

## What's News

### Business & Finance

Montana's governor signed the country's first bill that outright bans TikTok in a state, paving the way for a legal fight that could determine the fate of a nationwide prohibition that is under consideration in Washington. **A1**

Deutsche Bank has agreed to pay \$75 million to settle a proposed class-action lawsuit claiming that it facilitated Epstein's sex-trafficking ring, said lawyers who sued the bank on behalf of alleged victims. **A1**

Target's sales suffered in the most recent quarter as shoppers stopped splurging as frequently on items that make up the bulk of the retailer's annual revenue. **B1**

Crypto company Tether pledged to buy more bitcoin for its stablecoin reserves, adding to the \$1.5 billion of bitcoin already backing its dollar-pegged token. **B1**

Major U.S. stock indexes rallied, with the S&P 500 and Dow industrials both gaining 1.2% and the Nasdaq advancing 1.3%. **B11**

Shein raised \$2 billion in its latest fundraising round that values it at \$66 billion, about one-third less than a year earlier, according to people close to the company. **B1**

Theranos founder Holmes must report to prison by May 30, a judge said, after a court denied her request to remain free pending appeal of her conviction. **B3**

Francisco Partners and TPG are working together on a \$5 billion-plus bid to acquire software company New Relic, according to people familiar with the matter. **B3**

### World - Wide

Ukraine is taking aim at Russia's ammunition stores and caches of other supplies that Moscow's forces need to fight, seeking to weaken them strike by pinpoint strike ahead of an expected ground campaign to push back the Russian invaders. **A1, A8**

Biden will seek to maintain unity among allies in supporting Ukraine and countering China's economic clout at a G7 summit, as the threat of default in the U.S. complicates that message. **A9**

House Democrats started collecting signatures for a discharge petition to raise the debt ceiling, a long-shot maneuver designed to circumvent House GOP leadership and force a vote. **A4**

Florida Gov. DeSantis will officially enter the race for president next week as the Republican's campaign donors begin a fundraising blitz, people familiar with the decision said. **A4**

A federal appeals court expressed skepticism of Biden administration arguments that judges shouldn't second-guess the Food and Drug Administration's approval of a widely used abortion pill. **A4**

The White House has made periodic calls to the Kremlin to demand the release of American detainees. Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan, according to Russia's foreign minister. **A8**

Ecuador's president dissolved the national legislature ahead of an impeachment vote and amid growing unrest in the Andean country. **A7**

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## At Annapolis, It Takes an Arm and a Leg to Get Ahead



SLIPPERY SLOPE: U.S. Naval Academy first-year 'plebes' take part in the annual Herndon Climb, scaling the 21-foot granite obelisk coated with vegetable shortening to knock a 'Dixie cup' hat off the top and replace it with an upperclassman's hat.

## Offensive Before the Offensive: Ukraine Hits Enemy Supplies

By ISABEL COLES AND DANIEL MICHAELS

KYIV, Ukraine—Ukraine is taking aim at Russia's ammunition stores and caches of other supplies that Moscow's forces need to fight, seeking to weaken them strike by pinpoint strike ahead of an expected ground campaign to push back the Russian invaders.

Call it the offensive before the offensive. Early this month, four drones attacked a Russian oil refinery almost 300 miles from Ukraine. The next day,

another drone hit it. Not long after another drone bombed a fuel depot on the other side of Russia, near Belarus.

Ukrainian leaders said they are waiting for more Western weapons to arrive before launching what has been billed as a "spring offensive" that is now likely to play out over the summer, spearheaded by newly trained units equipped with Western-supplied tanks, armored fighting vehicles and artillery.

To set the stage, Ukraine has stepped up attacks on positions well inside Russian-

held territory, part of what strategists call shaping operations, which are aimed at undermining the enemy and probing for gaps to exploit.

Ukraine staged similar attacks last year using U.S.-supplied HIMARS rocket systems before retaking territory in the Kharkiv region and the city of Kherson. Now it is reaching farther, using drones as well as newly supplied British long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles.

For Ukraine, which is battling a larger military, the attacks are important to chip away at Rus-

sia's battlefield resources.

Any engagement longer than a few days becomes a logistical contest, said commanders, so destroying stores of ammunition, fuel and spare parts can be more significant than taking out individual tanks or artillery pieces, because the impact can be broader. A tank without fuel or shells is of little use.

"This is the preparatory

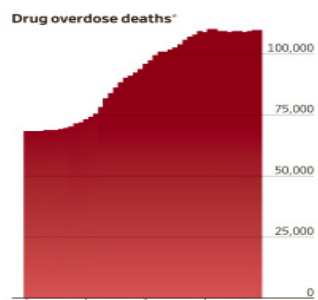
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Russian missile barrages strike southern Ukraine... A8

U.S. calls Kremlin, seeking men's release... A8

## Overdose Deaths Plateau At Record

Overdose deaths in the U.S. edged higher in 2022, a federal estimate shows, marking only the second time drugs killed more than 100,000 people in a year. The high overdose death toll reflects fentanyl's ubiquity and potency in the market for illicit drugs. **A10**



Provisional data for the 12 months ending in the month shown. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Young Americans Are Dying At Alarming Rates

Four main causes pushed up mortality, reversing years of declines

By JANET ADAMY

For decades, advances in healthcare and safety steadily drove down death rates among American children. In an alarming reversal, rates have now risen to the highest level in nearly 15 years, particularly driven by homicides, drug overdoses, car accidents and suicides.

The uptick among younger Americans accelerated in 2020. Though Covid-19 itself wasn't a major cause of death for young people, researchers say social disruption caused by the pandemic exacerbated public-health

problems, including worsening anxiety and depression. Greater access to firearms, dangerous driving and more lethal narcotics also helped push up death rates.

Between 2019 and 2020, the overall mortality rate for ages 1 to 19 rose by 10.7%, and increased by an additional 8.3% the following year, according to an analysis of federal death statistics led by Steven Woolf, director emeritus of the Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University, published in JAMA in March. That's the highest increase for two consecutive years in the half-century

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## Financier Is All Over WeWork Deal

By ELIOT BROWN

SoftBank Group's losses on WeWork continue to pile up. A familiar face has come to the rescue.

Longtime SoftBank financier Rajeev Misra's new investment to SoftBank's billionaire founder Masayoshi Son, Misra struck out on his own last summer, while agreeing to stay on part-

time to oversee SoftBank's first Vision Fund, which held a 13% stake in WeWork as of late March.

The debt deal involving Misra's new fund and his previous full-time employer puts the former Deutsche Bank executive, considered one of the world's most prolific debt deal makers, on two sides of the same deal.

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## Deutsche Bank Sets \$75 Million Accord With Epstein Victims

By JAMES FANELLI AND KHADEEJA SAFFAR

Deutsche Bank has agreed to pay \$75 million to settle a proposed class-action lawsuit claiming that the financial institution facilitated Jeffrey Epstein's sex-trafficking ring, said lawyers who sued the bank on behalf of alleged victims.

A woman who is listed anonymously as Jane Doe in court papers filed the suit last year in New York on behalf of herself and other accusers of the disgraced financier. She alleged Deutsche Bank did business with Epstein for five years while knowing that he was using money in his bank accounts to further his sex-trafficking activity.

The Doe plaintiff alleged she was sexually abused by Epstein and trafficked to his friends from about 2003 until about 2018 and was also paid

in cash for sex acts. The lawsuit alleged Deutsche Bank ignored red flags including payments to numerous young women. The settlement is expected to compensate dozens of accusers.

Epstein died by suicide in a federal jail in New York in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex-trafficking charges.

Dylan Riddle, a spokesman for Deutsche Bank, declined to comment on the settlement but said the bank has invested more than 4 billion euros, the equivalent of \$5.24 billion, to bolster controls, training and operational processes, and has increased the size of its workforce dedicated to fighting financial crime. "In recent years Deutsche Bank has made considerable progress in remedying a num-

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## Where's Shaq? Lawyers for FTX Investors Struggle to Serve Him

Do legal papers tossed at the basketball legend's moving SUV count?

By JOSEPH DE AVILA

Shaquille O'Neal, the 7-foot-1-inch NBA Hall of Famer turned actor, sports analyst and entertainer, is all over TV and has millions of social-media followers. He is one of the most recognizable people on the planet.

There's one group of people

who had trouble finding Shaq, and that is the process servers hired to formally notify him he's being sued.

O'Neal is one of several celebrities named in a proposed class-action lawsuit filed by FTX investors against the collapsed cryptocurrency exchange and the stars who go along with it.

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## INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL  
Couples are turning to new AI tools to translate their feelings into wedding vows. **A11**



**Are AI tools dangerous? Unease grows over risks**

Americans surveyed worry that technology could be used to spread hate and lies. **In Money**

**Jack Harlow says acting took him out of music 'box'**

Rapper teams up with actor Sinqua Walls in remake of "White Men Can't Jump." **In Life**

**10 players to make impression at PGA**

Scottie Scheffler, clockwise from top, Rory McIlroy and Brooks Koepka are among picks to win championship at Oak Hill. **In Sports**

**USA TODAY**  
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USA TODAY SPORTS AND USA TODAY NETWORK PHOTOS



**Biden pushes back over debt limit**

President blasts GOP's new work requirements

Joey Garrison  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden pushed back Wednesday at new work requirements for welfare programs that Republicans covet in a package to raise the debt ceiling, insisting that any changes he supports would be insignificant yet not taking the issue off the table entirely.

Expanded work requirements for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and Medicaid have emerged as a key sticking point in debt-ceiling talks between the White House and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

"I'm not going to accept any work requirements that's going to impact on the medical health needs of people," Biden said in remarks from the White House Roosevelt Room before he departed to Japan for a Group of Seven summit. He added that he would not accept any expanded work require-

See DEBT LIMIT, Page 5A

**IN MONEY**

**No guarantee with deal:** Averting default could still trigger recession. **1B**

**NYC SUBWAY KILLING**

**Chokehold death hardens a stark divide**

Trevor Hughes  
USA TODAY

A former Marine stops a violent homeless man from harassing subway passengers, choking him into submission and drawing accolades for his willingness to step in.

