

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Skydance Media** reached a preliminary agreement to buy National Amusements, with plans to then merge with Paramount Global, a deal that would be subject to approval by a panel of Paramount directors. **A1**
- ◆ **Tesla's vehicle sales** slid for a second straight quarter but not as much as expected, lifting the company's stock price by 10% at Tuesday's close and keeping the company ahead of rival BYD as the world's largest seller of electric vehicles. **B1**
- ◆ **The S&P 500** and Nasdaq hit records, rising 0.6% and 0.8%, respectively, with help from the jump in Tesla's share price, while the Dow industrials rose 0.4%. **B11**
- ◆ **Fed Chair Powell** said he was pleased with how inflation had resumed a downward trend, but said it was too soon to say whether the central bank might be able to lower interest rates by the end of the summer. **A2**
- ◆ **A network of buyers**, sellers and couriers is conveying Nvidia's advanced artificial-intelligence chips into China, bypassing the Biden administration's restrictions aimed at denying Beijing that access. **A1**
- ◆ **The FTC** voted to block Tempur Sealy's proposed \$4 billion acquisition of Mattress Firm due to competition and pricing concerns. **B1**
- ◆ **An appeals court** reinstated a \$10 billion antitrust lawsuit against 10 banks after finding that a judge who had earlier dismissed the case should have recused himself because of an apparent conflict of interest. **B2**

World-Wide

- ◆ **A judge delayed Trump's** hush-money sentencing until Sept. 18, granting the former president's request to weigh whether the Supreme Court's immunity ruling impacts his New York criminal conviction. **A3**
- ◆ **Rudy Giuliani** was disbarred after making repeated false and perjurious statements to federal courts as he challenged the results of the 2020 presidential election, the New York Supreme Court said. **A3**
- ◆ **The Biden** administration released long-anticipated proposed rules that would establish the first federal safety standard for protecting workers from extreme heat on the job. **A3**
- ◆ **Germany and Poland** pledged to boost defense cooperation amid fears that a Trump victory in November could herald a period of vulnerability for NATO in its confrontation with Russia. **A5**
- ◆ **Polls ahead of the U.K.** election show the opposition Labour Party and its leader, Keir Starmer, on course to win by a margin of about 20 percentage points, ending 14 years of government by the Conservative Party. **A16**
- ◆ **Fighters from Sudan's** paramilitary-turned-rebel Rapid Support Forces opened a new front in the country's war with raids and looting in the southeast, as aid groups warned of an impending famine. **A16**

