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What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Former Treasury** Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he is assembling a consortium to try to buy TikTok, as a bid to divorce the popular social-media platform from its Chinese owners gathers momentum in Congress. **A1**
- ◆ **Major U.S. stock** indexes declined, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both retreating 0.3% and the Dow industrials falling back 0.4%. **B9**
- ◆ **A cockpit-seat mishap** might have pushed a pilot into the controls on a Boeing 787 Dreamliner that took a sudden plunge on a flight to New Zealand this week, U.S. industry officials said. **B1**
- ◆ **Hilton agreed to pay** \$210 million for a hotel operator that focuses on college towns, a bet that business near campuses can fuel the next leg of the lodging heavyweight's growth. **B2**
- ◆ **SpaceX's Starship** achieved an extended flight through space on the third test mission of a vehicle that could one day transport astronauts to the moon and beyond. **B1**
- ◆ **Hapag-Lloyd expects** earnings to fall sharply this year, joining other container lines suffering from weak demand and the impact of the Red Sea shipping crisis. **B3**
- ◆ **Foxconn reported a** 33% rise in fourth-quarter net profit and forecast significant growth this year, boosted by investments in artificial intelligence. **B4**
- ◆ **Federal regulators fined** JPMorgan Chase roughly \$350 million for failing to properly monitor billions of trades that the bank has executed since 2019. **B9**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Senate Majority Leader** Chuck Schumer said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel "has lost his way" and called for new elections aimed at choosing a new government, a sign of growing U.S. pressure on Israel over the war in Gaza. **A1**
- ◆ **Israel's military said it** would work with the U.S. to set up a maritime corridor to help flood northern Gaza with aid to alleviate the hunger crisis in the Palestinian enclave. **A7**
- ◆ **Biden's decision to** oppose Nippon Steel's attempt to buy U.S. Steel was the culmination of months of agitation against the deal. **A1**
- ◆ **A federal judge** in Florida heard two arguments from Trump's attorneys about why she should dismiss the charges over his handling of classified documents. **A6**
- ◆ **The father of a teenager** who killed four people at a high school in Oxford, Mich., was found guilty of four counts of unintentional manslaughter weeks after his wife was held accountable for their child's attack. **A3**
- ◆ **The Energy Department** is readying a \$2.26 billion loan to Lithium Americas to stimulate domestic production of the batteries that power EVs. **A4**
- ◆ **A Harvard University** probe into researcher Francesca Gino found that her work contained manipulated data and recommended that she be fired, according to a court filing. **A4**
- ◆ **A major storm dumped** heavy snow in Colorado, forcing flight cancellations and shutting down a highway that connects Denver to the state's ski resorts. **A6**

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Haitians Keep Guard Up During Tense Transition



ON EDGE: A National Police officer stands guard in Port-au-Prince on Thursday. A plan to create a transitional presidential council moved forward as Haitian parties and coalitions submitted names of people charged with finding new leaders. **A18**

Mnuchin Plans to Form Group Of Investors to Acquire TikTok

By RACHEL LOUISE ENSIGN AND GARETH VIPERS

Former Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he's putting together a consortium to try to buy TikTok, as a bid to divorce the popular social-media platform from its Chinese owners gathers momentum in Congress.

Mnuchin, who has long spoken out against Chinese ownership of the app, didn't specify how he might buy the business, which could be valued at more

than \$100 billion. But his comments show that should there be a forced sale, interest would likely be high in a platform that boasts more than 170 million U.S. users.

"I think the legislation should pass and I think it should be sold," said Mnuchin, who served in the Trump administration, on CNBC Thursday. "It's a great business and I'm going to put together a group to buy TikTok."

The House voted on Wednesday to approve a bill

that would ban TikTok from web-hosting services and app stores in the U.S. if its Chinese owner, ByteDance, doesn't divest itself of the business. President Biden supports the bill.

TikTok has said it sees that as an effective ban and that separating the U.S. portion wouldn't be practical and would undercut the appeal of the app as a global product.

The bill faces an uncertain path in the Senate, where lawmakers signaled a more cau-

tious approach. A forced sale on such a scale would have little precedent and would have to overcome hurdles, including a reluctance of regulators to bless big tech combinations and the challenges a bidder like Mnuchin could face raising sufficient funds.

The app has faced scrutiny over its China-based ownership, which U.S. officials said

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◆ **TikTok stars wonder, what if it goes away?**..... **A4**

Schumer Calls for Change At Helm Of Israel

Top U.S. senator urges new elections; some in GOP say it is wrong to interfere

By NATALIE ANDREWS

WASHINGTON—Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel "has lost his way" and called for new elections aimed at choosing a new government, a sign of growing U.S. pressure on Israel over the war in Gaza.

Netanyahu is "allowing his political survival to take precedence over the best interests of Israel," the New York Democrat said in a speech on the Senate floor on Thursday. Schumer, the highest ranking Jewish elected official in the U.S. government, said Israel "cannot hope to succeed as a pariah opposed by the rest of the world."