A well-known Black street performer who struggled with mental health and homelessness for years dies at the hands of a white military man in front of horrified onlookers.

Jordan Neely's death May 1 on a New York City subway train highlights the Grand Canyon-size rift between the left and the right in how we see race relations and social justice amid a national debate about crime and vigilante justice. It's a rift that politicians are eager to exploit as part of the 2024 presidential election, experts say.

Rashad Robinson, president of the online-focused civil rights group Color of Change, said many white people see Penny's actions as justified because they see police officers doing the same thing, a situation exacerbated by politicians who refused to condemn Neely's death and oppose vigilante justice.

"It should not be surprising, given

See SUBWAY, Page 4A

**ELECTIONS PRIMARIES FIRSTS**

**A good night for Black candidates, Democrats**



A banner along Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia on Tuesday reminds voters it's election day. Voters cast ballots for mayor, commissioner, city controller, register of wills, sheriff, at-large council, and district council as well as statewide and city judicial races and ballot issues. Cherelle Parker won the Democratic mayoral primary. **TOM GRALISH/AP**

**GOP overrides veto; 12-week abortion ban to be law in NC**

Thao Nguyen  
USA TODAY

North Carolina's Republican-controlled Legislature overrode the governor's veto of legislation banning most abortions after 12 weeks, further restricting abortion in the state.

The override vote was completed in back-to-back sessions Tuesday night by the state House and Senate — marking a victory for the new supermajority Republican Legislature. The state now bans abortions after

See ABORTION, Page 5A

**Republicans lose in Florida, Pennsylvania and Colorado**

David Jackson  
USA TODAY

An off-year set of elections Tuesday produced a bevy of firsts, particularly for Democrats and Black candidates.

Philadelphia is poised to elect its first woman of color as mayor, while Colorado Springs did elect its first Black male as mayor.

Jacksonville, Florida, elected its first Democratic mayor in decades, defeating a candidate backed by Republican governor and likely 2024 presidential candidate Ron DeSantis. The Jacksonville result also demonstrated the vulnerability of Republicans in the Donald Trump era, analysts said.

"Democrats just flipped the biggest city Republicans controlled," a tweet from former Florida congressman and MSNBC host Joe Scarborough's account said. "And they did it in the heart of DeSantis Country. Trump's Republicans keep losing in places like Jacksonville, Wisconsin, and Kansas. How long will they keep driving their car off the cliff?"

Republicans also had some successes Tuesday. In Kentucky, GOP primary voters nominated Attorney General Daniel Cameron for governor, the first Black Republican to win such a race in state history.

A brief rundown of Tuesday's results:

See ELECTIONS, Page 5A

**How families fought a killer chemical — and won**



Lauren Atkins took action after her son, Joshua, died while using a paint stripper containing methylene chloride on his BMX bike. "You have to have persistence," she says. "When it comes to somebody's life, especially when it's your child, you'll find it." PROVIDED BY LAUREN ATKINS

"It's rare that we do this in America. These families are my heroes."

Dr. Robert Harrison  
University of California, San Francisco

**After 3 deaths 10 months apart, methylene chloride is off shelves**

Jamie Smith Hopkins  
Center for Public Integrity

A bathtub. A floor. A bike. The items Kevin Hartley, Drew Wynne and Joshua Atkins had been working on at the time of their deaths less than 10 months apart varied, but what cut their lives short was the same: a chemical in paint strippers and other products sold in stores nationwide.

In their grief and horror, their families vowed to fight like heck to keep methylene chloride from killing again.

Get it off the shelves. Ban it. But in the United States, with its checkered history of weak worker and consumer protections, astonishingly few chemicals have ever met that fate. That's how methylene chloride became a serial killer despite warnings of its fumes' dangers before Hartley, Wynne and Atkins had even been born. No agency intervened as it struck down dozens of people — if not more — in recent decades.

See CHEMICAL, Page 4A

PHOTO AND ILLUSTRATION BY PELLEGRINI  
PressReader.com +1 604 278 4604



## Do blood tests to spot cancer really work?

BIG READ, PAGE 15

## Why Harris is key to Biden's campaign

EDWARD LUCE, PAGE 17

## Rising waters Climate alarm as Italy floods

Residents are piggybacked through the flooded streets of Faenza in Italy yesterday by members of the national carabinieri. Dramatic flooding after two days of heavy rainfall in northern Italy have led to deaths and damage along the country's Adriatic coast.

The expected return of the El Niño weather cycle, which involves a warming of the Pacific Ocean's surface, is set to lead to more extreme weather events such as the flooding in Italy this week.

The World Meteorological Organization warned yesterday that global temperatures were likely to exceed 1.5C above pre-industrial levels for the first time in human history within the next five years. Scientists said there was a 66 per cent chance that the annual mean global surface temperature rise would temporarily surpass that level in "at least" one year by 2027.

Global warming accelerates page 2



Anna del Carabiniere

### Briefing

► **UBS calculates lower gain from Credit Suisse deal**  
The Swiss lender has said it will make a nearly \$55bn accounting gain from the takeover of its rival, less than some had calculated, in a US filing. — PAGE 6; LEX, PAGE 18

► **Ecuador in snap election**  
President Guillermo Lasso has triggered a "mutual death" clause and dissolved congress, setting a three-month deadline for holding fresh elections. — PAGE 4

► **Habeck sacks aide**  
Germany's economy minister has fired a close aide over a nepotism scandal that has hurt his Green party and dealt a blow to its environmental agenda. — PAGE 2

► **Japan exits recession**  
The country has emerged from a technical recession on the back of a recovery in household spending and tourism although exports remain a weak point. — PAGE 4

► **Sunak in China U-turn**  
The UK prime minister has backtracked on his pledge to ban Confucius Institutes from operating in Britain to ease relations with Beijing. — PAGE 3

► **VW enters Huawei talks**  
The German carmaker is in discussions with the Chinese group and others on the use of its technology despite a western push to cut China links. — PAGE 8

# Rating agencies warn of downgrades if nations fail to tackle costs of ageing

◆ Pension and healthcare bills soar ◆ Higher rates amplify impact ◆ Sovereign credit profiles at risk

MARY MCOUGALL — LONDON

Ageing populations are hitting public finances across the world, with rating agencies warning that recent interest rate rises have increased the impact of higher pensions and healthcare costs.

As interest rates soar in response to the biggest surge in inflation for a generation, Moody's, S&P and Fitch have all warned that worsening demographics are hitting governments' credit ratings. They add that downgrades are likely without sweeping reforms, threatening to create a vicious circle of higher fiscal burdens and rising borrowing costs.

"In the past, demographics were a medium to long-term consideration," said Dietmar Hornung, associate managing director at Moody's Investors

Service. "Now, the future is with us and already hitting sovereign credit profiles."

The US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of England all raised interest rates this month to their highest levels since the financial crisis — increasing governments' debt servicing costs.

"While demographics are slow moving, the problem is becoming more urgent," said Edward Parker, global

**"The longer governments defer action, the more painful that action will be"**

Edward Parker, Fitch

head of research for sovereigns and supranationals at Fitch, which last month downgraded France's credit rating, warning that President Emmanuel Macron's reform agenda could stall.

"We are well into the adverse effects in many countries, and they are only growing," Parker added.

Rating agencies say the rise in borrowing costs is compounding both the impact on growth of changes in working-age populations and the hit to public finances from rising healthcare and pension bills.

That has affected the outlook for debt in Japan, the US and the EU, where the share of the population over 65 will rise from 20 per cent now to 30 per cent by 2050, according to the European Commission.

Marko Mrsnik, lead sovereign analyst at S&P Global Ratings, said a single percentage point increase in borrowing costs would increase debt to gross domestic product ratios for Japan, Italy, the UK and the US by 40-60 percentage points by 2060.

"That is a very significant increase, and implies [that] reforms that address ageing pressures or other fiscal reforms would likely be needed if government debt is to remain sustainable," he said.

S&P said in January that about half of the world's largest economies would be downgraded to junk by 2060, up from around a third, if measures were not taken to ease the costs of ageing populations.

It estimated that, in the absence of reforms to ageing-related fiscal policies,

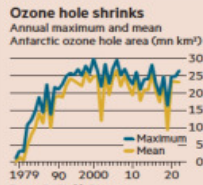
the typical government would run a deficit of 9.1 per cent of GDP by 2060, a huge increase from 2.4 per cent in 2025.

S&P also forecast that pension costs would rise an average of 4.5 percentage points of GDP by 2060, reaching 9.5 per cent, albeit with a large variation among countries. The rating agency projected that between 2022 and 2060, healthcare spending would rise by 2.7 percentage points of GDP for the median country.

"The longer governments defer action, then the more painful that action will be," said Parker.

Analysts say that central and southern European countries have among the worst demographic profiles worldwide, while singling out Germany, whose population is ageing at one of the fastest rates in the world.

### Datawatch



Since pacts such as the Montreal Protocol were agreed on phasing out ozone-depleting substances, their atmospheric levels have been falling. As a result, the size of the hole in the ozone layer has been decreasing in recent years.



## VistaJets toils under debt burden after rapid ascent

Thomas Flohr built his private jet company VistaJets through audacious deals, disrupting a market led by Berkshire Hathaway's NetJets. But a doubling of net debt to \$4.4bn last year to fund acquisitions and aircraft orders has raised questions over his strategy. While subscriptions to VistaJets' services have increased, the combination of debt and losses has cast doubt on its ability to continue as a going concern, EY has warned. **Disrupter flies high** — PAGE 9

# Penguin sues Florida school district for banning books on race, sex and gender

ANDREW JACK — NEW YORK

Penguin Random House is suing a Florida school district for banning several of its books, in the latest pushback by companies and organisations against "anti-woke" action by US political conservatives.

