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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **The U.S. accused Apple** of monopolizing the smartphone market in a landmark antitrust lawsuit that threatens to disrupt the tech giant's business model and how millions of consumers use their iPhones. **A1**

◆ **Reddit shares surged** 48% from the offer price in their stock-market debut, an encouraging sign for companies that have been waiting to float their shares. **A1**

◆ **All three major U.S. stock indexes** rose to records, boosted by investors' growing conviction that rate cuts are on the horizon. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq gained 0.3%, 0.7% and 0.2%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **The Bank of England** held its key rate steady hours after Switzerland became the first rich country to cut interest rates since central banks began tightening two years ago to tame high inflation. **A8**

◆ **Home sales rose** in February from the month before, marking the first time in more than two years that sales increased for two consecutive months. **A3**

◆ **Airline chiefs recently** requested a meeting with Boeing's board to express concern over the Alaska Airlines accident and production problems that have upended their industry's plans. **B1**

◆ **Chinese leader Xi Jinping** plans to meet a group of U.S. business leaders after the China Development Forum gathering next week. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Senate Majority Leader** Chuck Schumer said he did the right thing for Israel and its relations with the U.S. when he denounced Netanyahu in a speech last week and called for new elections in the Jewish state. **A4**

◆ **The U.S. is set** to bring a draft United Nations resolution calling for an immediate and sustained cease-fire in Gaza to a vote in the Security Council on Friday. **A16**

◆ **Sen. Bob Menendez**, who faces federal corruption charges, said he won't enter the Democratic primary but left open the possibility of a re-election bid as an independent if he overcomes his legal problems. **A4**

◆ **The U.S. should** consider immediate consequences, including sanctions, against authoritarian countries that wrongfully detain reporters, an executive for the publisher of The Wall Street Journal said. **A8**

◆ **Six white former** law-enforcement officers were sentenced in Mississippi federal court for two incidents of abuse of civilians, including the torture of two Black men. **A3**

◆ **Medicare opened** the door to covering weight-loss drugs provided they receive approval for an additional use considered medically accepted under federal law. **A3**

◆ **Californians narrowly** adopted a measure to combat homelessness in the most-populous state in the U.S. **A6**

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U.S. Accuses Apple of iPhone Monopoly

Lawsuit alleges tech giant used its sway to limit competing devices' functionality

By DAVE MICHAELS
AND AARON TILLEY

The U.S. accused Apple of monopolizing the smartphone market in a landmark antitrust lawsuit that threatens to disrupt the tech giant's business model and how millions

of consumers use their iPhone.

The Justice Department, 15 states and the District of Columbia sued Apple on Thursday, alleging the company makes it difficult for competitors to integrate with the iPhone, ultimately raising prices for consumers. The antitrust suit, filed in a federal court in New Jersey, claims Apple tries to keep users from switching to devices on outside operating systems, such as Android.

Apple "has maintained its

power, not because of its superiority, but because of its unlawful exclusionary behavior," Attorney General Merrick Garland said.

The tech company controls over 65% of the U.S. smartphone market, Garland said.

Apple said it plans to vigorously defend against the lawsuit. "This lawsuit threatens who we are and the principles that set Apple products apart in fiercely competitive markets," an Apple spokesman said. "If successful, it would

hinder our ability to create the kind of technology people expect from Apple—where hardware, software, and services intersect."

Apple's shares fell 4.1% on Thursday.

The case against Apple is the latest shoe to drop on the four tech giants that U.S. antitrust officials have been focused on. U.S. officials filed antimonopoly lawsuits against Amazon, Google and Meta Platforms.

Few of the cases are likely to reach a conclusion before

the November presidential election. Federal law-enforcement officials rarely drop cases that began during a prior administration.

The Justice Department said Apple took measures to lock in its users and prevent them from having access to software, such as cloud-based mobile games, that might convince them to switch to cheaper phones.

Apple views cloud-based games as a threat, the Justice

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Naima Gammar Abdelkareem says she fled Sudan after gunmen raided her home and beat her as she held her baby.

In Darfur, Genocide Fears Rise Again

Victims recount another round of atrocities two decades after mass killings

By GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

Her chest tightening in panic, Taiba Hassan Adam watched as a group of men splashed gasoline on the small brick and grass house. Their comrades kept their rifles trained at her. Hassan Adam's three youngest children—10-year-old Mohamed, 8-year-old Awadia and 7-year-old Faiz—were stuck inside.

Moments earlier, the gunmen had moved chairs to block the building's one

metal door. Then they dropped matches into the shimmering liquid.

Hassan Adam had hoped the house would shelter her family from a wave of attacks in Sudan's Darfur region. Now it was on fire, and all she could do was pray that her children would somehow find a way out.

"We will shoot you if you try to go in," she says the men shouted at her and the other adults they held in the house's yard. As the screams of her chil-

dren broke through the flames, the men, Hassan Adam says, started to cackle.

"They were just laughing," says Hassan Adam, still stunned into grief in a sprawling refugee camp in Chad, across the border from her Sudanese homeland. "They knew there were children inside."

Hassan Adam's story is just one in a grim pattern of atrocities perpetrated by mostly Arab fighters against Darfur's

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How Much Ranch Can U.S. Take?

* * *
Hidden Valley
seeks total
domination

By NATASHA KHAN

Ice cream. Popcorn. Eggs. Hidden Valley Ranch is coming for every meal you eat.

"We want there to be ranch occasions at every hour of the day," says Nick Higgins, the general manager of food business for Clorox, which owns the brand. "Breakfast is one of our new ways in."

The aspirations don't stop there. Move over, apple pie. "America's flavor is ranch," Higgins declares. "It's this uniquely American thing. This started here, it resonates with American culture. I mean, what is more American than ranch?"

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INSIDE



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SPORTS

The interpreter at the center of the Shohei Ohtani scandal in Los Angeles. **A12**



MANSION

Everything you need to know about Manhattan's confusing luxury market. **M1**

Reddit Hits \$9.5 Billion Value as IPO Jumps 48%

By CORRIE DRIEBUSCH
AND SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

Reddit shares surged 48% from the offer price in their stock-market debut Thursday, an endorsement for the oftentimes irreverent social-media company and an encouraging sign for other companies that have been waiting to go public.

The company's shares closed at \$50.44 a piece on their first day trading on the New York Stock Exchange. That gives the company known for its wide-ranging message boards and "ask me anything" town halls a valuation of around \$9.5 billion.

It's the second initial public offering of the week to jump in its first day of trading, a change after two years of choppy reception for new is-

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