur Rénov », tutoriel d'État pour décarboner son logement...

Un tel discours ne paraît même plus convaincre celle qui le prononce. Cela explique sans doute le tour crépusculaire de cette intervention. Pourtant, entre l'Élysée et Matignon, on ne sait plus qui est le plus fai-le. Si les signes

C'est froid, plat, faussement technique,

extérieurs - discours prononcé depuis l'Élysée, mise au point

vraiment flou sur l'usage du 49.3 - sont là pour rappeler qui commande, le programme développé, comme le maintien de Pap Ndiaye et d'Éric Dupond-Moretti au gouvernement, montre que les clins d'œil que le chef de l'État s'efforce de faire à la droite ne sont jamais suivis d'effet. C'est même le contraire : l'aile gauche de la majorité se plaint d'être oubliée, se réfugie derrière la première ministre et Emmanuel Macron finit par céder. Le «en même temps», c'est l'assurance-vie d'Élisabeth Borne. Il lui permet de tenir, même épuisée, en prenant le chef de l'État à son propre piège.





'Concerns raised' over Barclay's conduct towards civil servants

Exclusive Staff referred to health secretary's 'bullying', say sources

Pippa Crerar Denis Campbell Aubrey Allegretti

Officials from the Department of Health have "raised concerns" about the health secretary Steve Barclay's alleged conduct towards

civil servants, the Guardian has been told. Sources said the civil servants had informally complained to Chris Wormald, the department's perma-nent secretary, about the way they believed they and colleagues had been treated.

They said senior civil servants in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) had privately referred to "bullying" and other "bad behaviour" by Barclay towards his staff since he joined the Whitehall depart-ment in July last year. The alleged conduct is denied by Barclay's allies.

The department said it had not received any formal complaints over the behaviour of its ministers, but did not deny having been alerted to con-cerns informally in the way sources described. The raising of allegations at such a senior level points to another example of the deterioration in relations between ministers and civil servants in Whitehall.

The concerns over Barclay predate the publication of the Tolley report on the conduct of Dominic Raab, which found last week that he had bullied civil servants. Raab resigned as deputy prime minister and justice secretary.

One source said there were "a lot of unhappy people at the Depart-ment of Health just now", in part as a result of Barclay's behaviour. Another said officials in his private office had "borne the brunt" of his behaviour. "Everyone finds him quite challeng-

ing," said a third source.
Two other Whitehall sources alleged that he had regularly "blasted" staff in full view of others in the office. One of these insiders said was "constantly angry", which

was "very difficult" for officials, who now "don't want to have meetings with him". Another source claimed that there were occasions where he had "deliberately ignored" staff who tried to talk to him.

A separate source added: "Barclay's style is very macho ... He would say that he's forensic. But in reality he's a micromanager. He hauls people over the coals and is generally a bit unpleasant."

An ally of Barclay denied the allegations over his conduct, asying: "These allegations

UK 'close to new era of dementia treatment'

Exclusive Hannah Devlin Science correspondent

Today's generation of older people could be the last to face the spectre of untreatable Alzheimer's disease, according to the co-chair of the government's new dementia mission.

Hilary Evans, who was appointed last month, said the world was "on the cusp of a new dawn" for dementia treatments that meant devastating neurodegenerative illness would no longer be seen as inevitable in old age.

However, Evans, who is also chief executive of Alzheimer's Research UK, said an overhaul of NHS dementia care was needed to ensure patients could access the first effective Alzheimer's drugs, which may be approved in the UK as soon as next year

"This could be the last generation that doesn't





Morgan did know of hacking, says Harry

Jim Waterson

Prince Harry has claimed Piers Morgan "knew about, encouraged and concealed" the illegal targeting of Diana, Princess of Wales when he was editor of the News of the World.

Harry alleges that his mother's pri-vate text messages and phone calls were obtained by journalists working for Rupert Murdoch's tabloid newspapers before she died, with the information used as the basis for several stories in the Sun and the News of the World.

Harry alleges in court documents that this illegal targeting of Diana - as well as the then Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles - was known about and hidden by Morgan and other editors in the mid-1990s

Morgan, who hosts a nightly show on Murdoch's



Offer! Subscribe to get your Guardian at half price