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What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **The tech-heavy Nasdaq** Composite closed at a record for the first time since 2021, rising 0.9%, while the S&P 500 also set a record with a gain of 0.5%. The Dow industrials advanced 0.1%. **B1**

◆ **Oil-and-gas companies** are accelerating investments in geothermal energy, betting the technologies that fueled the shale revolution can turn the budding industry into a large producer of clean power. **B1**

◆ **China's manufacturing** sector remained in contraction for a fifth consecutive month in February, underscoring the difficulties facing the country's leadership as it seeks to support a faltering economy. **A16**

◆ **The descendants** of Walt Disney and his brother Roy released two letters to Disney shareholders, backing the company and CEO Iger in their fight against activist investor Nelson Peltz. **B2**

◆ **The FAA asked** Boeing to develop a comprehensive plan within 90 days to address quality-control issues after the midair blowout of a door plug on an Alaska Airlines flight in January. **B3**

◆ **IAG said sustained** strong travel demand helped to boost its net profit and the British Airways parent projected capacity growth of about 7% this year. **B3**

◆ **Air France-KLM's** fourth-quarter losses were worse than analysts expected after the Israel-Hamas war disrupted travel to the Middle East and the carrier's expenses continued to rise. **B3**

◆ **Vanguard CEO** Mortimer J. "Tim" Buckley will retire by year-end, capping a six-year tenure. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Israeli troops** opened fire on Palestinian civilians as a chaotic series of events unfolded involving a convoy of aid trucks in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military and Gaza health officials said, prompting Hamas to pause delicate cease-fire negotiations. **A1**

◆ **Biden and Trump** made dueling visits to the U.S.-Mexico border, as the two likely election opponents used Texas towns 300 miles apart to push for tougher border policies while blaming the other's party for failing to fix the migrant crisis. **A1**

◆ **A federal judge** temporarily blocked a new Texas law that would allow the state to deport migrants, declaring the measure unconstitutional and an infringement on federal prerogative. **A7**

◆ **The Commerce Department** is opening an investigation into foreign-made software in cars, citing Chinese technology as a potential national-security risk. **A1**

◆ **Congress approved** a spending bill to prevent a partial government shutdown, with Speaker Johnson forced to turn to a coalition made up mostly of Democrats to clear it in the House. **A4**

◆ **Both chambers** of the Alabama Legislature passed bills intended to protect in vitro fertilization providers after the state Supreme Court ruled that embryos qualify as children. **A3**

◆ **A nuclear-armed** Moscow would do "absolutely everything" to pursue its military operation in Ukraine, Putin told Russian lawmakers. **A8**

◆ **Died: Brian Mulroney**, 84, former Canadian leader. **A16**

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President Biden, in Brownsville, Texas, across the Rio Grande from Mexico, spoke to Border Patrol agents Thursday and pitched a bipartisan deal on border security. Donald Trump, 300 miles away in Eagle Pass, attacked 'Biden migrant crime.'

Biden, Trump Travel to Border, Putting Spotlight on Migrants

By Tarini Parti
in Brownsville, Texas,
Adolfo Flores
in Eagle Pass, Texas,
and Annie Linskey
in Washington

President Biden and former President Donald Trump made dueling visits to the U.S.-Mexico border Thursday, as the two likely election opponents used Texas towns 300 miles apart to push for tougher border policies while blaming the other's party for failing to fix the migrant crisis.

The nationally televised events—each featuring meetings with law-enforcement officials, tours of border barriers

and curious onlookers—highlighted the extraordinary importance of immigration as an issue in the presidential election that has become a top concern for voters both near

and far from the border amid record illegal crossings.

Biden, a Democrat who made his second trip to the border as president, received a briefing from Border Patrol agents by the banks of the Rio Grande in Brownsville and met with law enforcement and local leaders. The president blamed Republicans for blocking a bipartisan border agreement in the Senate that would have allowed the gov-

ernment to expel migrants if crossings surpassed a daily threshold of 4,000. After months of negotiations, Republicans ultimately said the terms didn't go far enough.

