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African Territory With ‘Biggest Opportunity’

Berbera Port in Somaliland. Officials in the breakaway territory hope President Trump will help their push to be recognized. Page 16.

How Musk’s Team Collects, and Connects, Data About You

By EMILY BADGER and SHEERA FRENKEL
The federal government knows your mother’s maiden name and your bank account number. The student debt you hold. Your disability status. The company that employs you and the wages you earn there. And that’s just a start. These intimate details about the personal lives of people who live in the United States are held

in disconnected data systems across the federal government — some at the Treasury, some at the Social Security Administration and some at the Department of Education, among other agencies. The Trump administration is now trying to connect the dots of that disparate information. Last month, President Trump signed an executive order calling for the “consolidation” of these segregated records, raising the

But How Much Access Is Too Much?

prospect of creating a kind of data trove about Americans that the government has never had before, and that members of the president’s own party have historically opposed. The effort is being driven by

Elon Musk, the world’s richest man, and his lieutenants with the Department of Government Efficiency, who have sought access to dozens of databases as they have swept through agencies across the federal government. Along the way, they have elbowed past the objections of career staff, data security protocols, national security experts and legal privacy protections. Continued on Page 24

U.S. and Iran
Gingerly Start
Nuclear Talks

This article is by Lara Jakes, Farnaz Fassihi and Maggie Haberman.

Preliminary diplomatic talks between American and Iranian officials in Oman over Tehran’s nuclear program ended on Saturday with a handshake and with both sides describing them as constructive. The next round of discussions, set for this Saturday, according to the officials, could lead to the first official face-to-face negotiations between the two countries under President Trump since he withdrew the United States from a landmark nuclear accord seven years ago. Mr. Trump has often been belligerent about Iran, and has said that the country should not be allowed to acquire a nuclear bomb. The talks reflect his threats-and-wooing approach to foreign conflicts, one in which the possibility of a deal is almost always on the table and drawn-out military conflict is unappealing.

For Iran, the first round of talks with the United States went as well as could be expected. Iran can claim that two of its main conditions for taking the negotiations to the next level were achieved: Washington kept the focus on Iran’s nuclear program — at least for now — and did not mention the Continued on Page 10



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A Room of One’s Own, With No Strings

Permanent supportive housing has helped reduce chronic homelessness for people with mental illness and addiction, like many of those at New York City’s Lenniger Residences. Metropolitan.

Inside a Music Mogul’s ‘Soul Crushing’ Quarters

By JULIA JACOBS
Sean Combs’s hair and beard, once jet black, are gray now. Hair dye is not allowed at the Metropolitan Detention Center. Breakfast is at 7 a.m. The exercise room has yoga mats and a small basketball hoop. The communal space in the dorm-style housing he’s been assigned has pingpong and television. There is phone access that has allowed him to speak to the rapper Ye and also to his children who, on his 55th birthday, serenaded him on speakerphone.

Combs Biding Time in Jail as Trial Awaits

“Thank y’all for being strong and thank y’all for being by my side,” Mr. Combs said in a video released by his family. The Brooklyn jail has drawn complaints over the years as a place filled with mold, vermin and neglect, which the Federal Bureau of Prisons has pledged to address. For nearly seven months, its most famous tenant has been Mr. Continued on Page 21

Trump Orders Exemptions
On Phones and Computers

Xi Has a Trade-War
Weapon: Austerity

President Trump didn’t seem to mind as his worldwide tariffs set off stock market sell-offs and wiped out trillions of dollars in wealth. “Be cool,” he told Americans. Then he blinked on Wednesday afternoon in the face of financial turmoil, particularly a rapid rise in government bond yields that could shake the dominant position of the dollar and the foundation of the U.S. economy. And late Friday, Mr. Trump exempted smartphones, computers, chips and other electronics from some of his tariffs, he also gave away something to his main rival, the Chinese leader Xi Jinping, with whom he has engaged in a game of chicken that risks decoupling the world’s two biggest economies and turning the global economic order upside down.

Mr. Xi learned that his adversary has a pain point. As reckless and ruthless as Mr. Trump may seem to some parts of the world, in Mr. Xi and China he is squaring off with a leader and a party state that have a long history of single-minded pursuit of policies, even when they resulted in economic and human catastrophe. Among Chinese, a consensus among both Beijing’s critics and its supporters is that the endgame may come down to which leader will be able to make his people endure misery in the name of the national interest. “Tariffs and even economic sanctions are not Xi Jinping’s pressure points,” Hao Qun, an exiled Chinese novelist who writes under the name Murong Xuecun, wrote on X. “He is not particularly concerned about the hardships tariffs may cause for ordinary people.” Unlike Mr. Trump, Mr. Xi does not speak to the Chinese public Continued on Page 13

