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Soldiers and police officers from the Assad regime turned themselves in Monday to the Turkish-backed group that now leads Syria.

U.S. Employers Of Immigrants Fear an Exodus

By STEVE EDER

Jabil, a major manufacturer of electronics components for the tech industry, made a startling discovery in the spring of 2021: It had been relying on dozens of undocumented workers, contracted from a staffing agency, to power its manufacturing sites near Silicon Valley.

Jabil insisted they be fired, setting off what it called a “mass exodus” from its work force that required expensive and “herculean efforts” to find replacements, including hosting job fairs and borrowing workers from a client.

The upheaval caused the company to fall behind on both existing orders and bids for new business, costing it up to \$50 million, according to interviews and allegations in an ongoing lawsuit against the staffing agency.

How Jabil navigated the sudden loss of undocumented workers — years before Donald J. Trump won re-election on a pledge of mass deportations of illegal immigrants — foreshadows the possible road ahead for companies that rely on staffing agencies to fill jobs at factories, warehouses and distribution centers.

The New York Times reported in November that staffing firms were among the top employers of unauthorized workers at work sites inspected for immigration violations over the past decade. Now with Mr. Trump’s victory, some firms are fearing the worst.

Toby Malara, vice president for government relations at the American Staffing Association, a trade group, said in an interview that the “business community at large” has been urging the incom-

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Democrats Aim to Foil a Constitutional Rewrite

By HEATHER KNIGHT and KATE SELIG

As Republicans prepare to take control of Congress and the White House, among the many scenarios keeping Democrats up at night is an event that many Americans consider a historical relic: a constitutional convention.

The 1787 gathering in Philadelphia to write the Constitution was the one and only time state representatives have convened to work on the document.

But a simple line in the Constitution allows Congress to convene a rewrite session if two-thirds of state legislatures have called for one. The option has never been

Fear That G.O.P. Could Call a Convention and Run Wild

used, but most states have long-forgotten requests on the books that could be enough to trigger a new constitutional convention, some scholars and politicians believe.

Some Democratic officials are more concerned than ever. In California, a Democratic state senator, Scott Wiener, introduced legislation on Monday that would rescind the state’s seven active calls for a constitutional convention,

the first such move since Donald J. Trump’s election to a second term.

Mr. Wiener, who represents San Francisco, and other liberal Democrats believe there is a strong possibility of a “runaway convention.” They say that Republicans could call a convention on the premise, say, of producing an amendment requiring that the federal budget be balanced, then open the door for a free-for-all in which a multitude of other amendments are considered, including some that could restrict abortion access or civil rights.

“I do not want California to inadvertently trigger a constitutional convention that ends up shredding the Constitution,” Mr.

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SHURAN HUANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

New Perspective for End of Life

People are turning to psychedelic medicine to address anxiety after a terminal diagnosis. Page D1.

Trump and Powell’s Fed Appear Destined for Another Collision

By JEANNA SMIALEK

Inside the halls of the Federal Reserve’s headquarters overlooking Constitution Avenue in Washington, casual mentions of the incoming Trump administration are cautious and infrequent. That’s by design.

Donald J. Trump had a fraught relationship with the politically independent Fed during his first

term. The president wanted central bankers to lower interest rates more aggressively and faster than they thought was economically appropriate.

When officials refused to comply, he blasted them as “boneheads” and an “enemy.” He flirted with trying to fire Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair. He tried and failed to appoint loyalists to central bank leadership roles.

Interest Rates Likely to Be Source of Tension

As the Fed enters a new Trump term with interest rates higher than they were at any point when he was in office, tensions seem poised to escalate again — and the central bank is on high alert.

Fed analysts try to avoid casually discussing tariffs in email or Microsoft Teams meetings, wary that the information could become public and make the Fed look anti-Trump, according to one staff economist who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

Hallway chatter has taken a negative tone but is often studious

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Turkey’s Sway In Syria Spells Risk for Kurds

Minority Group Is Key U.S. Ally vs. ISIS

By LARA JAKES

The 13-year civil war between Syria’s government and rebel fighters has ended. But the peril is not over for Syria’s Kurdish minority.

A number of armed factions are still jostling for control after the collapse of the Assad regime. They include the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which have allied with the United States to combat the extremist Islamic State, and the Syrian National Army, a militia backed by Turkey, which is hostile to the Kurdish forces.

For more than a decade, the Kurdish-led soldiers have been America’s most reliable partner in Syria, liberating cities seized by the extremist group and detaining around 9,000 of its fighters.

But Turkey, which shares a border with Syria, has long considered the Kurdish group to be its enemy. The Turkish government believes the Kurdish fighters in Syria are allied with the separatist Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or P.K.K., which has fought the Turkish state for decades.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, who backs the rebel groups that toppled the Assad regime, appears eager to seize the opportunity created by the momentous political shift in Syria to pursue his agenda against the Kurdish fighters.

The shape of the new Syrian government, led by the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, is still being determined. But American officials and Middle East analysts agree: Turkey will have an outside influence.