The publisher joined forces with Pen America and a group of affected authors after it claimed the Escambia County School Board "unlawfully removes or restricts access to books about race, racism and LGBTQ+ identities".

The district, which borders Alabama, withdrew books including works by Penguin authors Toni Morrison, Kurt Vonnegut and Khalid Hosseini.

Penguin's action follows a series of litigations after politicians led by Ron DeSantis, Florida's Republican governor and probable contender in the 2024 US

presidential race, endorsed measures constraining teaching in schools and colleges, and limiting broader efforts, including among employers, to support diversity.

Walt Disney has become the most prominent organisation to sue the state of Florida, claiming that its retaliation for its stance on DeSantis's "Don't Say Gay" law violated its constitutional rights. Free speech organisations, including Fire and Pen America, have also sought injunctions against a range of recent legislation in Florida and other US states.

Penguin, which is requesting restoration of the books to libraries plus costs, said the litigation was the first such action it had undertaken.

But, in co-operation with Pen America, it is exploring actions in other states that have taken similar measures.

"Books have the capacity to change lives for the better and students in particular deserve equitable access to a wide range of perspective," said Nihar Malaviya, Penguin's chief executive. "Censorship, in the form of book bans like those enacted by Escambia County, are a direct threat to democracy and our constitutional rights."

Suzanne Nossel, chief executive of Pen America, said: "In Escambia County, state censors are spiriting books off shelves in a deliberate attempt to silence pluralism and diversity. In a nation built on free speech, this cannot stand."

Since January 2021, her organisation has tracked 306 "educational gag order bills" introduced in 45 US states, while 22 have become law in 16 states. It has identified 4,000 individual bans from July 2021 to December 2022.

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	May 17	Prev	%Chg	Pair	May 17	Prev	%Chg	Yield (%)	May 17	Prev	Chg
S&P 500	4132.54	4109.30	0.55	\$/€	1.082	1.087	-0.5	US 2 yr	4.14	4.08	+0.06
Nasdaq Composite	12412.85	12343.05	0.57	\$/£	1.247	1.256	-0.8	US 10 yr	3.57	3.56	+0.02
Dow Jones Ind	33208.37	33012.14	0.59	\$/¥	0.869	0.870	-0.1	US 30 yr	3.87	3.89	-0.02
FTSEurofirst 300	1836.64	1838.98	-0.13	€/¥	137.425	136.505	0.7	UK 2 yr	3.95	3.90	+0.05
Euro Stoxx 50	4320.75	4315.51	0.12	€/HK\$	171.321	170.576	0.4	UK 10 yr	3.98	3.86	+0.02
FTSE 100	7722.23	7751.08	-0.36	€/INR	80.127	80.171	-0.05	UK 30 yr	4.23	4.22	+0.01
FTSE All-Share	4210.17	4224.75	-0.35	\$/HK\$	0.973	0.974	-0.1	JPN 2 yr	-0.08	-0.08	0.00
CAC 40	7599.44	7406.01	+0.00	\$/CNY	7.121	7.120	0.0	JPN 10 yr	0.36	0.39	-0.03
Xetra Dax	15851.30	15897.93	0.34	\$/AUD	1.529	1.528	0.1	JPN 30 yr	1.20	1.24	-0.03
Nikkei	30050.59	29842.98	0.94	\$/NZD	1.594	1.593	0.1	GER 2 yr	2.89	2.84	+0.06
Hang Seng	19560.57	19978.25	-2.09	\$/SGD	1.345	1.344	0.1	GER 10 yr	2.33	2.35	-0.02
MSCI World \$	2862.38	2813.47	+0.61	\$/KRW	119.1	119.0	0.1	GER 30 yr	2.51	2.55	-0.04
MSCI EM \$	979.24	977.48	0.18	\$/BRL	5.27	5.26	0.2				
MSCI ACWI \$	648.23	651.63	-0.52	\$/INR	72.36	70.86	2.15				
FT Worldshare 2500	5304.46	5345.66	-0.77	\$/RUB	76.43	74.91	2.03				
FT Worldshare 5000	41346.30	41670.04	-0.78	\$/TRY	2007.45	2019.90	-0.62				

Prices are latest for section  
Data provided by Morningstar







Ukrainian troops of the 28th Mechanized Brigade on the outskirts of the eastern city of Bakhmut, where territory has been retaken.

## Small Advance Kindles Hopes For Kyiv Forces

### Move Puts Russia on Its Heels Near Bakhmut

By MARC SANTORA

DONBAS REGION, Ukraine — Russian forces spent nearly a year carving a path of devastation and death in their bid to surround the city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, and by March it seemed they were close to succeeding.

"The pincers are closing," said Yevgeny Prigozhin, the founder of the Wagner mercenary group that spearheaded Russia's bloody drive.

He was wrong. The pincers never closed, and now Ukrainian forces have pried them farther open, taking back territory north and south of the ruined city in a few days that it took the Russians many weeks to capture.

Moscow's troops still hold most of Bakhmut itself, Ukraine's recent gains around the city are not large and there is no guarantee that they will last. But for the first time in months, Ukrainian soldiers are on the offensive and the momentum in the longest and bloodiest battle of the war appears to have shifted their way — at least for now.

Continued Ukrainian advances would reverse the situation of a few months ago, putting the Russians inside Bakhmut at risk of being surrounded and trapped, and would demonstrate that the deep, fortified lines the Russians have built across Ukraine can be breached.

Success around Bakhmut would also provide a major morale boost for Ukraine and a serious blow to Russia, denying it the only military achievement that for months had seemed within its grasp.

The possible reversal of fortunes comes as Ukraine is preparing to mount a broader counteroffensive, aiming for a dramatic breakthrough in a war that has settled into a grueling slugfest, with much blood spilled but little ground gained. While the dynamics around Bakhmut are somewhat specific to that battle, Ukrainian commanders say they hope to build on the lessons learned there when they try to attack in other places along the 600-mile front line.

"When you retreat it is very difficult to stop," said Col. Andriy Biletsky, the commander of Ukraine's 3rd Assault Brigade, whose soldiers made the first breakthrough of the Russian lines last week. "When you want to advance, it is very difficult to start."

He cautioned that he was waiting to see if "there is a chain of five, six, seven victories" before assessing the state of the fighting, but he was hopeful.

"We can say that the phase of blind defense near Bakhmut has passed and now at least there will

Continued on Page A7

## UKRAINE'S ALLIES SPAR OVER A PUSH TO SEND F-16 JETS

### U.S. REBUFFING EUROPE

#### Americans Doubt Need, but They've Relented on Other Weapons

By LARA JAKES and ERIC SCHMITT

ROME — A fresh push by Britain and the Netherlands to provide Ukraine with F-16 fighter planes has exposed the latest fault line among Western allies who have wrangled repeatedly over sending powerful weapons of war, once again pitting a reluctant United States against some of its closest European partners.

Several European allies are prepared to give their F-16s to Ukraine. But the Biden administration, which must approve any transfers of the American-made planes, remains unconvinced that Ukraine needs the expensive jets, which are a staple of many modern military arsenals.

So deep is Washington's skepticism that Kyiv's pilots are currently not even allowed to train on the F-16s that are owned by Euro-



The Dutch need U.S. approval to provide Ukraine with F-16s.

pean states, according to a senior Ukrainian official who spoke on condition of anonymity to frankly discuss the sensitive diplomatic issue.

American reluctance to allow training would severely limit a proposed new European coalition to help Ukraine obtain and fly F-16s — whether in the current conflict or to protect against any future aggressions by Moscow after the West turns its focus from the 15-month war.

"What's really important here is to signal to Russia that we as nations have no philosophical or principled objection to supplying Ukraine capabilities that it needs, depending on what is going on in the battlefield," the British defense minister, Ben Wallace, said on Wednesday in Berlin. He added: "This is up to the White House to decide whether it wants to release that technology."

Continued on Page A6

## Uneasy Questions for Chokehold Witnesses

By CHELSIA ROSE MARCIUS

As Jordan Neely struggled to free himself from a chokehold in the New York City subway earlier this month, there were the passengers who pinned him down and the passengers who watched.

Two men helped restrain Mr. Neely while Daniel Penny, an ex-Marine, held him on the floor of an F train that had stopped in a Manhattan station, a four-minute video of the May 1 episode shows.

Around 10 passengers observed the three holding down Mr. Neely, 30, who slipped into unconsciousness. A woman tried to walk around the cluster of people on the floor, but seeing Mr. Neely flail his legs, she bit her lip and stepped back, the video shows. Another

## Subway Riders Had No Legal Duty to Step In to Avert a Death

Nor, under New York law, did he have to.

Nationally, the killing of Mr. Neely, who the police said had been acting in a "hostile and erratic manner," has set off a broad political debate: Many Democrats

called for Mr. Penny's arrest, while conservative political figures called him a hero. Supporters have donated almost \$2.5 million for his defense.

But in New York, one of the nation's most densely populated cities, the death has prompted conversation about what moral duty onlookers have to one another and to the most troubled people among them.

The legal standard is clear: No U.S. state explicitly requires civilian strangers to physically intervene when they see an adult in danger, though some impose a duty to report wrongdoing and two set an ambiguous standard of rendering assistance. The value of such legislation has been debated for years, according to people who

Continued on Page A21

## MILESTONE VOTE IN PHILADELPHIA

### A Woman Wins in a City in Need of a Boost

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON

PHILADELPHIA — The afternoon before Election Day, Jennifer Robinson, 41, was trying to manage her two small children in the quiet corner of a public library in a pocket of her city that had endured generations of abandonment. She was despondent about the state of Philadelphia, most of all about the crime, but she talked about the mayoral primary as if it had little bearing on any of it.

"Nobody has any answers," Ms. Robinson said, shifting her restless 11-month-old from arm to arm. "It's a feeling of hopelessness."

