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DJIA 42330.15 ▲ 17.15 0.04% NASDAQ 18189.17 ▲ 0.4% STOXX 600 522.89 ▼ 1.0% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 13/32, yield 3.798% OIL \$68.17 ▼ \$0.01 GOLD \$2,636.10 ▼ \$8.20 EURO \$1.1137 YEN 143.64

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **U.S. stocks capped** a strong quarter by edging higher after Powell suggested the Fed would likely refrain from extra-large interest-rate cuts if the economy remains solid. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq both rose 0.4% Monday, while the Dow added less than 0.1%. For the three months ended September, the large-cap benchmark advanced 5.5%. **A1, A2, B10**

◆ **Dockworkers walked off** their jobs at dozens of ports from Maine to Texas, launching a strike that threatens to rattle the American economy five weeks ahead of the presidential election. **B1**

◆ **CVS Health is** conducting a strategic review of options for the industry giant, including a potential breakup, and has retained bankers to explore the possible changes. **B1**

◆ **Chinese stocks have** soared since the country's central bank began easing measures last week, but questions remained over prospects for the national economy. **A1, B10**

◆ **The FTC accused** John Hess of improper talks with OPEC and will block him from joining the board of Chevron, which is trying to buy his company. **A1**

◆ **TPG agreed to buy** AT&T's remaining stake in DirecTV and merge the satellite company with rival Dish. **B1**

◆ **The head of Sony's** movie and TV studio will step down early next year after helping the company sidestep costly investments in streaming that challenged many of its rivals. **B1**

◆ **Epic Games said it** sued Google and Samsung, alleging they colluded and imposed "onerous" restrictions on new third-party app stores. **B4**

World-Wide

◆ **Israel launched** a ground operation in Lebanon, sharply escalating its offensive against the militant group Hezbollah days after killing its top leader in an airstrike in Beirut. **A1**

◆ **Midwesterners Vance** and Walz were set to square off in a vice-presidential debate Tuesday, looking to gain an edge in an event that will be watched by tens of millions of voters. **A4**

◆ **A group aligned with** Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell plans to pour tens of millions of dollars into an effort to crack Democrats' "blue wall" with less than six weeks left to go before Election Day. **A4**

◆ **California Gov. Newsom** vetoed a bill that would have tightened scrutiny of private-equity medical transactions, one of a number of setbacks for state-level proposals to clamp down on healthcare buyouts. **A3**

◆ **In France, Marine Le Pen** and dozens of other members of her far-right National Rally party stood trial on charges of misusing European funds. **A7**

◆ **New York City Mayor** Eric Adams asked a federal judge to throw out a bribery charge included in his indictment last week, saying the Justice Department failed to support the allegations. **A6**

◆ **A Georgia judge** struck down the state's abortion law, which took effect in 2022 and effectively prohibited abortions beyond about six weeks of pregnancy. **A6**

◆ **Died: Pete Rose**, 83, MLB hits leader. **A3** ... **Dikembe Mutombo**, 58, Basketball Hall of Famer. **A6**

CONTENTS	Markets & Finance B10
Arts in Review..... A13	Opinion..... A15-17
Business News. B3-4	Personal Journal A11-12
Capital Account..... A2	Sports..... A14
Crossword..... A13	Technology..... B4
Equities..... B7	U.S. News..... A2-4,6
Heard on Street..... B11	World News..... A7-9



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Israel Begins Lebanon Ground Operation

Border villages are targeted as fight with Hezbollah enters intense new phase

Israel launched a ground operation in Lebanon, sharply escalating its offensive against the militant group Hezbollah days after killing its top leader in an airstrike in Beirut, and heightening concerns of a wider war.

The Israeli military said Tuesday morning that it be-

gan what it called a limited operation in a number of villages in southern Lebanon near the border to attack Hezbollah targets and infrastructure. Those targets "pose an immediate and real threat to Israeli settlements on the northern border," the military said.

The ground operation follows weeks of Israeli intelligence operations, targeted killings and heavy bombing aimed at degrading Hezbollah's command structure, armaments and supply lines. Is-

By Jared Malsin, Dov Lieber, Stephen Kalin and Anat Peled

rael has said it is seeking to end nearly a year of rocket, drone and missile attacks by the Lebanese militia.

Around 60,000 Israelis living in northern Israel have been displaced from their homes near Lebanon for nearly a year due to the fighting, and the government is under heavy pressure to return them to their homes.

Israeli officials said those citizens won't feel safe returning home without sufficient protection from the type of attack led by Hamas in Israel on Oct. 7, which sparked the current war in Gaza.

The move puts Israeli troops on Hezbollah's ground, where the militants have fought Israel to a standstill twice in the past quarter-century. It also steps up fighting that officials in Washington and the Arab world fear could spiral into a broader war that could further draw the U.S.

and Iran into the conflict.

The military operation also heaps new stresses on Lebanon, a country in turmoil after hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes following recent Israeli bombing. Israeli attacks have killed more than 1,000 people in the country in recent weeks, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

Any intensification of the war against Hezbollah would

Please turn to page A8

◆ **U.S. positions forces in Middle East.....** A8

Death Toll Rises in Flood-Stricken Southeast



WASHED AWAY: Floodwaters scattered debris through Asheville, N.C., Monday in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, and the death toll surpassed 100 across six states. For a video of the devastation left by the storm, scan the code with the article on A3.