That means Kurdish groups’ foothold in the northeast looks increasingly “tenuous,” said Wa’el Alzayat, a Syria expert and former American diplomat. Turkey “will have the biggest leverage in what’s happening, and will happen, in Syria for the foreseeable future,” he said.

As Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and its allies seized control from President Bashar al-Assad, “they brought with them a tide of Turkish power and influence over the future of Syria,” said Nicholas Heras, a senior analyst at the New Lines Institute.

The high stakes for the Kurds, and for Western forces determined to prevent a renewed ISIS threat, were illuminated this month. Even as Hayat Tahrir al-

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PLEA IN SYRIA The leader of the rebels wants sanctions dropped so rebuilding can begin. PAGE A9

EUROPE RATTLED AS GERMANS VOTE GOVERNMENT OUT

BLOC’S CRISES DEEPEN

Defeat for Leader as War and Economic Ills Strain Region

By CHRISTOPHER F. SCHUETZ and JIM TANKERSLEY

BERLIN — The German government collapsed on Monday as Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a confidence vote in Parliament, deepening a crisis of leadership across Europe at a time of mounting economic and security challenges.

The war in Ukraine has escalated, with Russia issuing increasingly dire threats against Kyiv and its supporters. President-elect Donald J. Trump is set to take office in the United States, raising new questions over Europeans’ trade relations and military defense. The government of France — Germany’s partner in leading Europe — fell earlier this month.

And now, Europe’s largest economy will be in the hands of a caretaker government, ahead of elections early next year.

On Monday, German lawmakers voted to dissolve the existing government by a vote of 394 to 207, with 116 abstaining.

Coming just nine months before parliamentary elections had been scheduled to happen, the vote was an extraordinary moment for Germany. The elections, now expected on Feb. 23, will be only the fourth snap election in the 75 years since the modern state was founded. The moment reflects a new era of more fractious and unstable politics in a country long known for durable coalitions built on plodding consensus.

Mr. Scholz had little choice but to take the unusual step of calling for the confidence vote after his three-party coalition splintered in November, ending months of bitter internal squabbling and leaving him without a parliamentary

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ANNEGRET HILSE/REUTERS

Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a confidence vote in Parliament.

Weird Sightings in Sky So Far Have Very Boring Backstories

By JULIAN E. BARNES

WASHINGTON — As reports of strange lights in the sky over New Jersey and other parts of the East Coast have grown, government officials have been stating more firmly that, in essence, there is nothing to see here.

Officials from the F.B.I., Defense Department and Department of Homeland Security said they were taking the sightings, and the concerns they have stirred, seriously, deploying advanced radar systems to hunt for foreign reconnaissance drones and scouring records for secret U.S. government programs.

But of the more than 5,000 tips they had received about drone sightings recently, only 100 required further examination, John Kirby, the National Security Coun-

cil spokesman, said on Monday.

Most were fixed-wing, piloted aircraft that were taking off or landing at major airports, officials said. Others were smaller planes, and some were hobbyist drones.

“We assess that the sightings to date include a combination of lawful commercial drones, hobbyist drones and law enforcement drones, as well as manned fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and even stars that were mistakenly reported as drones,” Mr. Kirby said. “We have not identified anything anomalous or any national security or public safety risk over the civilian airspace in New Jersey or other states in the Northeast.”

Many of the most exciting vid-

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Shipping Goes Back in Time

Rounding the tip of Africa used to be rare, but freighters avoiding the Suez have reverted to an old route. PAGE B1

Amazon Injuries Tied to Quotas

A staff report by the Senate labor panel uncovered evidence of the company’s internal concern about safety. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

From Doctor to ‘Date Girl’

Nearly four years into a grinding civil war, Myanmar’s economy is in ruins, and people — even professionals with degrees — are desperate. PAGE A4

U.S. Loses South Korean Ally

The impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol shifted his country closer to Washington and stood up to Beijing. PAGE A6

SPORTS B6-9

From Pacific Rim to M.L.B.

The scouting process in Japan, Korea and Taiwan is streamlined, but it brings few players to the majors. PAGE B6



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Ballet Troupe in Drag Turns 50

The Trocks, with Sergio Najera, above, have been interested in comedy, not making political statements. PAGE C1

When Jazz Greats Converged

Art Kane’s “Harlem 1958” gathered the genre’s giants. Sonny Rollins, 94, looks back at the historic picture. PAGE C1

NATIONAL A10-16

Trump’s Conviction Upheld

Justice Juan M. Merchan rejected the president-elect’s argument that the Supreme Court’s recent ruling on presidential immunity had nullified his hush-money case in New York. PAGE A11

Turning Against Their Mayor

Residents of a fast-growing city in Utah voted overwhelmingly to rein in the powers of a mayor who they say has a penchant for secrecy and is overly deferential to developers. PAGE A10

OPINION A18-19

Michelle Cottle

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SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

Making Milking Safer

On America’s dairy farms, the potential for disease transmission is worrying, health experts say. Farmers are taking steps to reduce the risk. PAGE D8