This is the city that Cherelle Parker will be leading as mayor if she wins the general election in November, and these are the sentiments she will be trying to turn around. On Tuesday, Ms. Parker, a former state legislator and City Council member, secured a surprisingly decisive victory in a Democratic primary that had been seen as a tight five-way race up until Election Day.

The huge number of undecideds in the last polls appear to have broken heavily for Ms. Parker, 50, the only Black candidate of the five main contenders hoping to lead a city where Black people make up more than 40 percent of the population and where the Black neighborhoods have been especially hard hit by gun violence and Covid.

If she wins the general election, which she is favored to do given that registered Democrats outnumber Republicans in Philadelphia more than seven to one, Ms. Parker will be the first woman in a line of 100 mayors.

That list of men goes back centuries, before the city had established itself as the cradle of American independence, and long before President Biden came to Independence Hall last September to warn the nation about threats to democracy.

For Philadelphia, Ms. Parker's primary victory is a sign of how the city has changed in just the last half-century. For most of the 1970s, the mayor was Frank Rizzo, a former police commissioner who embraced brutal police tactics.

Continued on Page A16

## For Gen Z, Playing Influencer Comes Naturally

By SAPNA MAHESHWARI

Rachel Aaron, a 24-year-old who works in public relations in New York, recently dressed up for a work event at Bloomingdale's. In the era of "get ready with me" videos on TikTok, it was a golden opportunity to create content.

Ms. Aaron, who has just 3,300 followers on TikTok, filmed herself chatting to the camera while selecting a black Skims dress, a blazer and a belt. Her post garnered a few hundred views and some favorable comments like "Slay mamas."

Ms. Aaron is not a major social media star, nor is she a celebrity. At least not yet. But she is part of a generation that is increasingly posting on social media in the manner of professional influencers: sharing daily routines, pitching or unboxing products, modeling clothing and advertising personal Amazon storefronts. These videos are often viewed as cool and entrepreneurial by peers (and sometimes by bemused parents). They can also lead to free stuff and extra cash.

Ms. Aaron lists an email for brand inquiries on her TikTok profile and a link to her page on Linktree, a site that gathers her commercial affiliations into one place as a way to signal her clout as a tastemaker. Among the links is her Poshmark page, where she resells her clothing.

"It's more generally accepted among people my age to speak to

Continued on Page A20



Rachel Aaron, 24, shares product recommendations on TikTok.

### NATIONAL A10-21, 24

#### Abortion Pill Access in Doubt

A federal appeals court appeared prepared to curtail the availability of a common abortion medication. PAGE A17

#### New York's Crumbling Garages

A fatal collapse last month raised questions about the state of the city's many aging parking structures. PAGE A18



### INTERNATIONAL A4-9

#### Ecuador Congress Dissolved

President Guillermo Lasso disbanded the National Assembly as the opposition-led body was trying to oust him on embezzlement charges. PAGE A7

#### A Hidden Anti-Gay Bias

Japan is under pressure to show greater support for equality, but a religious group is pushing the other way. PAGE A8

### OBITUARIES B11-12

#### Father of Fantastical Puppets

Ralph Lee was also the creator of a New York tradition, the Village Halloween Parade. He was 87. PAGE B12

### BUSINESS B1-5

#### Buyers Eager for Electric Vans

Passenger cars dominate the E.V. market as production problems slow the transition to electric by large commercial fleets and small operators. PAGE B1

#### Lawsuit Filed Over Book Ban

A Florida school district is accused of violating the First Amendment and the equal protection clause. PAGE B5

### SPORTS B6-10

#### Negro Leagues History

Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, N.J., will begin its new life as a minor league park and a Negro leagues museum. PAGE B6

### ARTS C1-6

#### Life After 'Succession'

The longtime actor Alan Ruck, who plays Connor Roy in the HBO series, reflects on embodying a CEO. PAGE C1

#### Brooklyn's Batcave Reborn

A cavernous hall once known as a canvas for graffiti artists is reopening as a \$180 million art factory. PAGE C1



## Harry, Meghan and the Frenzy That Follows Their Every Move

This article is by Chelsia Rose Marcus, Mark Landler, Hurdie Meho and Michael M. Grynbaum.

The statement was alarming, unmistakably evocative of the car chase that killed Princess Diana 26 years ago: Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, had been "involved in a rare catastrophic car chase at the hands of a ring of highly aggressive paparazzi," according to an unnamed spokesperson for the couple.

That story, of a chaotic and dangerous pursuit through Midtown Manhattan on Tuesday night, ricocheted all over the world on Wednesday morning, making headlines on both sides of the Atlantic. CNN, which like Sky News

and outlets all over the world provided minute-by-minute updates, reported that a member of the couple's security team said the episode "could have been fatal."

But as more details emerged on Wednesday from the accounts of the police and a taxi driver who was briefly involved, the picture became more complicated.

It illustrated any number of issues surrounding the Duke and Duchess of Sussex: their incandescent fame and the news media's endless appetite for stories about them; their frosty relationship with the Crown and their fight for a royal security detail; and their determination to avoid the paparazzi's lenses, surely in-

Continued on Page A20

### THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

#### Earmuffs as Fashion Staple

Alyyah Bah, 20, cultivated her quirky aesthetic online. Now Lizzo is one of her three million ardent followers. PAGE D5

#### Decluttering Like a Star

The actress Chloë Sevigny held a sale of clothing from her closet. Hopeful shoppers lined up around the block. PAGE D1

### OPINION A22-23

#### Gail Collins

PAGE A23





# The Washington Post

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Mostly sunny 71/53 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 72/59 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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## Deal could stanch the Colorado River crisis

Three key states would curb water use for over \$1 billion in federal funds

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

After nearly a year wrestling over the fate of their water supply, California, Arizona and Nevada — the three key states in the Colorado River's current crisis — have coalesced around a plan to voluntarily conserve a major portion of their river water in exchange for more than \$1 billion in federal funds, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

The consensus emerging among these states and the Biden administration aims to conserve about 13 percent of their allocation of river water over the next three years and protect the nation's largest reservoirs, which provide drinking water and hydropower for tens of millions of people.

But thorny issues remain that could complicate a deal. The parties are trying to work them out before a key deadline at the end of the month, according to several current and former state and federal officials familiar with the situation.

Participants are discussing cutting back about 3 million acre-feet of water over the next three years, the majority of it paid for with federal money approved in the Inflation Reduction Act. But the parties are still negotiating how much of those water savings will go uncompensated. In meetings over the past month, representatives for the three states, which form the river's Lower Basin, have also raised doubts about the federal government's environmental review process that is now underway to formally revise the rules that govern operations at Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

State officials have suggested SEE COLORADO RIVER ON A5

## In Ukraine, erasing Russia's imprint



KASIA STREBU/PANOS PICTURES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A pedestrian in Kyiv takes a photo of a vandalized statue of 19th-century writer Alexander Pushkin, one of Russia's greatest poets. Across Ukraine, officials and activists are taking down monuments, place names and other symbols of the Soviet and czarist eras. "I'll be satisfied when everything is removed," said one. **Story, A12**

## Long-idle 1873 law finds traction in abortion case

BY DAN DIAMOND AND ANN E. MARKIMOW

The future of abortion access in the United States may soon depend on how courts interpret a 150-year-old law that hadn't been applied for nearly a century — and whose author originally intended for some abortions to remain legal.

The 1873 Comstock Act, the signature work of an anti-vice crusader who sought to impose his moral and legal rubric on the nation, before being steadily whittled down by Congress and the courts, particularly after *Roe v. Wade* in-

stituted a national right to abortion in 1973. The law's namesake, Anthony Comstock, also expressly supported doctors performing some abortions, according to an interview he gave before his death that was reviewed by *The Washington Post*.

Now, the Comstock Act, which most experts say was rendered obsolete decades ago, is being used — some say inaccurately — to place further restrictions on abortion drugs after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* last year. The fight this week moved back to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the

5th Circuit, which is reviewing a ruling from a federal judge in Texas that would suspend access to the abortion pill mifepristone. It's also part of a mounting legal effort by activists and some Republican officials to invoke the long-forgotten law to potentially ban all abortions nationwide.

"If a future president were to enforce these federal statutes, then they could shut down every abortion facility in America," said SEE ABORTION ON A18

**Pill access:** Appeals court appears likely to restrict abortion drug. **A18**

**SEE ABORTION ON A18**

## 'I have nothing. ... Everything was there.'

How one family escaped the war in Sudan — and what they carried with them

BY SIOBHAN O'GRADY AND HEBA FAROUK MAHFOUZ

ASWAN, EGYPT — The family of four packed their bags quickly. There was only room for essentials.

The mother, Sheraz Himad, a dentist, hid her gold jewelry in a package of menstrual pads and handed their house key to a neighbor — not knowing if, or when, they might be back.

It was early on the morning of April 23 in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. After a week of heavy fighting between rival military forces, foreign nations were rushing to evacuate their citizens and diplomats. Sudanese were left to fend for themselves.

As Sheraz, 40, and her husband, Yasir Satti, 50, a university professor, rushed to the bus station with their two young sons, fighter jets pounded the city.

Behind them was the only home their children had ever

SEE SUDAN ON A14



SAMA DINI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ammar Satti, 12, and Abdelrahman Satti, 9, at their hotel in Aswan, Egypt, along the banks of the Nile. Thousands of Sudanese have made their way to the Egyptian border over the past month.

**Civilians:** Factions target doctors, activists amid broken pledges. **A14**

## Overdose prevention centers are opposed despite success

Worries that supervised sites encourage drug use make them a tough sell

BY DAVID OVALLE

Rhode Island officials recently announced the proposed location of a place where people could safely use illegal drugs under the watch of staff trained to reverse overdoses — only the second such program in the United States. Visitors would also be able to get meals and showers, test their own drugs for deadly substances, get HIV and hepatitis C testing, and access support groups and addiction treatment.

