

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ Apple and Nvidia are in talks to invest in OpenAI, a move that would strengthen their ties to a partner integral to their efforts in the artificial-intelligence race. **B1**

◆ Major U.S. stock indexes largely brushed off disappointing Nvidia results from a day earlier, with the S&P finishing flat, the Nasdaq losing 0.2% and the Dow rising 0.6%. **B9**

◆ The FAA temporarily blocked SpaceX from launching its mainstay rocket after a failed landing, further delaying a mission that would feature the first commercial-astronaut spacewalk. **B1**

◆ Tyson Foods said that John R. Tyson, the son of its chairman, will step down as the meatpacker's finance chief, but remain at the company on health-related leave. **B1**

◆ China said it would temporarily refrain from dumping measures against brandy imported from the EU, alleviating a major concern about the potential impact on sales in a key market. **B1**

◆ Best Buy shares surged 14% after the consumer-electronics store chain reported better-than-expected quarterly revenue and raised its guidance as tablet and computer sales accelerated. **B9**

◆ Dollar General shares dived 32% after the country's largest dollar-store operator slashed its outlook for the year in a bleak sign for its turnaround and its core customers. **B3**

◆ Shares of Birkenstock fell 16% after the German footwear firm's profitability slipped on steep investments and an unfavorable sales mix. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ Kamala Harris has stepped out of the shadow of her role as the Biden administration vice president and has established herself as a candidate whom voters view largely in positive terms, giving her a narrow lead in the presidential election against Donald Trump, a new Wall Street Journal poll found. **A1**

◆ Harris said her values were unchanged on key issues such as climate change and immigration despite shifting policy stances, as she and her running mate, Tim Walz, sat for their first major television interview of their 2024 campaign. **A4**

◆ A Ukrainian pilot was killed when his F-16 jet fighter crashed as he was helping to repel a massive Russian missile attack, U.S. and Ukrainian officials said. **A1**

◆ Iran has continued to expand its stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium in recent months, a confidential report from the United Nations' atomic agency said. **A6**

◆ China's leader used a meeting with the U.S. national-security adviser to push for stability in bilateral ties, seeking to define the relationship in ways that favor Beijing. **A16**

◆ Two top editors of a pro-democracy Hong Kong news outlet were found guilty of sedition, the first convictions against the media in decades under the colonial-era law. **A16**

◆ An FBI internal watchdog said the bureau continues to make the same kinds of serious errors in child sex-abuse cases revealed by the Nassar scandal, with law-enforcement inaction exposing minors to prolonged abuse. **A3**

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Harris Gains Slim Lead in Poll

Democrat's 48%-47% edge over Trump is first for party in WSJ survey since 2023

By Aaron Zitner

WASHINGTON—Kamala Harris has stepped out of the shadow of her role as the Biden administration vice president and has established herself as a candidate who voters view largely in positive terms, giving her a narrow lead in

the presidential election against Donald Trump, a new Wall Street Journal poll finds.

Harris had 48% support to Trump's 47% in a head-to-head test of the two candidates, and she led 47% to 45% on a ballot that included independent and third-party candidates, according to the poll, which was conducted after Democrats concluded their televised national convention. The leads in both matchups fell within the survey's margin of error of plus-or-minus 2.5 percentage points. The poll marked the first

time the Democratic candidate led Trump, the GOP nominee, head-to-head in any Journal survey dating to April 2023. Trump had a 2-point advantage over Harris in the Journal's head-to-head test in late July.

The poll finds little evidence that Trump has succeeded in his efforts to tarnish Harris, which have included labeling her agenda of targeted aid for families and new-home buyers as "communist" and arguing she deserves the same poor marks President Biden earns from voters on handling the

economy and immigration. Both parties are spending millions of ad dollars and significant effort in their campaign messages to try to define Harris, who became her party's nominee after Biden ended his candidacy less than six weeks ago.

Rather, voters now view Harris in a more positive light than they view Trump, and

◆ Harris says her values haven't changed..... **A4**
◆ VP's L.A. life: SoulCycle, Oscar party, traffic jams... **A4**

West Bank Raids Stretch Israeli Military



ON TARGET: Israeli soldiers take position during an army operation in the north of the occupied West Bank on Thursday. The renewed fighting in the West Bank has raised the specter of prolonged battles for Israel in several regions at once. **A6**

Ukrainian Pilot Dies in F-16 Crash

By Lara Seligman

A Ukrainian pilot was killed when his F-16 fighter jet crashed as he was helping to repel a massive Russian missile attack, U.S. and Ukrainian officials said.

The crash occurred on Monday, just weeks after the

first U.S.-made aircraft arrived in Ukraine.

Officials identified the pilot as Oleksiy Mes, one of Kyiv's first pilots to be trained on the F-16.

