

Hurricane Debby floods still-recovering Fla. towns



RICARDO ARDUENGO/REUTERS

Streets in Suwannee, Fla., are left flooded by the storm on Monday. Debby, which made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane, brought power outages to parts of Florida hit hard by other storms in recent years. **Story, A7**

Google is an illegal monopoly, federal court rules

BY EVA DOU
AND GERRIT DE VYNCK

A federal court has found that Google illegally abused its market power to quash competition in internet search. The ruling hands the Justice Department its biggest victory in more than two decades in limiting the power of Big Tech companies to control and dominate the huge markets they have created.

Ruling is victory for Justice Department in lawsuits against Big Tech

“Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly,” Judge Amit P. Mehta of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia wrote in his

judgment on Monday.

Mehta ruled that the Justice Department was right in saying that Google violated antitrust law by forging restrictive contracts with Apple and other phone makers that required them to install Google as the default search engine on smartphones. He also decried other practices of the Alphabet Inc. unit that prevented its rivals from competing on an even playing field.

“This victory against Google is a historic win for the American people,” said Attorney General Merrick Garland. “No company — no matter how large or influential — is above the law. The Justice Department will continue to vigorously enforce our antitrust laws.”

Google argued throughout the

SEE GOOGLE ON A8

A1: Recent hires by Google fuel concerns over Big Tech power. **A18**

U.S. markets slide amid a global rush to sell off stocks

‘PANIC’ SPANS FROM TOKYO TO WALL STREET

Yet by most measures, economy is still in solid shape

BY ABHA BHATTARAI,
RACHEL SIEGEL
AND JEFF STEIN

U.S. stock markets fell sharply Monday, with two major indexes racking up their worst day of trading in almost two years.

The turmoil continued a sudden global panic that began overnight Sunday, cratering the value of stocks, currencies, even cryptocurrencies — and raising the prospect that a broader downturn could be on the horizon, especially after a weak snapshot of the U.S. job market last week. The jobs report made the American economy look as though it could be on rockier footing than previously thought and sparked bets that the Federal Reserve might have to cut interest rates sooner and more aggressively.

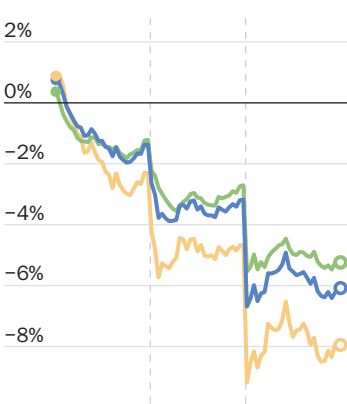
But economists say the stock slide is not a surefire sign that a recession is ahead. The current sell-off, they say, is the result of investors having to untangle complicated, heavily leveraged trades that have artificially boosted stock values.

All three major stock indexes fell Monday, the Nasdaq Composite by 3.4 percent, the S&P 500 by 3 percent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 2.6 percent, as investors moved money out of equities and into bonds. Global markets had also reeled, with Japan’s Nikkei 225 plunging 12 percent, its largest one-day drop in almost 40 years, after an interest rate hike by the Bank of Japan last week.

Percent change since closing on July 31

— Dow Jones — S&P 500 — Nasdaq

Aug. 1 Aug. 2 Aug. 5



Source: Bloomberg
ALYSSA FOWERS / THE WASHINGTON POST

Although there’s a chance the turbulence could lead to a self-fulfilling economic slowdown, analysts and economists say it’s too soon to panic. The economy, by most measures, is still in solid shape. Americans are continuing to spend, the service sector is growing, and the stock market remains up for the year, not too far off the all-time highs it set recently.

“This is not the recession train; it’s just a good old-fashioned market panic,” said Joe Brusuelas, principal and chief

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International angst: Unease seen in markets around the world. **A17**

ELECTION 2024

Trump’s bid backed by only half of his Cabinet

BY AZI PAYBARAH,
SZU YU CHEN,
HAYDEN GODFREY
AND MICHAEL SCHERER

Of the 42 people who worked in President Donald Trump’s Cabinet, just over half support his bid for another term.

Three, however, have explicitly said they will not vote for him.

And 15 who worked in Trump’s Cabinet have not said whether they support his bid for a second term.