"We know people's lives are going to be saved," said Colleen Daley Ndele, executive director of Project Weber/Renew, the nonprofit tasked with running the Providence site slated to open next year.

But in Pennsylvania, where another nonprofit with similar

aspirations is mired in litigation, the state Senate overwhelmingly voted May 1 to ban such centers, sometimes called supervised injection sites. The vote came six days after Colorado lawmakers killed a bill in committee that would have authorized the sites in that state.

"We need to prioritize sobriety, not just allow addiction to continue and spiral," said Pennsylvania state Sen. Christine Tartaglione, a Philadelphia Democrat, who introduced the bill and represents parts of the neighborhood of Kensington, the epicenter of the city's opioid epidemic.

The contrasting approaches reflect the wariness of overdose prevention sites in the United States despite the staggering loss of life from drug deaths. Addiction experts and others regard the facilities as ways to reach people who use drugs where they are — and keep them alive — despite questions about the sites' SEE OVERDOSE ON A4

**The toll:** More than 100,000 overdose deaths last year. **A3**

## IN THE NEWS



SEBAT SUNU/EPH/EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

**Second-guessing** With Kemal Kilicdaroglu, above, trailing in Turkey's presidential race, the opposition fears it has misread voters. **A8**

**THE NATION** New York police and a cabdriver recounted Prince Harry and Meghan's pursuit by "highly aggressive paparazzi." **A2**  
**Loved ones** of victims in the 2017 terrorist attack on a New York bike path spoke in court as the man responsible was sentenced to life in prison. **A3**  
**Rachael Rollins**, the top federal prosecutor in Massachusetts, will resign after an inspector

general report said she abused her power to influence an election. **A17**  
**THE CLIMATE** Small farm operations and backyard gardeners can make planting decisions that deliver more environmental bang for the buck, Michael J. Coren writes. **A6**  
**The EPA** would oversee more of the nation's coal waste dumps, which can harbor chemicals associated with cancer, under a new proposal. **A7**

**THE WORLD** Ukraine rejected Russia's claims that it had destroyed one of the Western-donated Patriot air defense systems, and a U.S. official said one was damaged but still operational. **A11**  
**Ecuadorian** President Guillermo Lasso, on the verge of impeachment, dissolved the country's legislature. **A9**  
**THE ECONOMY** The power grid is in rough shape heading into what could be an especially hot summer, U.S. regulators said. **A15**

**THE REGION** A computer in Russia breached network of Metro, which was repeatedly warned about security concerns, a report revealed. **B1**  
**The Capitol Police** chief wants to beef up resources around the country to address security gaps for members of Congress. **B1**  
**Arianna Davis**, the 10-year-old girl hit by stray gunfire while traveling with her family on Mother's Day, has died of her injuries, according to D.C. police. **B1**

## INSIDE



**LOCAL LIVING** A pollinator's mind How to choose plants that will attract beneficial birds and insects. **A19**  
**STYLE** At Cannes festival, devotion for Depp The actor at the center of sensational trial last year gets a warm welcome. **C1**

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## ANALYSIS

### Standoff threatens foreign relations

Biden's diplomatic efforts in Pacific are cut short amid GOP threat on debt limit.

BY COURTNEY SUBRAMANIAN

WASHINGTON — President Biden will arrive at the Group of 7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan, on Thursday with a substantial to-do list: Reassure Western allies of U.S. commitments in the Indo-Pacific region while calling for economic unity against China and Russia.

But political dysfunction at home was undermining Biden's foreign policy agenda even before Air Force One took off from the U.S. on Wednesday morning. On Tuesday he scrapped plans to visit Papua New Guinea and Australia next week, and will instead return to Washington this weekend for ongoing debt limit negotiations with congressional Republicans.

Biden scrubbed the last leg of the trip after talks with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and other congressional leaders failed to yield a deal to raise the government's debt ceiling and avoid a default that could roll markets, choke off the flow of capital and trigger a global financial crisis. The Treasury Department has warned that the government could run out of cash for the first time as soon as June 1.

"The entire credibility of this country ... our leadership in every capacity would be affected by a default," warned Chuck Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska who was Defense secretary under President Obama. "Especially at a time when China is challenging America as the pre-eminent power in the world."

House Republicans have refused to raise the debt limit — a once perfunctory practice that has devolved into a political fight in recent years — unless the White House agrees to budget cuts. Biden has been firm that the two issues are separate. He has said he is happy to negotiate on budget cuts going forward, but has insisted that it is Congress' responsibility to [See Analysis, A11]



WILFREDO LEE Associated Press

### TARGETING HIS AGENDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis throws a pen to supporters at an evangelical Christian school in Lighthouse Point, Fla., on Tuesday. He signed several anti-LGBTQ+ bills into law on Wednesday. **NATION, A6**

## At UC Berkeley, spreading the gospel of data science



MARLENA SLOSS Washington Post

STUDENTS walk on the UC Berkeley campus in November.

'We want to expand access to computing and the possibilities of how people can learn these skills that will get them a better job.'

— ERIC VAN DUSEN, data sciences faculty member

Campus aims to increase access to high-demand and high-paying field with a new college and free curriculum.

BY TERESA WATANABE

They comb through troves of legal records and video evidence to challenge wrongful convictions. They organize medical data to help personalize health treatments for better care. They scrutinize school test scores to investigate inequities. Finding safe drinking water is easier thanks to an analysis tool they created.

UC Berkeley's faculty and students are marshaling the vast power of data science across myriad fields to address tough problems. And now the university is set to accelerate those efforts with a new college, its first in more than 60 years — and is providing free curriculum to help spread the gospel of data science to California community colleges. **Cal- [See UC Berkeley, A14]**

## CAPITOL JOURNAL

### Newsom, lawmakers need clearer stance on reparations issue

GEORGE SKELTON IN SACRAMENTO

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Legislature will soon receive a sweeping set of recommended reparations for African Americans whose ancestors suffered economically from slavery and racial discrimination. Then what?

Then the governor and lawmakers will need to emerge from cover, face the public and devise a better response than we've been hearing: "I'm waiting for the final report of recommendations."

The report will be sent to the state Capitol by July 1. That's the deadline for the California Reparations Task Force — created by Newsom and legislators — to finish its two years of often-acrimonious work.

And there'll be some who just flat-out think that major reparations are unreasonable but hesitate to say it publicly.

"I'm a hard 'no,'" one influential Sacramento Democrat told me. When asked whether I could quote him, he responded: "Oh, sure, and then I'll be called a big racist and get all kinds of crap."

It wasn't so much the cash reparations that bothered this person but a long wish list of other preliminary recommendations, such as enactment of a single-payer healthcare system that has been rejected twice by the Legislature.

One person willing to speak on the record was Democratic political consultant Steve Maviglio, a veteran Capitol operative. "Democrats need to tread carefully on this one," he told me. "There needs to be an aggressive educational component about the recommendations to overcome voter skepticism that has been reflected in polling so far."

There hasn't been a [See Skelton, A7]



Illustration by JIM COOKE Los Angeles Times; photograph courtesy of Isabel Mandujano

DAVID BROWN denies all the allegations against him: "I'm not some bad guy."

## Fraud claims dog a maker of Hollywood 'dreams'

Suits, judgments pile up for producer David Brown

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Bennett LeBarre was in a rush.

He had been brought on to a David Duchovny project as the line producer and needed a production accountant quickly.

In August 2022, he hired David Brown, who had reached out to him on previous projects. Brown, charming

and confident, understood budgets, cash flow and union protocols, according to LeBarre.

LeBarre thought everything had gone smoothly after shooting wrapped for the film, "Bucky F'cking Dent," about a son who fakes a Boston Red Sox winning streak for his ill father. Soon after, however, he began receiving complaints about crew and background actors not being

paid.

The production, it turned out, was over budget, and hundreds of thousands of dollars had been "stolen" by Brown, according to a lawsuit filmmakers filed against Brown in Los Angeles last month.

"He truly sets the house on fire and walks away," LeBarre said.

Over the last 34 years, [See Producer, A8]

## LEAD IN WATER AT MANY DAY-CARE CENTERS

Testing reveals dangerous levels at 25% of licensed facilities in California.

BY DORANY PINEDA

In test results that suggest thousands of California infants, toddlers and children continue to be exposed to brain-damaging lead, data released by the state Department of Social Services have revealed that 1 in 4 of the state's child-care centers have dangerously high levels of the metal in their drinking water.

Lead, a potent neurotoxin that poses a particularly grave threat to children, was discovered in the water systems of nearly 1,700 child-care centers licensed by the state. The highest results came from a facility in San Diego that recorded 11,300 parts per billion at the time of testing — well above the state's limit of 5 ppb in child-care centers. One ppb is the equivalent of one drop of contaminant in 500 barrels of water.

"These findings show that California children who are spending the majority of their hours in licensed care are consuming water that has very high levels of lead, and this is very concerning," said Susan Little, senior advocate for California government affairs for the nonprofit Environmental Working Group.

The results mark the first time in state history that child-care facilities have been required to test for lead. Of the 6,866 facilities whose test results have been disclosed, eight sites exceeded the 5-ppb limit by 200 times, 76 surpassed it by 20 times, and 183 by 10 times. Some 1,690 locations tested below the state's threshold of 5 ppb.

Experts say that even at low levels, lead can lower a child's IQ, impair development and hearing, contribute to learning and behavior problems, and damage brains and nervous systems. Lead in drinking water cannot be seen or tasted.

"Not only are we seeing very clear evidence that there is a problem in our child-care centers and in different care settings, but that this is really the tip of the iceberg," Little said. "Parents and decision makers really need to pay attention to these findings, and we need to step up and try to make sure the water children are drinking at these centers and elsewhere is free of lead."