NOTICE TO READERS

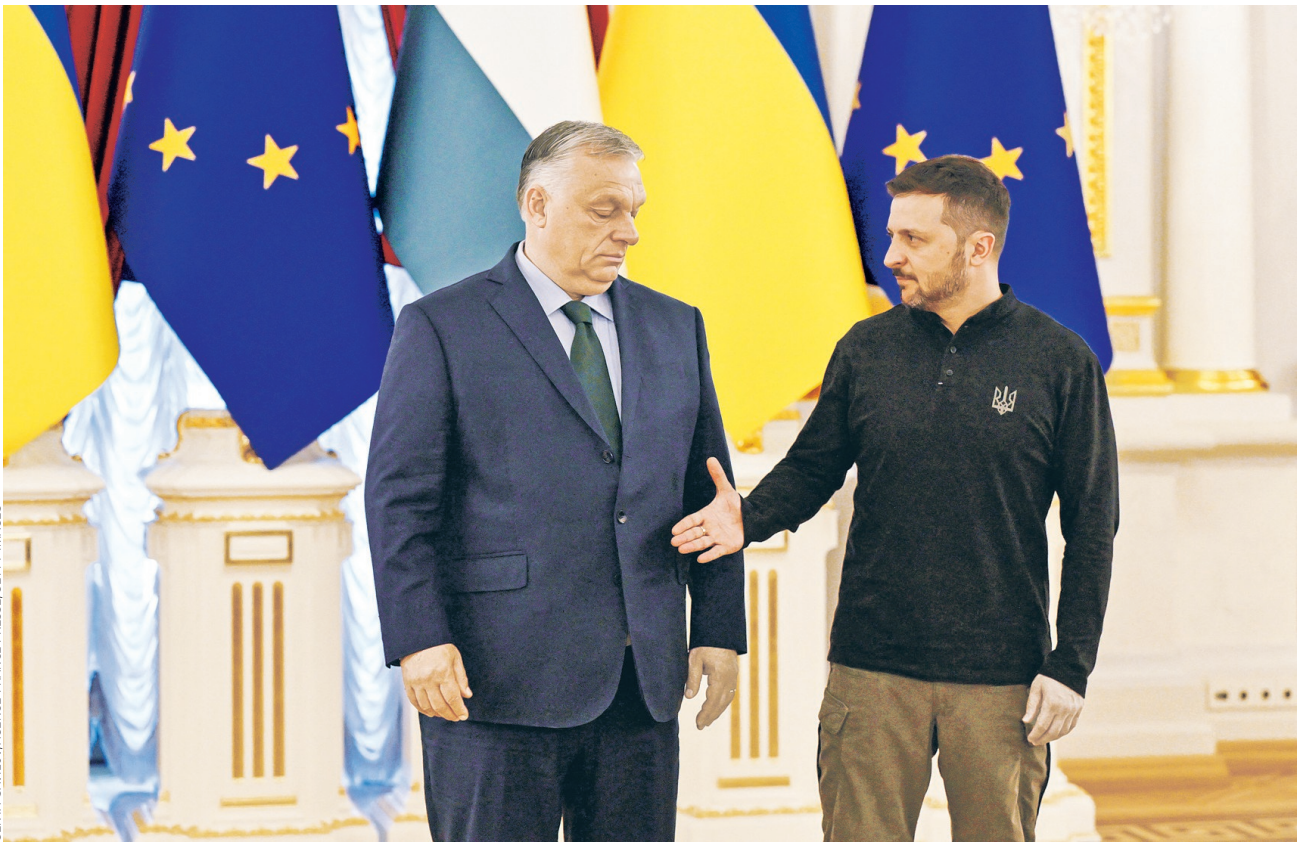
WSJ.com and WSJ mobile apps will publish on the Fourth of July holiday. The Wall Street Journal print edition won't be published on Thursday.

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EU's Most Pro-Russia Leader Meets Zelensky



GENIA SMILOV/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

UNEASY: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, left, met with President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday in his first trip to Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion. Orbán, who is friendly with Moscow, called for a cease-fire, which Zelensky resisted.

Underground Network Funnels Banned Nvidia Chips to China

By RAFFAELE HUANG

SINGAPORE—A 26-year-old Chinese student in Singapore was packing last fall to return home for vacation. Besides his clothes, his luggage included six of Nvidia's advanced artificial-intelligence chips.

A connection from college asked him to bring the chips because the U.S. restricted their export to China. Each chip was roughly the size of a Nintendo Switch game console, and the student didn't flag any suspicions at the airport. Upon

arrival, the student said he was paid \$100 for each chip he carried, a fraction of the underground-market worth.

The student is part of a network of buyers, sellers and couriers bypassing the Biden administration's restrictions aimed at denying China access to Nvidia's advanced AI chips, The Wall Street Journal found. Nvidia's chips are highly coveted for their ability to handle the computations needed to train AI systems that are critical to China-U.S. tech rivalry. More than 70 distributors

are advertising online what they purport to be Nvidia's restricted chips, and the Journal got in contact with 25 of them. Many of the verified sellers said they have supplies amounting to dozens of the high-end Nvidia chips each month.

The flow of Nvidia chips is so steady that most of those sellers take preorders and promise delivery in weeks, the Journal found. Some sold entire servers—costing upward of roughly \$300,000—with each containing eight high-end Nvidia chips.

These merchants don't sell enough of the Nvidia processors to satiate a single tech giant's demands. But for AI startups or research institutions with more modest needs, procurement can be done. Every Nvidia chip matters to China, which wants to stay competitive with the U.S. in an AI race seen as crucial to tech sovereignty and national security.

The Chinese sellers could be advertising Nvidia chips they don't actually have or offering refurbished ones from

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Robberies, Revenge Killings Deepen Gaza Chaos

By STEPHEN KALIN

When thieves in central Gaza stole the battery out of Muhammed Abu Karsh's car in March, he chased them down a dark road and was shot dead in the head.