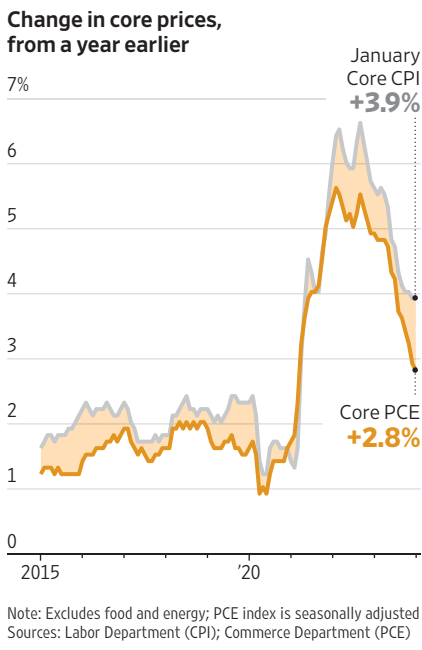
"Folks, it's real simple—it's time to act. It's well past time to act," Biden said, pitching the bipartisan deal that would

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◆ **House passes spending bill** to avert a shutdown..... **A4**

Which Measure Is Right?

When it comes to inflation, the Labor Department's consumer-price index is generally thought of as the report to follow. But a Commerce Department measure, core PCE, is what the Federal Reserve watches. PCE prices run cooler than the CPI, and lately the gap between the two has been especially large. **A2**



Why Hamas Thinks It Still Could Win the War

Gaza leader bets militants can survive Israel's onslaught

Senior members of Hamas's leadership in exile met in Doha, Qatar, last month amid concerns that its fighters were getting mauled by an Israeli offensive in the Gaza

By Marcus Walker, Anat Peled
and Summer Said

Strip. Enemy troops were killing dozens of militants each day as they methodically overran Hamas strongholds.

Then a courier arrived with a message from Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in Gaza, saying, in effect: Don't worry, we have

the Israelis right where we want them.

Hamas's fighters, the Al-Qassam Brigades, were doing fine, the upbeat message said. The militants were ready for Israel's expected assault on Rafah, a city on Gaza's southern edge. High civilian casualties would add to the worldwide pressure on Israel to stop the war, Sinwar's message said, according to people informed about the meeting.

Hamas's military wing in Gaza is waging an unequal fight with the strongest military in the Middle East—a war brought on by the

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INSIDE



BUSINESS
Apple hasn't made a big splash in AI yet, and that's making investors impatient. **B1**



MANSION
Expanding cities in the Southwest are starting to embrace vertical living. **M1**

U.S. Fears Chinese Cars Pose Big Security Threat

By GARETH VIPERS

The U.S. Commerce Department is opening an investigation into foreign-made software in cars, citing Chinese technology as a potential national-security risk.

Chinese efforts to dominate the global auto industry posed clear security risks to the U.S., President Biden said Thursday. "Connected vehicles from China could collect sensitive data about our citizens and our infrastructure and send this data back to the People's Republic of China," said Biden, who ordered the probe, in a statement. "These vehicles could be remotely accessed or disabled."

The investigation could lead to restrictions on the use of certain parts in cars in the U.S.

Right now, few U.S.-sold cars are made in China and most have software developed by Western firms, making the immediate threat limited.

Israel Fires on Civilians Amid Aid Delivery

Hamas pauses cease-fire talks after dozens killed in Gaza, conflicting accounts

TEL AVIV—Israeli troops opened fire on Palestinian civilians as a chaotic series of events unfolded involving a convoy of aid trucks in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military and Gaza health officials said, prompting Hamas to pause delicate cease-fire negotiations.

By Sune Engel Rasmussen,
Margherita Stancati
and Anat Peled

The Israeli military and Palestinian witnesses and officials gave conflicting accounts of what happened. Gaza health officials said more than 100 Palestinians were killed and 700 injured.

Israeli officials said thousands of Palestinians surrounded some 30 trucks carrying aid into northern Gaza along the strip's main seaside road at about 4 a.m. on Thursday. Dozens were fatally trampled or injured in the crush, and some were run over by the trucks, Israeli officials said.

Soon after, officials said, Israeli troops a short distance down the road from the aid convoy opened fire on a crowd that approached a military checkpoint and ignored warning shots. A military spokesman said the shooting was under investigation and that it could have caused deaths and injuries.

Three witnesses said Israeli soldiers and tanks fired at people waiting for aid deliveries

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