Several child-care centers [See Lead, A14]

## Justices OK ban on weapon sales

Supreme Court allows Illinois to bar sale of some assault firearms amid 2nd Amendment appeal. **NATION, A7**

## County leaders decry 1943 riot

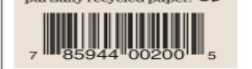
Board of Supervisors condemns the racist attacks on minority youths who wore zoot suits. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

## Restaurant fee investigation

Workers at high-profile eateries say they didn't get their share of a 5% charge added to bills. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather Morning clouds. L.A. Basin: 75/59. **B6**

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**NUEVA YORK** Enrique y Meghan denuncian una persecución de fotógrafos **P44**

**CINE** Almodóvar rodará en EE UU su primer largo en inglés **P28**



## La ONU avisa de temperaturas en “límites desconocidos”

La crisis climática y un nuevo episodio del fenómeno ‘El Niño’ arrojan un 98% de probabilidades de que se batan los récords de calor en cinco años

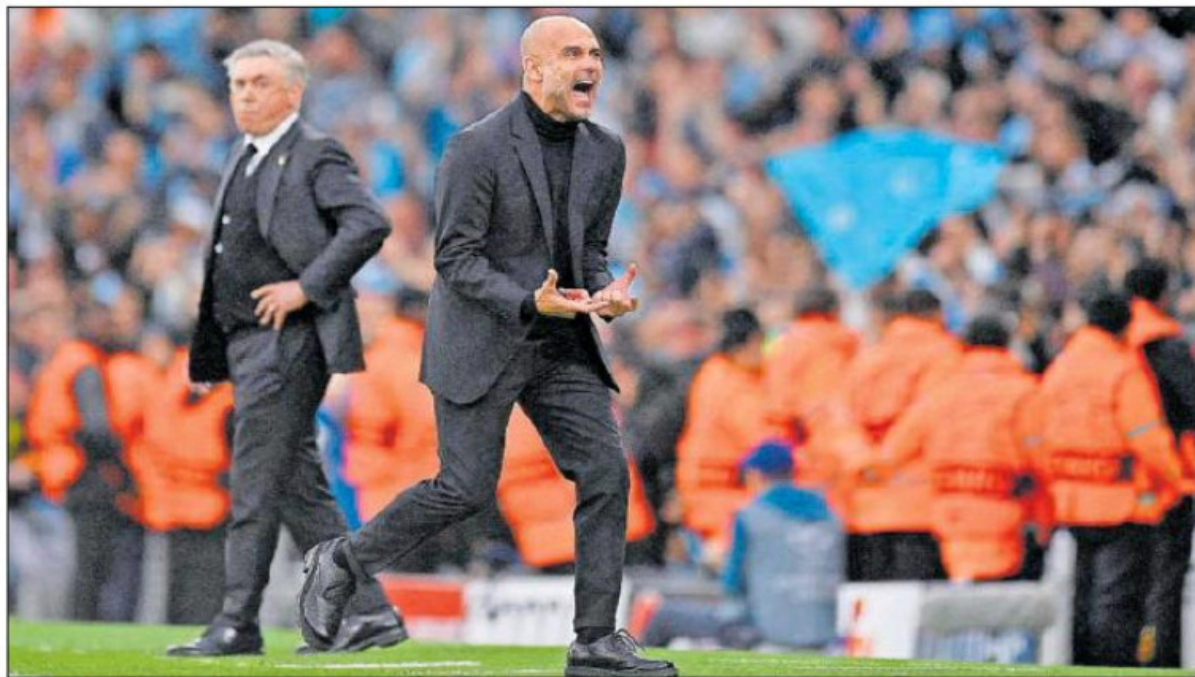
MANUEL PLANELLES, Madrid La Organización Meteorológica Mundial (OMM) advirtió ayer de que las temperaturas del planeta se elevarán “hasta límites desconocidos” por el efecto combinado del cambio climático y el nuevo episodio de *El Niño*, el fenómeno

que caldea zonas del océano Pacífico. “Esto tendrá repercusiones de gran alcance para la salud, la

seguridad alimentaria, la gestión del agua y el medioambiente. Tenemos que estar preparados”,

anunció el organismo dependiente de la ONU. El año más cálido desde que hay registros fue 2016, cuando hubo un episodio intenso de *El Niño*. La OMM calcula un 98% de probabilidades de que el récord se supere en los próximos cinco años. **PÁGINA 26**

**Veto al proyecto turístico junto a Doñana por la sequía y el suelo inundable** **P24**



Pep Guardiola celebra el primer gol del City en presencia de Carlo Ancelotti. / OUSCARFF (AFP)

## Un City abrumador despide al Madrid

Los de Guardiola golean (4-0) y jugarán la final de la Champions contra el Inter

JOSÉ SÁMANO Un Manchester City abrumador, absolutista, apeó a un Real Madrid cenagoso, momificado, de la Copa de Europa. Rodri lideró a los *citizen* y Bernardo Silva fue un tormento, autor de dos goles antes del descanso. El equipo de Pep Guardiola no se pareció al de la ida, cuando se limitó a trastear con la pelota, y se mostró con to-

nelaje, agudo. El City iba y venía; el Madrid estaba en cualquier sitio menos en Mánchester. Mostró más mordida en el segundo acto, pero no tenía carrete. Un remate de Akanji rebotó en Militão y puso distancia; Julián Álvarez sentenció en el tiempo añadido. El equipo inglés se medirá al Inter de Milán en la final de Estambul el 10 de junio. **PÁGINAS 32 A 34**

Leer sin límites es comprender las leyes que impactan en la educación de tus hijos



EL PAÍS

28M

## Feijóo zanja el debate en el PP y no cree viable la ilegalización de Bildu

La Fiscalía descarta intervenir contra las listas con exetarras

E. G. DE BLAS / J. J. GÁLVEZ, Madrid El presidente del PP, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, busca zanjar el debate sobre la ilegalización de EH Bildu —alentado por Isabel Díaz Ayuso y por Vox— porque considera que no es viable legalmente. El equipo jurídico del partido ha analizado esta cuestión y ha concluido que “no hay fórmula”. La Fiscalía de la Audiencia Nacional descartó ayer intervenir contra las candidaturas que incluyen a exetarras. **PÁGINAS 14 Y 15**

## La compra de viviendas frena en seco por la subida de tipos

S. LÓPEZ LETÓN / J. L. ARANDA Madrid

Las siete subidas de los tipos de interés decididas por el Banco Central Europeo (BCE) desde julio han frenado la compra de viviendas y la firma de hipotecas en España. Las previsiones de distintas organizaciones apuntan a que las compraventas de pisos caerán este año hasta un 30%. La lista de quienes buscan una vivienda, pero ya no pueden pagarla, se amplía con el euríbor cerca del 4%, cuando hace un año estaba por debajo del 0,3%. **PÁGINA 38**

## El presidente de Ecuador disuelve el Parlamento antes de que vote su destitución

CAROLINA MELLA, Guayaquil El presidente de Ecuador, Guillermo Lasso, tomó ayer una decisión drástica para frenar el juicio político contra él en la Asamblea Nacional. Por primera vez en la historia del país, el presidente decretó la disolución del Parlamento, lo que obliga a adelantar las elecciones presidenciales y legislativas. **PÁGINAS 2 Y 3**



## Julián Alvarez 5 minutos, 1 gol y finalista

El Araña cerró el 4-0 del City, que destronó al Real Madrid y definirá la Champions frente al Inter. p.40



## Chitarroni, el escritor de la erudición y la generosidad

Destacado crítico, autor y editor, murió ayer a los 64 años. p.49

Tema del día • El oficialismo en crisis por las elecciones

# Sin indicación de Cristina, crece en el peronismo el debate sobre el candidato

En el Frente de Todos no hay acuerdo sobre la boleta presidencial y tampoco está definido si el oficialismo llegará a las PASO con varios candidatos o si ha-

brá un nombre de unidad. En Smata se reunieron sindicalistas y dirigentes cristinistas y anunciaron que la vicepresidenta hablará el 25 de mayo en un

acto frente a la Casa Rosada. Ayer, varios cristinistas pidieron que la vice sea la ordenadora del espacio y que termine definiendo las listas "a dedo". p.3

PESE A LA DEFENSA KIRCHNERISTA

## Avanza el juicio por corrupción contra el juez Bento en la Magistratura

La comisión de Acusación del Consejo de la Magistratura aprobó un dictamen para iniciar el proceso de destitución del magistrado federal mendocino. También ordenó que se lo suspenda, pero la definición quedará en manos del plenario, que definirá el 31 de mayo. p.10



Carpas. El Polo Obrero armó un campamento en la Plaza de Mayo.

