

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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DJIA 39169.52 ▲ 50.66 0.13% NASDAQ 17879.30 ▲ 0.8% STOXX 600 513.02 ▲ 0.3% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 1 3/32, yield 4.478% OIL \$83.38 ▲ \$1.84 GOLD \$2,327.60 ▼ \$0.10 EURO \$1.0741 YEN 161.45

## What's News

### Business & Finance

- ◆ **The European Union** charged Meta Platforms with breaching its new digital-competition law, saying the company's pay-or-consent business model gives users inadequate choice. **A1**
- ◆ **Tech companies** are closing or negotiating deals to buy nuclear power directly from plants to meet AI needs, potentially removing stable electricity generation from grids that serve other users. **A1**
- ◆ **Stocks advanced** as second-half trading began on U.S. exchanges, lifting the S&P 500 and Dow by 0.3% and 0.1%, respectively, while the Nasdaq rose 0.8% to a record. **B9**
- ◆ **Imagine Entertainment**, the Hollywood production company known for the Oscar-winning movie "A Beautiful Mind," and hits such as "The Da Vinci Code," is exploring a sale. **B1**
- ◆ **The owner of Redbox** filed for bankruptcy with nearly \$1 billion in debt, saying a group of lenders led by HPS Investment Partners was unwilling to consent to potential refinancings. **B1**
- ◆ **An investigation into** conditions at Italian factories found that workshops making leather goods for Dior and Armani exploited foreign labor to produce high-end products at a fraction of their retail price. **B1**
- ◆ **"Roaring Kitty" Keith Gill** disclosed a 6.6% stake in online pet-products retailer Chewy, days after an ambiguous social-media post sparked speculation about his next move. **B3**
- ◆ **Duluth, Ga., based Delta** Apparel filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with a deal in hand to sell its Salt Life brand. **B3**

### World-Wide

- ◆ **The Supreme Court** dealt a major blow to Trump's prosecution on charges he sought to subvert the 2020 election, ruling 6-3 that former presidents enjoy sweeping immunity for their acts while in office. **A1, A2**
- ◆ **The high court said** social media platforms' content-moderation policies can be protected by the First Amendment, but sidestepped a ruling on the validity of laws in Texas and Florida that sought to restrict internet giants from suppressing user speech. **A3**
- ◆ **Former Trump aide** Steve Bannon reported to a low-security prison in Danbury, Conn., to begin a four-month contempt-of-Congress sentence linked to the Jan. 6 investigation. **A3**
- ◆ **Hungary assumed** the presidency of the European Union for a six-month stint, giving right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban a political soap box from which to promote his views. **A7**
- ◆ **NATO will station** a senior civilian official in Kyiv, one of several new measures aimed at shoring up long-term support for Ukraine, U.S. and alliance officials said. **A6**
- ◆ **Satellite images show** the growth of Cuba's electronic eavesdropping stations that are believed to be linked to China, according to a report from the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. **A18**
- ◆ **A wildfire burning** near the entrance of Denali National Park and Preserve forced the temporary closure of one of Alaska's most popular tourist destinations. **A3**

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# Court Grants Presidents Immunity

Decision undercuts election subversion case brought against Trump

By JESS BRAVIN

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court dealt a major blow to Donald Trump's prosecution on charges he sought to subvert the 2020 election, ruling 6-3 Monday that former presidents

enjoy sweeping immunity for their acts while in office.

The president "may not be prosecuted for exercising his core constitutional powers," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court, and "is entitled, at a minimum, to a presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts." The outcome broke along partisan lines, with five Republican-appointed justices joining Roberts on Trump's side, while three named by Democratic

presidents dissented.

Roberts said that without such expansive immunity from future prosecution, presidents might hesitate from bold action to further the nation's interests. To rule otherwise could forever create "an Executive Branch that cannibalizes itself, with each successive President free to prosecute his predecessors, yet unable to boldly and fearlessly carry out his duties for fear that he may be next," he wrote, joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and, apart from one element of the decision, Amy Coney Barrett.

The court's liberal justices could barely contain their outrage. The decision "makes a mockery of the principle, foundational to our Constitution and system of Government, that no man is above the law," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote, joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"With fear for our democracy, I dissent," she wrote. Having won from the court nearly everything he could have hoped for, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee quickly celebrated.

"Big win for our Constitution and democracy. Proud to be an American!" Trump, using all capital letters, wrote on his social-media platform.