It is rare for Cabinet members to not support the president they served. They are normally some of a president’s most loyal support-

ers. But in the case of Trump’s Cabinet, these uniquely qualified insiders — spanning from the vice president and chiefs of staff to more than a dozen agencies, such as Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security and Transportation — are deeply divided about whether he should return to power.

Some, such as former secretary of state Mike Pompeo and former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, spoke at the Republican National Convention, where

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Ticket on tour: Harris to name VP pick, travel to swing states. **A4**

As risks rise, Ariz. schools opt out as polling locations

Conflicts spurred by election misinformation cause administrators to shut out voters

BY YVONNE WINGETT
SANCHEZ,
CLARA ENCE MORSE
AND HANNAH NATANSON

PHOENIX — For the first time in as long as anyone can remember, Arizona’s largest public school district isn’t opening its schools to voters as polling sites.

The reasons have been building for years, but the final straw for Mesa Public Schools officials came last November with a

small, low-turnout election that became mired in misinformation and menace.

“It was very chaotic,” Assistant Superintendent Scott Thompson recalled. “It was overwhelming.”

Although voting was supposed to be done mostly by mail, mistrust led many voters to drive to the schools to fill out their ballots in person, causing traffic jams and confrontations. Voters confused school staff for election

SEE ARIZONA ON A6



K M ASAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Protesters storm the Bangladeshi prime minister’s palace Monday in Dhaka. For weeks, the nation had been gripped by bloody clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

Bangladeshi leader resigns, flees

BY AZAD MAJUMDER,
REBECCA TAN,
KARISHMA MEHROTRA
AND ANANT GUPTA

DHAKA, BANGLADESH — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country Monday as protesters stormed her residence and set fire to government offices, marking a dramatic end to a 15-year rule that had faced violent opposition in recent months.

Bangladeshi army chief Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman announced Hasina’s resignation in a televised address, adding that an interim government would be formed in the coming days.

Prime minister’s 15-year reign ends, thrusting country into turmoil

Weeks of bloody clashes between protesters and Hasina’s security forces had intensified this past weekend, with dozens killed on Sunday alone.

Now, the country of 171 million has been thrust into a level of political turmoil that it has not seen in decades.

“Please trust the armed forces. I am taking full responsibility to protect all lives and property,” Waker-Uz-Zaman said to

the nation. He called for an end to the violence and promised a full investigation. “I assure you that you will not be disappointed,” he said, adding, “Every single death will be investigated; every atrocity will be discussed.”

Regular life has been upended across Bangladesh. Most of the garment factories that power the country’s economy did not open Monday. Flights into the capital, Dhaka, were canceled as its main airport temporarily shut down operations. Businesses shut their doors as hundreds of thousands of people flooded the streets of major cities, blaring

SEE BANGLADESH ON A13

Asteroid closes in; scientists get excited

As huge rock skirts Earth, they’ll study it to prevent future strikes

BY LIZETTE ORTEGA

A massive space rock will go hurtling past Earth in a few years, zooming by 10 times faster than a bullet.

This is the first time an asteroid of its size is coming close enough that people in parts of Western Europe and Africa will see it soaring across the sky like a fast-moving star, no fancy telescopes or binoculars required. Around 2 billion people will get to witness this rare event.

To be clear, the asteroid is not going to hit Earth — not in our lifetime nor our children’s lifetimes, anyway. Instead, as if the universe was making a joke, the space rock will make an eerily close flyby on Friday the 13th in April 2029.

The asteroid is named Apophis, and it will come closer to Earth than the satellites that make weather monitoring possible and about 10 times closer than the moon.

“Nature is performing this once-per-several-thousand-years experiment for us. We have to figure out how to watch,” said Richard P. Binzel, a professor of planetary science at MIT.

Apophis is a once-in-a-lifetime

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IN THE NEWS

U.S. withdrawal American forces left a strategic base in Niger, a setback to efforts to combat growing Islamist militancy. **A11**

Biggest fish Lucy Moore, a 12-year-old from Maryland, became the first female — and first juvenile — recipient of the state’s Master Angler Milestone Award. **B1**

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A senator said Justice Clarence Thomas took two more undisclosed flights on a private jet. **A2**
A new evangelical political movement aims to appeal to faith, not partisan ideology. **A3**

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The Washington Post
Year 147, No. 53935