MARTIN BONETTO

LA INTERNA EN LA CIUDAD

## La candidatura del PRO porteño, en manos de tres encuestadoras

A pesar de que dijo que desconfía del método, Jorge Macri aceptó que tres consultoras hagan encuestas para determinar antes del 2 de junio quién será el candidato del PRO que competirá en las PASO de Juntos por el Cambio por la Jefatura de la Ciudad. p.12

MURIERON CUATRO JÓVENES

## Condenaron a cuatro policías por la masacre de Monte

En mayo de 2019 persiguieron y le dispararon a un auto que chocó contra un camión. Dos agentes recibieron prisión perpetua. p.32

## Otro día de caos por un acampe piquetero

El Polo Obrero marchó ayer al Congreso y luego fue hacia la Plaza de Mayo, donde por la noche armaron un campamento. Hoy volverán a manifestarse en el Centro y se sumará el sector de Grabois. Caos en el tránsito de la zona durante horas. p.14

GOBERNARÁ POR DECRETO

## Lasso disolvió el Congreso de Ecuador y llamó a elecciones

El mandatario frenó así el juicio político que buscaba su destitución, impulsado por los seguidores del ex presidente Rafael Correa y otros sectores de la oposición. Lasso, amparándose en un artículo de la Constitución, convocó a elecciones en un plazo de seis meses, durante el cual podrá go-

bernar por decreto. La Asamblea fue desalojada y ayer la situación se mantenía en calma, mientras los correístas calificaron de "ilegal" la medida. Desde EE.UU., el Departamento de Estado respaldó la decisión de Lasso y señaló que sus relaciones con Quito "permanecen fuertes". p.22

Del Editor

Héctor Gambini

Cristina, el ataque de Los Copitos y la guerra por la pista imaginaria

p.2



## Deltan diz que sua cassação é festa para Lula e corruptos

O deputado federal Deltan Dallagnol (Podemos-PR) afirmou que perdeu o mandato — cassado, por unanimidade, pelo TSE na terça (16) — por combater a corrupção. “Hoje é dia de festa para corruptos e para Lula”, disse. A vaga do ex-coordenador da Operação Lava Jato irá para Iamar Paim (PL-PR). **Política A6**

## Publicidade do governo zomba do deputado em tuíte com PowerPoint A5



Deltan Dallagnol no salão verde da Câmara dos Deputados. **Ton Molina/Fotoarena/Folhapress**

# Câmara aprova urgência para votação de arcabouço

Governo atua para ampliar gasto em até R\$ 82 bi; liberação de emendas cresce

A Câmara dos Deputados aprovou ontem por 367 votos a 102 a urgência do projeto de lei complementar que cria novas regras para a gestão das contas públicas — o novo arcabouço fiscal. Na prática, isso significa que o texto, prioridade da equipe do ministro Fernando Haddad (Fazenda), cortará a fila de tramitação na Casa.

Rede e Psol, governistas, se opuseram à urgência. PT, PC do B, PSD, MDB, União Brasil, PSDB e Cidadania apoiaram a medida, que teve 29 votos do PL de Jair Bolsonaro. O placar indica que, embora desnecessário, a lei deve chegar ao patamar de aprovação de uma emenda constitucional, meta do presidente da Casa, Arthur Lira (PP-AL).

Em regime de urgência, a proposta poderá ser votada rapidamente no plenário, sem passar pelas comissões.

Sob pressão após uma série de percalços recentes no Congresso, o Planalto planeja agora liberar mais um lote de emendas parlamentares, que pode chegar a R\$ 1 bilhão, a fim de destravar sua agenda no Legislativo.

Manobras do Executivo no texto do arcabouço já turbinaram a possibilidade de gastos federais em até R\$ 82 bilhões em 2024, apurou a Folha. Para economistas, as alterações, com o texto já nas mãos do relator, o deputado Cláudio Cajado (PP-BA), evidenciam dificuldade do governo em cumprir sua própria regra. **Mercado A13 e A14**

## Ibama impede que Petrobras explore foz do Amazonas

O Ibama negou ontem pedido da Petrobras para perfurar a bacia da foz do rio Amazonas e explorar petróleo na região. O órgão afirma que a área é de extrema sensibilidade socioambiental por abrigar unidades de conservação, terras indígenas, mangues e espécies ameaçadas de extinção. **Ambiente B5**

## M. Hermínia Tavares

### O meio ambiente no governo Lula 3

Se a longo prazo a agenda ambiental é um jogo de ganha-ganha, no imediato ela necessariamente impõe perdas e contraria interesses e visões enraizadas na sociedade e no próprio governo. Não faltará ocasião para testar a firmeza de seus compromissos ambientais. **Opinião A2**

## Justiça censura vídeo de humorista que caça minorias

A Justiça acatou pedido do Ministério Público e mandou o humorista Leo Lins apagar vídeo de um show especial de comédia de seu canal no YouTube que contém piadas sobre minorias. Segundo ele, a ordem deve “abrir precedente perigoso para a comédia e a arte em geral”. **Ilustrada C2**

## Presidente do Equador dissolve o Parlamento

Acusado de corrupção, Guillermo Lasso dissolveu a Assembleia Nacional, controlada pela oposição, e convocou novas eleições para barrar processo de impeachment. Nunca antes usado, o ato tem respaldo constitucional. **A10**

## Após vetos, Portugal chancela lei que autoriza eutanásia

Mundo A11



Andreas Solare/AFP

## PAPA FRANCISCO PARALISA AUDIÊNCIA PARA ATENDER CELULAR E DEIXA MULTIDÃO ESPERANDO

O pontífice ao telefone durante evento semanal na praça São Pedro; público aguardou por mais de um minuto, e Vaticano não comentou a ligação. **Mundo A12**

## turismo C11

Filadélfia, nos EUA, atrai amantes de arte e história com Rodin, Duchamp e Renoir

## ilustrada C1

### Curte e compartilha

Com roupas de grife que se acumulam, estilistas apostam no aluguel de peças

## equilíbrio B6

Semaglutida, usada contra a diabetes, é promissora contra efeitos do Alzheimer

## Denúncias de abuso e de estupro contra crianças sobem 48%

O total de denúncias, via Disque 100, de estupro, abusos, exploração e outras violências sexuais contra crianças e adolescentes cresceu 48% nos quatro primeiros meses de 2023 em relação ao mesmo período de 2022. Foram 9,500 registros no país. **Cotidiano B3**

## Brasil tem ao menos 80 mortes violentas de LGBTs até abril

Cotidiano B3

## EDITORIAIS A2

Atritos com o campo. Sobre o desgaste entre Lula e a bancada ruralista.

Sem palavras. Acerca de desempenho do país em exame de leitura.

**semináriosfolha**

ao vivo em [folha.com/violenciainfantil](http://folha.com/violenciainfantil)

## Violência Sexual Infantil

6ª edição

- Abertura (on-line)
- Minidoc "O caso Sophia" (produzido pela TVFolha)

MEDIAÇÃO:  
**Cris Guterres**  
jornalista, escritora e apresentadora de TV

**Gabriel Chalita**  
advogado, professor, escritor, foi secretário de Educação do Estado e da cidade de São Paulo

PARTICIPAÇÃO ESPECIAL: **Chris Couto** - atriz

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Saiba mais na página A7

**LIBERTA**

**FOLHA**



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# LE FIGARO

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



**CANNES**  
L'HOMMAGE DU MONDE  
DU CINÉMA À MICHAEL  
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**LITTÉRATURE**  
GRANGÉ, VARGAS, THILLIEZ...  
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**OPPOSITION**  
La fronde gronde  
à nouveau  
chez les Insoumis  
PAGE 4

**ÉTHIOPIE**  
Après l'accord de  
paix, les habitants  
du Tigré tentent  
de se reconstruire  
PAGE 6

**PROCHE-ORIENT**  
À Gaza,  
la « résistance »  
reste mobilisée  
PAGE 7

**RELIGION**  
La lente mais  
certaine ascension  
des femmes  
dans l'Église PAGE 10

**CLIMAT**  
Les cinq prochaines  
années devraient  
être les plus  
chaudes PAGE 13

**EUROPE**  
La Grèce se relève  
mais peine  
à rapatrier  
ses cerveaux  
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**CHAMPS LIBRES**

- En Corrèze, l'omniprésent héritage de Jacques Chirac
- Les chroniques d'Eugénie Bastié, de Charles Jaigu et de Luc Ferry
- Les tribunes de Jean-Louis Thiériot et d'Hervé Lehman
- L'analyse de Dinah Cohen

PAGES 16 À 19

**FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question de mercredi :**  
Êtes-vous inquiet de l'entrisme des Frères musulmans en France ?

**OUI 94% NON 6%**

TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 168 252

**Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr**

Êtes-vous inquiet de la montée du climat de violence en politique ?

VALÉRY HACHE/AFP-BERTRAND GUYOT/AFP



## Pourquoi la France est toujours menacée de sécheresse

Malgré de fortes pluies pendant le printemps, plus des deux tiers des nappes phréatiques sont à des niveaux très bas. Le gouvernement se prépare à de nombreuses pénuries. PAGES 8 ET 9

### Inquiétudes face à la montée de la violence en politique

L'annonce de la démission de Yannick Morez, maire de Saint-Brévin, a pris des allures d'électrochoc. L'agression du petit-neveu de Brigitte Macron en a augmenté l'in-

tensité. Pour montrer que l'exécutif a pris conscience du problème, Elisabeth Borne a reçu mercredi Yannick Morez, dont la maison et la voiture ont été incendiées. PAGE 3



### Condamné en appel, Nicolas Sarkozy se pourvoit en cassation

Alors que le ministère public suggérerait un sursis intégral dans l'affaire dite des « écoutes Bismuth », l'ancien président de la République s'est vu infliger trois ans de prison, dont un

ferme, comme son avocat Thierry Herzog et l'ex-haut magistrat Gilbert Azibert. Leur pourvoi en cassation suspend l'exécution de la sentence. PAGE 2 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

**ÉDITORIAL** par Vincent Trémolet de Villers vtremolet@lefigaro.fr

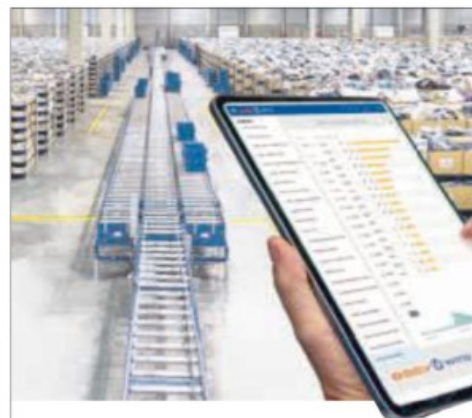
### Justice dérivante

Que reste-t-il aux politiques ? On s'inquiète de l'étendue de leur autorité sans voir qu'elle s'atrophie inexorablement. Ce qui devrait inquiéter les Français, ce n'est pas la puissance de ceux qui nous gouvernent mais leur faiblesse. Les contre-pouvoirs doivent tout le pouvoir. Surveillance médiatique jour et nuit, principales administrations en embuscade, justice en renfort : *Big Brother is watching you!* Un ancien président de la République est donc condamné à trois ans de prison (dont deux avec sursis) pour avoir conversé au téléphone, sous une fausse identité, avec son avocat. La conversation est floue, la conséquence nulle, mais ils se sont parlé. Pire encore, Nicolas Sarkozy aurait songé à user de son influence pour une nomination qu'il n'a pas sollicitée pour quelqu'un qu'il ne connaissait pas, avec l'espérance d'avoir en retour des informations sur un dossier pour lequel il a été depuis blanchi. Coupable d'intention non réalisée et non caractérisée : même la théologie morale la plus exigeante ne s'est pas aventurée jusque-là ! Pourtant, cela prive un ancien président de la République de sa liberté et du droit de vote.