China Stimulus Blitz Ignites Market

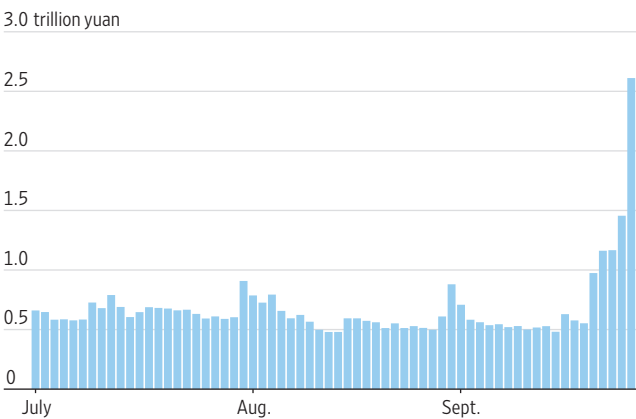
It is too early to tell if China's weeklong blizzard of stimulus will reignite flickering growth. But its impact is already unmistakable in one corner of the economy: Red-hot stock markets.

By Rebecca Feng in Hong Kong and Jason Douglas in Singapore

Stock valued at 1 trillion yuan, equivalent to \$143 billion, changed hands in 35 minutes of fevered trading in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Beijing on Monday—the fastest pace to the trillion-yuan mark in the country's history.

China's benchmark CSI 300 index has soared 25% since the country's central bank unleashed the first wave of easing measures on Tuesday last

Daily trading of domestic Chinese shares by value



Note: 1 trillion yuan = \$142.6 billion
Source: Wind Information

week, erasing nearly 14 months' losses in five trading sessions. In the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, the technology-focused ChiNext

index rocketed up 15.4% on Monday, its largest single-day rise since the index came into existence in 2010. The stock buying continued early Tues-

day, with the Shanghai Composite Index up more than 8% in late morning.

The stock-market frenzy follows an extraordinary week for the Chinese economy. After months of tiny doses of policy support, volley after volley of growth-friendly pledges were announced in a daily staccato, with officials pledging more if needed.

The question is whether stock investors' euphoria will be matched by a durable turnaround in China's economy. Manufacturers on Monday reported a fifth straight month of shrinking activity, adding to a run of downbeat data that economists said explains the government's sudden action.

Please turn to page A8

◆ **Chinese property stocks surge on stimulus.....** B10

'Real Tennis' Champs Net Little Fame

Ancient version of sport still draws players

By Spencer Jakab

TUXEDO PARK, N.Y.—The real tennis champion of the world flew coach and crashed on friends' couches during tournaments.

That is because the sport is eight centuries old, a lot less lucrative and so different from modern tennis that John McEnroe reportedly stinks at it. But the hardest thing about the game might be explaining it to strangers.

"I try to steer clear of it—it's too complicated," says Robert Fahey, a 56-year-old British-Australian, who dominated "real tennis" for almost

Please turn to page A10

Wealthy Town Worries Danger Lurks in Soil

Utilities sold coal ash to North Carolina developers; EPA warns of cancer risk

By Kris Maher

MOORESVILLE, N.C.—When her teenage daughter was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, Susan Wind started searching for answers in her town.

She learned that the thyroid-cancer rate in her ZIP Code was triple the statewide rate between 2012 and 2016. She also found that builders had put about a million tons of coal ash in the ground under construction projects in town. She figured the two had to be linked.

Coal ash, which contains arsenic, heavy metals and radioactive elements, is stirring unease in this town of 50,000, one of North Carolina's fastest-growing and

wealthiest. Top Nascar teams and the Trump National Golf Club Charlotte call it home, and multimillion-dollar houses ring the state's biggest man-made lake.

"It's not the average town you think of when you think of contamination," said Wind. "Too many people got sick and are getting sick."

Last fall, the Environmental Protection Agency warned that coal ash buried under surface soil—something done on utility properties and by developers around the nation to prepare land for new construction—can increase cancer risk.

"Coal ash pollution is known to cause serious health effects, like cancer,"

Please turn to page A10

FTC Sees Collusion Risk in Oil and Gas As CEOs Fight Back

By Benoît Morenne and Dave Michaels

Oil and gas CEOs are increasingly in the crosshairs of the Federal Trade Commission. This time, the target is John Hess, the chief executive of his eponymous company.

The FTC on Monday alleged John Hess had private talks with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries that could have pushed up oil prices.

The allegations were attached to the antitrust enforcer's approval of a \$53 billion megamerger of Chevron and Hess, in which the companies agreed to block John Hess from joining Chevron's board. The FTC approved the deal and the prohibition on a 3-2

vote divided on party lines.

Hess's board of directors said the allegations against the CEO are without merit. The merger with Chevron faces other challenges, including ongoing arbitration with Exxon over a key asset.

It is the second time this year antitrust enforcers have accused a chief executive of one of the largest U.S. drillers of having improper communications with the global oil cartel and barred them from joining a board of directors. In May, it extracted the same unusual concession in a merger involving Exxon Mobil.

FTC Chair Lina Khan said Monday that increased U.S. oil production over the past decade should have driven

Please turn to page A6

AI Fever Abates In Stocks' Latest Quarter

Segments including utilities, industrials and financials all beat the tech sector

By Karen Langley

AI fever has loosened its grip on the stock market.

Gone is the first half of 2024, when investors' passion for artificial intelligence drove the market skyward even as stubbornly high inflation dashed hopes that the Federal Reserve would begin cutting interest rates.

The third quarter brought a new order to markets. Investors began to look askance at big tech companies' heavy spending on AI. They took heart in a series of tamer inflation readings that led the Fed to finally lower rates. And many, seeing signs of economic strength, grew confident that the central bank had managed to control price pressures without driving the U.S. into recession.

It was a recipe for the broadening of a rally that many investors worried had grown precariously reliant on a few

Please turn to page A2

◆ **Fed sees no reason to rush rate cuts, Powell says....** A2

INSIDE



OBITUARY

Pete Rose, 83, the baseball hit king banned by the sport for betting on his team. **A3**