Tariff Reversal Gives
Tech Giants Break

By TRIPP MICKLE and ANA SWANSON
After more than a week of ratcheting up tariffs on products imported from China, the Trump administration issued a rule late on Friday that spared smartphones, computers, semiconductors and other electronics from some of the fees, in a significant break for tech companies like Apple and Dell and the prices of iPhones and other consumer electronics. A message posted late on Friday by U.S. Customs and Border Protection included a long list of products that would not face the reciprocal tariffs President Trump imposed in recent days on Chinese goods as part of a worsening trade war. The exclusions would also apply to modems, routers, flash drives and other technology goods, which are largely not made in the United States. The exemptions are not a full reprieve. Other tariffs will still apply to electronics and smartphones. The Trump administration had applied a tariff of 20 percent on Chinese goods earlier this year for what the administration said was the country’s role in the fentanyl trade. And the administration could still end up increasing tariffs for semiconductors, a vital component of smartphones and other electronics. The moves were the first major exemptions for Chinese goods, which would have wide-ranging implications for the U.S. economy if they persist. Tech giants such as Apple and Nvidia would largely sidestep punitive taxes that could slash their profits. Consumers — some of whom rushed to buy iPhones this past week — would avoid major potential price increases on smartphones, computers and other gadgets. And the exemptions could dampen additional inflation and calm the turmoil that many economists feared might lead to a recession. The tariff relief was also the latest flip-flop in Mr. Trump’s effort to rewrite global trade in a bid to increase U.S. manufacturing. The Continued on Page 14

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TAIWAN’S EXPORTERS Many small factories thrive by being frugal and flexible. But tariff unpredictability is testing their limits. PAGE 13

ECHOES OF BREXIT Leaving the E.U. was sold to British voters in 2016 as a magic bullet for the economy. Its impact is still being felt. PAGE 14

‘Skin’ Bandages Cost Medicare,
And Doctors Get a Cut of Billions

By SARAH KLIFF and KATIE THOMAS
Seniors across the country are wearing very expensive bandages. Made of dried bits of placenta, the paper-thin patches cover stubborn wounds and can cost thousands of dollars per square inch. Some research has found that such so-called skin substitutes help certain wounds heal. But in the past few years, dozens of untested and costly products have flooded the market. Bandage companies set ever-rising prices for new brands of the products, taking advantage of a loophole in Medicare rules, The New York Times found. Some doctors then buy the coverings at large discounts but charge Medicare the full sticker price, pocketing the difference. Partly because of these financial incentives, many patients receive the bandages who do not need them. The result, experts said, is one of the largest examples of Medicare waste in history. Private insurers rarely pay for skin substitutes, arguing that they are unproven and unnecessary. But Medicare, the government insurance program for seniors, routinely covers them. Spending on skin substitutes exceeded \$10 billion in 2024, more than double the figure in 2023, according to an analysis of Medicare data done for The Times by Early Read, a firm that evaluates costs for large health companies. Medicare now spends more on the bandages than on ambulance rides, anesthesia or CT scans, the analysis found. On Friday, the Trump administration announced that it would delay a Biden-era plan to restrict Medicare’s coverage of skin substitutes, saying that it was reviewing its policies until at least 2026. President Trump had received a large campaign donation from a leading bandage seller and skewered the plan on social media. Skin substitute companies said that the spending could be explained by Medicare’s decision in 2020 to cover wound care in Pakistan Continued on Page 20

INTERNATIONAL 4-17

Clinic Staff Killed in Sudan

Relief International said nine medical center employees died when gunmen stormed the Zamzam camp in El Fasher, in western Darfur. PAGE 12

A Dead Heat in Ecuador

With drug violence and unemployment ravaging the country, the citizens head to the polls on Sunday hoping to elect a leader to lift them out of crisis. PAGE 6

A Somber Passover

The holiday is usually a celebration of freedom. But for many Israelis, the suffering of the hostages still in Gaza is tempering the joy. PAGE 12



SPORTS 34-37

Augusta in All Its Glory

It’s Masters weekend, when golf’s first major is a sun-dappled spectacle in green. A photographic look. PAGES 36-37

Cuban’s Doncic Crisis

With the Luka Doncic trade, it became clear that Mark Cuban’s power over the Mavericks has diminished. PAGE 34

NATIONAL 18-30

Armed for Dark Days

Once thought of as a fringe mind-set, the prepared citizen movement is gaining traction thanks to war, the pandemic and extreme weather. PAGE 18

SUNDAY STYLES

Anxiety and Status Envy

There is a term for how disorienting it feels to be awash in images of luxury amid so much economic turmoil: money dysmorphia. PAGE 4

SUNDAY OPINION

Anna Louie Sussman

PAGE 2



ARTS & LEISURE

Jon Hamm Is Back as a Boss

In the decade since “Mad Men” ended, the actor has seen personal change and mixed professional success. But now, he is everywhere again. PAGE 10

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Lesson From ‘China Shock’

Many economists say the decline in U.S. manufacturing was not mainly about free trade, but about the pace of change without time for workers and communities to adjust. PAGE 6

The Bees Are Under Threat

For beekeepers, the problem isn’t just climate change and extreme weather: it’s also DOGE, the trade war, and the immigration crackdown. PAGE 1