Pour parvenir à ce « délit d'intention », on a relevé les fichiers téléphoniques tous azimuts. On a employé les grands moyens, comme si l'on était sur la piste d'un grand criminel. On a bafoué les principes de notre démocratie, aussi, en enregistrant secrètement les conversations entre un avocat et son client. Que reste-t-il aux droits de la défense si elle est mise sur écoute ? On a accepté beaucoup trop facilement cette pratique appelée dérivante mais finalement arbitraire des écoutes téléphoniques.

#### « La Vie des autres » version française

Benoît Hamon, alors ministre, l'avait justifié en ses termes : « Si on n'a rien à cacher, on n'a pas de problèmes à être écouté. » C'était *La Vie des autres*, version française. Ces écoutes d'avocat, c'est pourtant le moment où vacille l'État de droit. Mais s'il n'y a pas d'affaire « Bismuth », c'est que les magistrats, les uns après les autres, se sont trompés. C'est du temps passé, de l'argent dépensé, des fonctionnaires mobilisés en pure perte. Sarkozy innocent, c'est la justice coupable d'acharnement. Cette obstination mortifère risque d'emporter avec elle la justice comme la politique. ■



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# CHINADAILY

THURSDAY, May 18, 2023

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President Xi Jinping shakes hands with visiting Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during a meeting in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, on Wednesday. LU BIN / XINHUA

## Sino-Kazakh ties to deepen

### Presidents call for broader steps to strengthen pragmatic cooperation

By XU WEI in Xi'an  
xuweie@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Kazakhstan agreed on Wednesday to build up cooperation on economy, trade, production capacity, investment and emerging sectors such as renewable energy, as part of broader

steps to strengthen pragmatic cooperation.

President Xi Jinping and visiting Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev reached the consensus during their talks in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, on Wednesday.

The two leaders signed a joint statement in which the two nations

agreed to promote cooperation on transportation to stabilize industry and supply chains, including steps to explore building a third cross-border railway line and constructing new railway border ports.

Both sides underscored the significance of safeguarding political security and opposing foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the two nations, and they agreed to enhance cooperation on preventing "color revolutions".

Tokayev arrived in Xi'an on Wednesday for a state visit and to attend the China-Central Asia Summit on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday also was the 70th birthday of Tokayev, the first Central Asian leader to arrive in Xi'an for the summit.

See **Ties**, page 3

**Inside**

Comment, page 9

### HIGHER GROUND

## Experts: Nation remains hot spot for FDI

By ZHONG NAN  
zhongnan@chinadaily.com.cn

China will remain a highly favored investment destination for global companies this year, given its latest policy measures to boost market confidence and efforts to reinforce its position in global industrial, innovation and capital chains, experts and business executives said on Wednesday.

Despite a slowdown in the growth pace of utilizing foreign direct investment during the first four months of 2023, compared with the first quarter, experts believe that China's efforts to introduce consumption stimulus packages, launch the yearlong "Invest in

China" campaign, and create more access to modern service industries will continue to attract FDI amid rising external uncertainties.

China's actual use of FDI grew by 2.2 percent year-on-year to 499.46 billion yuan (\$71.4 billion) in the first four months of 2023, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

The country saw FDI increase 4.9 percent year-on-year to 408.45 billion yuan in the first quarter of this year.

China has accelerated the pace of further releasing its market potential and smoothed channels for coordination and communication between the government and foreign companies, said Zhang Fei, deputy director of the Chinese Academy of International Trade

and Economic Cooperation's Institute of Foreign Investment.

To attract more global capital, over 20 promotional events will take place this year. These will help foreign investors learn more about China's investment policies, business environment and emerging market opportunities, Shu Jueting, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Commerce, said recently.

Multinational corporations have been capitalizing on market opportunities and accelerating their investment efforts in China. Specifically, they have shown considerable interest in high-end consumption and manufacturing, healthcare and green sectors, said Sang Baichuan, dean of University of International

Business and Economics' Institute of International Economy.

Among the major sources of FDI, the influx from France jumped 567.3 percent year-on-year during the January-April period, while that from the United Kingdom surged 323.7 percent, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Chen Yulong, president for China at Robert Bosch GmbH, a German industrial and technology group, said China has enormous potential in the areas of intelligent electrified mobility, smart manufacturing and carbon neutrality, offering many opportunities to global companies.

Joerg Wutke, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, said China will continue to play an important role, given the size of the Chinese economy and its level of integration with the global economy.

## Shaanxi urged to further advance modernization

By CAO DESHENG in Xi'an  
caodesheng@chinadaily.com.cn

President Xi Jinping has urged Shaanxi province to actively serve and integrate itself into the nation's new development paradigm and play an exemplary role in advancing Chinese modernization in the country's western region.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks on Wednesday in Xi'an, the provincial capital, when hearing a work report about Shaanxi's socio-economic development.

He is in Xi'an to chair the China-Central Asia Summit, which will be held on Thursday and Friday.

Hearing the work report by Zhao Yide, Party secretary of Shaanxi, Xi said that the province should leverage its own strengths based on its actual conditions in writing a new chapter of advancing Chinese modernization, while keeping in mind the primary task of high-quality growth and the nation's overall development.

He stressed the need for the province to promote innovation in science and technology, build a modern industrial system, bolster the coordinated development of urban and rural areas, expand high-level opening-up and strengthen ecological conservation.

Efforts should be focused on devel-

oping the real economy, Xi said. While continuing to act as a pacesetter in its traditional pillar industries, the province needs to be bold enough to foster competitiveness in new fields, he said.

Xi asked Shaanxi to bear in mind the nation's strategic needs and the frontier fields of international competition, carry out major national scientific and technological projects and overcome difficulties in core technologies in key fields.

Efforts should be made to build Xi'an into a comprehensive national scientific center and sci-tech innovation center, and make it a base for high-tech industries and manufacturing, Xi said.

Noting that the most arduous task for advancing common prosperity lies in promoting the development of the countryside, Xi called for narrowing the development gap between urban and rural areas.

Efforts should be made to actively promote the construction of new-type townships at the county level and improve the counties' infrastructure and public services, he said.

Xi called for improving policies and mechanisms that contribute to the integrated development of urban and rural areas to enable resources in urban areas to flow into the countryside in an orderly manner, and ultimately promote the vitality of agricultural and rural development.

See **Shaanxi**, page 3

## Xi orders all-out efforts for rescue of capsized boat's crew

By CAO DESHENG

President Xi Jinping has ordered all-out search and rescue efforts after a Chinese deep-sea fishing vessel capsized on Tuesday in the Indian Ocean with a 39-member crew on board.

The crew members of *Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028*, comprising 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesian and five Philippine sailors, have been missing since 3 am on Tuesday when the incident occurred in the central part of the Indian Ocean.

In an instruction, Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, urged relevant departments to activate the emergency response mechanism immediately, send more rescue professionals to the scene and coordinate with international maritime search and rescue teams.

He ordered that efforts be made to further strengthen the early warning system to prevent potential risks in deep-sea operations so as to ensure the safety of life and property.

In a separate instruction, Premier Li Qiang urged all-out efforts to reduce casualties and strengthen safety management of fishing vessels to ensure safer maritime transport and operations.

The capsized vessel was owned by Penglai Jinglu Fishery Co, a major fishing company based in Yantai, Shandong province.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Transport and Shandong province have activated the emergency response mechanism to organize rescue work.

China has deployed two vessels — the *Lu Peng Yuan Yu 018* and *Yuan Fu Hai* — to assist in the rescue operation. The Foreign Ministry has launched an emergency mechanism for consular protection, involving embassies and consulates in Australia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia, the Philippines and other countries.

As of press time, none of the missing people had been found and rescue efforts remained underway.

Speaking at a regular news conference on Wednesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that China will continue to take all measures to search for and rescue the crew of the capsized vessel.

China appreciates Australia's timely assistance and its efforts to coordinate other passing foreign vessels to join the rescue operation, Wang said.

It is hoped that neighboring countries will work with China to continue the joint search and rescue operation, and not give up the hope of saving lives, he added.

## Job prospects



University graduates consult a recruitment officer at a job fair in Haikou, Hainan province, on Wednesday. More than 110 companies participated in the event, offering over 2,000 vacancies. LUO YUNFEI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

## HIGH HOPES VOICED FOR CHINA-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT

### Xi'an gathering to boost economic and trade collaboration

By XU WEI in Xi'an

Four, edible oil and honey products from Kazakhstan have long been available at markets in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, offering the city's residents a range of choices to make their favorite steamed bread or *biangbiang* noodles.

Once the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, the city became an important market for produce



from Kazakhstan under Xi'an Aiju Grain and Oil Industrial Group launched a series of projects to partner with farmers in Central Asia. The company is one of the main food processors and traders in Xi'an.

Liu Dongmeng, deputy general

manager of the group, said the projects, inspired by the Belt and Road Initiative, have delivered win-win outcomes for Kazakh farmers, businesses and Chinese consumers.

"Through these projects, we have put better food on residents' tables in Shaanxi, in addition to helping growers in Central Asia put food on their own tables," he said.

See **Summit**, page 2

**INSIDE**  
**Taxidermist helps preserve natural legacy**  
Life, page 17

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