His speech is the latest in a series of high-level warnings and White House moves aimed at pressuring Israel and Netanyahu's government to permit more humanitarian aid into Gaza and to rethink its war plans for Hamas, the U.S.-designated terror group whose bloody Oct. 7 attack on Israel sparked the war. The address also marked an unusually direct criticism of the democratically elected leader of a close ally, and sparked sharp push-

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◆ **Israel pledges to increase aid into Gaza**..... **A7**

◆ **Hamas urges confrontation in Jerusalem**..... **A8**

President Opposes Proposed Takeover of U.S. Steel

By ANDREW DUEHREN AND BOB TITA

President Biden's decision to oppose Nippon Steel's attempt to buy United States Steel on Thursday was the culmination of months of agitation against the deal.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers had called for the Biden administration to use national-security powers to block the \$14.1 billion deal for the Pittsburgh-based company. The United Steelworkers union blasted it. Former President Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, promised to scuttle it if he wins a second term. With the political pressure mounting, Biden signaled his opposition to the deal without explicitly saying he would block it.

"U.S. Steel has been an iconic American steel company for more than a century, and it is vital for it to remain an American steel company that is domestically owned and operated," Biden said Thursday.

Behind the scenes, a company with more bottom-line considerations is helping orchestrate the populist revolt. Ohio-based Cleveland-Cliffs had also tried to buy U.S. Steel last year, and now confronts the prospect of a competitor vastly strengthened by Nippon Steel's deep pockets and close ties to Japanese automakers.

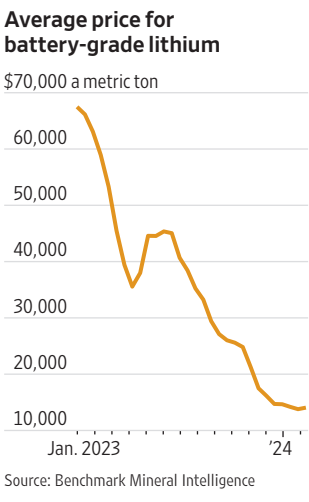
After losing in the boardroom, Lourenco Goncalves, the combative CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs, is trying to kill the deal on Capitol Hill as well as through an unusual alliance with the United Steelworkers.

In meetings with Republican

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Lithium Mine Gets a Boost

A \$2.26 billion U.S. loan will aid refining efforts at a major lithium-mining project. **A4**



Shut Out of Top Jobs, Women Leave Goldman Sachs

Wall Street giant pledged to bring more women into senior ranks. Instead, key talent say better opportunities are elsewhere.

By ANNA MARIA ANDRIOTIS AND ANDREA FULLER

When David Solomon became CEO of Goldman Sachs just over five years ago, he made promoting women to senior levels of the firm a priority. On Monday, he'll host several women partners for dinner at his Manhattan apartment where he'll face questions on why that hasn't worked out.

Roughly two-thirds of the women who were partners at the end of 2018 have left the firm or no longer have the title, a Wall Street Journal analysis found. The same can be said of just under half of male partners at the time.

No woman currently runs a major division or is seen internally as a credible candidate to succeed Solomon. Two of the eight executive officers at Goldman are women—in legal and accounting, nonrevenue generating positions.

In Goldman's core division of investment banking and markets, a number of star women partners have left or are no longer partners after they saw little or no path to moving up the ranks. Many women who left the firm found better opportunities elsewhere.

"Advancing women into our most senior ranks is an area where we have not accomplished,"

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Media Dealmaker's Own Deal Turns Sour

By SUZANNE VRANICA AND SARAH KROUSE

One of Madison Avenue's savviest connectors holds court on the French Riviera each spring, forging deals with industry bigwigs and wooing clients with help from celebrities. He often uses two

phones and wears custom Brunello Cucinelli clothes.

Michael Kassan's relationships in the advertising and media worlds helped entice Hollywood talent agency UTA to buy MediaLink, the company he founded, in 2021 for \$125 million as part of a push to expand further into marketing

and branding opportunities.

Roughly two years later, UTA and Kassan are embroiled in legal spats over their tie-up, his spending and the circumstances under which he left UTA.

Dueling legal actions filed this week, which have raised eyebrows among media and

advertising executives on both coasts, offer a glimpse at the money, ego and power that fuel Hollywood and Madison Avenue.

Kassan accused UTA and its chief executive, Jeremy Zimmer, of breaching his contract and acting in bad faith after

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This Apple Video Feature Awkwardly Crashes Meetings

Users' hand motions accidentally trigger on-screen confetti, balloons at odd times

By ANN-MARIE ALCÁNTARA

Alyssa Nolte, a 33-year-old consultant, was on a somber business call a couple months ago. A client was sharing news about coming layoffs. The client raised her hands and suddenly her screen was filled with balloons.

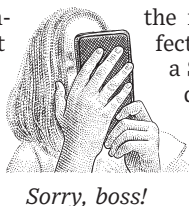
"We're all like, 'What just hap-

pened? Oh my gosh," says Nolte, who lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The meeting had just been hijacked by the latest tech that has us cringing at work: the new Apple camera effect that made its debut in a September software update for Macs and other devices.

Users are inadvertently triggering del-

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INSIDE



BUSINESS & FINANCE

New streaming service aims to fix the fragmented experience of watching sports. **B1**

MANSION

Atlanta's metro area is fast becoming a mecca for the film and TV industries. **M1**