Relatives called the police, who inspected the crime scene in rural Deir al-Balah, but that was about all they could do.

"They said they don't have a prison anymore and that if they find the perpetrator, his family might attack them as well," said his cousin, Mahmoud Fuaad. "We see fights between families on a daily basis. People know that they won't be punished for anything they do."

Nearly nine months into the war between Israel and Hamas, crime and violence among Gazans is on the rise, from robbery and killings to smuggling and protection rackets. The trend is taking more Palestinian lives, endangering already fragile international aid operations and drawing warnings from U.S. and Arab officials who worry Gaza could suffer a complete failure of governance for years to come.

Israel has broken Hamas's grip on public order but hasn't filled that void itself or allowed entry by the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority to restore basic services, saying it wants to work with politically unaffiliated Palestinians.

In northern Gaza, from which most of the population has fled, abandoned homes that haven't been bombed by Israel are susceptible to the pillaging of furniture, solar panels and gas cylinders. Resi-

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INSIDE



WORLD NEWS

A U.N. panel found that Russia has arbitrarily detained WSJ reporter Evan Gershkovich. **A5**



JASON GAY

A beef with sponsors keeps champion Joey Chestnut out of the hot dog eating contest. **A12**

Inner Circle Presses Biden to Stay in Race

By KEN THOMAS
AND ANNIE LINSKEY

WASHINGTON—President Biden's reliance on a tight circle of loyal advisers, family members and political confidants to navigate the aftermath of his poor debate performance helps explain why he isn't changing course amid pressure to drop out of the presidential race.

This circle has been resistant to any suggestion that they should reconsider his candidacy despite worrying signs that Biden could lose his rematch with former President Donald Trump. That criticism mounted Tuesday when Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas

became the first congressional Democrat to call for Biden to bow out of the contest. Other Democratic officeholders, donors and activists also are fretting about the future of Biden's campaign.

Inside the White House and at his Wilmington, Del., campaign headquarters, some of the president's advisers believe they have weathered much of the storm but note he has more work to do to shore up support. Aides point out that Biden has been underestimated before, including in 2020 when he faltered in early

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◆ **Harris is likeliest to top ticket if Biden exits..... A4**

Old Voters Exert Power Globally

In U.S., U.K. and France, retirees push candidates to preserve costly benefits

By DAVID LUHNOW
AND RICHARD RUBIN

Last week's presidential debate put the age issue front and center in the U.S. campaign. But there is a different age issue playing out across many Western democracies: a growing bloc of older voters demanding that their needs be met.

Older voters loom large in elections this year in the U.S., U.K. and France. Not only do they turn out to vote more reliably than the young, but they also account for a growing share of the electorate.

As a result, leading political parties in many countries are pledging to protect retir-

ees' income and health coverage, at a time when growing numbers of retirees will strain government finances. Older voters often are more concerned than younger ones about crime and immigration, and less likely to support environmental initiatives.

In the run-up to Britain's election on Thursday, every major party backed the country's "triple lock" guarantee for retirees, which ensures that their state pensions—the British equivalent of Social Security payments—will outpace inflation over the long term. Last year, such pensions rose 10.1%, while the

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This Song Sure Is Catchy. It's Also North Korean Propaganda.

A Pyongyang ditty about Kim Jong Un is an unlikely hit with young fans worldwide

By DASL YOON

SEOUL—Jordan Daniels, a 31-year-old pianist and software engineer in California, posted a cover of a catchy new tune on TikTok.

One aspect of the ditty, "Friendly Father," made Daniels uneasy: It is propaganda from North Korea, the communist country led by brutal strongman Kim Jong Un. "He's like this dictator," Daniels said. "But man, this catchy song is actually kind of good."

His video, viewed more than 19,000 times, carried a disclaimer: he didn't support the Kim regime in any way.

North Korea's propaganda music is made to be memorable—and to keep the population in line. Now, the songs are finding a new audience. Gen Z'ers and other young people around the globe are dancing to "Friendly Father" or posting remixed versions of it. Some fans jokingly compare the tune's popularity to Taylor Swift's latest album.

"There is a tendency to repost and participate in viral behavior without truly realizing what you're participating in," noted Connor Blakley, founder of Youth Logic, a Gen Z-focused marketing agency.

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Pop-aganda