Initial reports indicate the jet wasn't shot down by enemy fire, U.S. officials said, although the incident occurred during a

massive Russian missile barrage across the country on Monday, U.S. officials said.

The Pentagon referred questions to the Ukrainian Air Force for comment.

Ukraine used the jets for the first time in combat to shoot down Russian missiles during the strikes this week, Presi-

dent Volodymyr Zelensky said.

The Ukrainian Air Force said on Thursday that Mes was killed in combat while helping respond to the missile barrage.

The General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces said contact had been lost with the jet while it was approaching

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TOMORROW



WSJ. MAGAZINE

AUBREY PLAZA

Violent Drug Gangs Jolt Western Europe

Dutch cocaine kingpin sentenced to life in prison after deadly crime spree; EU now considers organized crime a threat to society on par with terrorism

By Sune Engel Rasmussen

AMSTERDAM—Organized crime used to be considered a remote threat in much of Western Europe, but ruthless violence by criminal gangs is now rattling the peace in some of the world's safest societies.

Sweden now has Europe's highest gun-homicide rate, and the military is helping police fight street gangs. In Denmark, residents of the commune Christiania shut their famed open-air cannabis market after violent gangs took over. In Belgium, armed security forces have started guarding customs trucks carrying seized cocaine to pre-

vent criminals from stealing it back.

One of the most alarming exhibits of what the 21st-century drug trade has wrought upon long-peaceful European societies came earlier this year in the Netherlands, long known for its tolerant attitude toward recreational drugs.

Dutch drug kingpin Ridouan Taghi was considered so dangerous that he was tried in a warehouse-turned-bunker in Amsterdam, guarded by hundreds of masked special forces and drones circling overhead to prevent a prison break. When the judges pronounced him guilty of involvement in five murders and two attempted killings, their faces were hidden and their

names weren't revealed.

"He has managed to strike fear in the minds of people," said Dutch lawmaker Ulysse Ellian about Taghi, who was sentenced to life in prison.

During the six-year legal proceeding that led to Taghi's conviction, three people linked to the state's star witness were shot dead in the streets of Amsterdam: his brother, his lawyer and a well-known crime journalist who had joined the witness's legal team.

"We have seen murders before. What's new about Taghi is that he also targets individuals who are not part of the criminal underworld: the brother of

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New Fancy Wellness Retreats Cater to Parents and Newborns

* * *

Mom, dad and junior go right from the hospital to \$1,000-per-night getaways

By Tara Weiss

Luxury hotels such as the Waldorf Astoria, renowned for offering impeccable service to clientele, are now catering to an unexpected cadre of VIPs: newborns and their parents.

Postnatal-wellness centers, modeled after ones in Taiwan and Korea, are popping up in American cities, quietly ensconced within tony hotels. For up to \$1,500 per night, families leave the hospital and head to a retreat or check in for R & R later. They indulge in recovery, coaching in newborn care and pampering.

Perhaps the most coveted service, however, is the 24-7 nursery staff, affording new parents that elusive treasure: precious sleep.

That allure drew Scott Parker and Elisa Kang to Samu, a postnatal retreat in the Watermark Hotel near Washington, D.C., following the birth of their son Tyler in June.

For five nights and \$4,000, the couple luxuriated in Frette bedding, savoring eight to nine hours of sleep and afternoon naps—while Tyler was tended to in the nursery.

"It was a chance to be pam-

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INSIDE

MANSION
Luxury homeowners find the perfect beach is only as good as the quality of the sand. **M1**

BUSINESS & FINANCE
Amazon loses bid to overturn workers' unionization victory in New York. **B1**

Nvidia's Big New Chips Pose Cost, Output Issues

By Asa Fitch

To keep its lead in AI chips, Nvidia is banking on the idea that bigger is better.

Bigger is also turning out to be more difficult.

The digital brains of the company's newest artificial-intelligence chips, roughly the size of four Scrabble tiles arranged in a square, are about twice as big as the ones whose sales propelled an explosion in Nvidia's business since early last year. The new chips, dubbed Blackwell, boast an even bigger increase in performance—they house 2.6 times the number transistors—and Chief Executive Jensen Huang has said demand is red hot. But Nvidia, when it re-

ported strong quarterly sales and profit on Wednesday, also said challenges manufacturing the new chips were largely responsible for narrower profit margins and a \$908 million provision it booked in the most recent period. Those factors pushed its highflying stock down 6.4% on Thursday.

Nvidia hasn't detailed the nature of the issue. But analysts and industry executives said Nvidia's engineering challenges stem mostly from the

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◆ Apple, Nvidia in Open AI talks..... **B1**
◆ Markets mainly brush off Nvidia results..... **B9**
◆ Heard on the Street: AI spending fears loom..... **B10**