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◆ What the immunity ruling means for Trump..... A2

## Hurricane Beryl Lashes Caribbean Islands



**STORM'S PATH:** Fishing boats in Barbados were left damaged Monday as Hurricane Beryl struck the southeastern Caribbean. Beryl made landfall on Carriacou, part of Grenada, with winds hitting 150 mph and later grew to a Category 5 hurricane. **A18**

## Meta's Ad Strategy Draws EU Charges

By KIM MACKRAEL

BRUSSELS—The European Union charged **Meta Platforms** with breaching its new digital-competition law, saying the company's policy of giving users the option of either paying a subscription fee or allowing it to use their data for targeted advertising doesn't provide adequate choice.

The social-media company

introduced the so-called pay-or-consent model for European users of Facebook and Instagram last year as part of its plan to comply with the EU's Digital Markets Act. On Monday, the European Commission, the EU's executive body, said that approach didn't work.

"This binary choice forces users to consent to the combination of their personal data

and fails to provide them a less personalized but equivalent version of Meta's social networks," the commission said.

The charges take clear aim at a core part of Meta's business model.

The company reported more than \$35 billion in advertising revenue for the first quarter—accounting for most of its overall revenue—with about 23% coming from Europe.

If EU regulators determine Meta broke its rules, the company could face a fine of up to 10% of its worldwide revenue. Fines could reach as high as 20% of its worldwide revenue for repeated breaches of the law.

Meta said its plan follows the direction the company received in a ruling from Europe's top court last year and

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## New York's Traffic Moonshot Imploded at Last Minute

The failure of congestion pricing shows the challenges of solving America's most intractable problems

By JIMMY VIELKIND AND JOSEPH DE AVILA

NEW YORK—Patrons at the Comfort Diner in Midtown Manhattan recently encountered an unexpected person working the tables: Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Rather than take orders, she went booth to booth seeking opinions about the city's first-in-the-nation plans for congestion pricing—a \$15 toll on vehicles entering the core of Manhattan.

Nobody realized at the time that the Democratic governor was heading toward a blockbuster announcement: she was about

to scrap the program after years of planning and hundreds of millions of dollars spent. In one of the most consequential decisions in decades for America's most prominent city, Hochul soon said she was indefinitely pausing congestion pricing—less than a month before it was set to take effect on Sunday, June 30.

The abrupt reversal, which some attribute to Hochul's reluctance to impose a new fee in an election year, leaves metro New York grappling with a historic missed opportunity and fiscal mess. There is no relief in sight

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## INSIDE



### PERSONAL JOURNAL

Being an executor is a job no one wants—but one that someone has to do. **A12**



### BUSINESS & FINANCE

The nation's biggest restaurant chains are duking it out over deals and discounts. **B1**

## British Politicians Are Betting—On Their Own Elections

Nation wagers on royal babies and snail races, but 'flutters' on the vote spark a scandal

By MAX COLCHESTER

LONDON—British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stood outside 10 Downing Street on May 22 and called a surprise general election to be held on July 4. Days earlier, one of his aides, fellow lawmaker Craig Williams, placed a £100 bet that an election would take place in July.

"I should have thought through how it looks," Williams said when it became public. He wasn't the only one.

Around 15 Conservative Party officials are also being probed by the gambling regulator for placing a "flutter" on the election date, as a small bet is known in Britain. Sunak's personal protection Please turn to page A10



What are the odds?

## Iran Withstands U.S. Pressure, Extends Its Global Influence

By SUNE ENGEL RASMUSSEN AND LAURENCE NORMAN

The winner of Iran's presidential election will inherit domestic discord and an economy battered by sanctions, but also a strength: Tehran has more sway on the international stage than in decades.

Iran, under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's leadership, thwarted decades of U.S. pressure and emerged from years of isolation largely by aligning itself with Russia

and China, giving up on integration with the West and throwing in its lot with those two major powers just as they amped up confrontation with Washington. Iran's economy remains battered by U.S. sanctions, but oil sales to China and weapons deals with Russia have offered financial and diplomatic lifelines.

It also effectively exploited decades of U.S. mistakes in the Middle East and big swings in White House policy toward the region between one ad-

ministration and the next.

Today, Tehran poses a greater threat to U.S. allies and interests in the Middle East than at any point since the Islamic Republic was founded in 1979.

Iran's military footprint reaches wider and deeper than ever. Iranian-backed armed groups have hit Saudi oil facilities with missiles and paralyzed global shipping in the Red Sea. They have dominated politics in Iraq, Lebanon and the next. Please turn to page A6