

Biden’s Order
Bans Investing
In Chinese Tech

Limits Could Escalate
Conflict With Beijing

By PETER BAKER
and DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — President Biden escalated his confrontation with China on Wednesday by signing an executive order banning new American investment in key technology industries that could be used to enhance Beijing’s military capabilities, the latest in a series of moves putting more distance between the world’s two largest economies.

The order will prohibit venture capital and private equity firms from pumping more money into Chinese efforts to develop semiconductors and other microelectronics, quantum computers and certain artificial intelligence applications. Administration officials stressed that the move was tailored to guard national security, but China is likely to see it as part of a wider campaign to contain its rise.

“The Biden administration is committed to keeping America safe and defending America’s national security through appropriately protecting technologies that are critical to the next generation of military innovation,” the Treasury Department said in a statement. The statement emphasized that the executive order was a “narrowly targeted action” complementing existing export controls and that the administration maintained its “longstanding commitment to open investment.”

Narrow or not, the new order comes at perhaps the most fraught moment in the U.S.-China relationship since President Richard M. Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger opened a dialogue with Beijing in the early 1970s. A series of expanding export controls on key technologies to China has already triggered retaliation from Beijing, which recently announced the cutoff of metals like gallium that are critical to the U.S. economy.

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ECONOMIC THREAT Spending slowdown deepens concerns for heavily indebted China. PAGE B1



A charred boat sat on the scorched waterfront Wednesday as wildfires fanned by Hurricane Dora swept the island of Maui in Hawaii.

The Extreme Heat May Be Getting to Your Head

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI

If you find that the blistering, unrelenting heat is making you anxious and irritable, even depressed, it’s not all in your head. Soaring temperatures can damage not just the body but also the mind.

As heat waves become more intense, more frequent and longer, it has become increasingly important to address the impact on mental health, scientists say.

“It’s really only been over the past five years that there’s been a real recognition of the impact,” said Dr. Joshua Wortzel, chair of the American Psychiatric Association’s committee on climate change and mental health, which was set up just two years ago.

“Our understanding of the basic biology of why this association exists is still in its infancy,” he added.

High temperatures are strongly associated with an increase in suicides, researchers have found. Heat has been linked to a rise in violent crime and aggression, emergency room visits and hospitalizations for mental disorders, and deaths — especially among people with schizophrenia, dementia, psychosis and substance use.

For every increase in temperature of 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, scientists have estimated that there is a nearly 5 percent increase in the risk of death among patients with psychosis, dementia or substance use.

Researchers have reported a 0.7 percent increase in suicides linked to rising temperatures, and about a 4 percent to 6 percent increase in interpersonal violence, including homicides.

Heat not only fuels feelings like irritability and anger, but also seems to exacerbate mental illnesses, such as anxiety, schizophrenia and depression. Older adults, adolescents and people with pre-existing mental illnesses are particularly vulnerable, as are people who do not have housing or are of lower socioeconomic status.

A landmark study last year analyzed data on more than two million people with private insurance and found that emergency department visits for mental illnesses

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Uncovering the Effects
of Climate Change
on Mental Health

Fleeing Into Sea
As Deadly Fires
Overtake Maui

By THOMAS FULLER

From the air, the town of Lahaina looks incinerated. Charred palm trees are reduced to slender matchsticks protruding into the smoky sky. Homes are ash. Streets are deserted.

“Oh, my Gosh! Unbelievable,” said Richard Olsten as he piloted a helicopter along the Maui coast on Wednesday. “This looks like Baghdad or something.”

The firestorm that tore through the western shores of Hawaii’s Maui island on Tuesday and continued on Wednesday has killed at least six people and forced the evacuation of more than 2,000, the authorities said. It was the deadliest wildfire in the state’s history, according to Clay Trauernicht, a tropical fire specialist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

It was a scene familiar to residents of California and other states in the American West that have suffered a spate of hot-burning and fast-moving wildfires. This week they were ravaging a part of the United States that many consider paradise.

“This is not a safe place to be,” Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke said at a news conference.

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Officials in Pinecrest, Fla., announced a mitigation plan to help rein in the peafowl and keep them from breeding and running amok.

Overrun Miami Suburb to Clip Its Peacocks (Not the Feathers)

By PATRICIA MAZZEI

PINECREST, Fla. — The prevailing theory about why the peacocks flocked to suburban Pinecrest is that, like many a Floridian, they went hunting for better real estate.

Long a mainstay in bohemian Coconut Grove, a Miami neighborhood up the road, the nonna-

Turning to Vasectomies
to Curb Population

tive birds began making their way south in recent years, local officials suspect, because old Grove cottages were being turned into immense modern houses that chipped away at the area’s lush tree canopy. In the affluent village of Pinecrest, the peafowl found larger lots with plenty of greenery that were far more to their liking.

The birds, however, were not so much to their new human neighbors’ liking. The peacocks scratched the roofs of stately homes, pecked the paint off fancy cars and defecated on manicured driveways. Their piercing

squawks — “aa-AAH! aa-AAH!” — often woke residents before dawn.

So Pinecrest devised a novel plan: peacock vasectomies.

Snip one male peacock, the thinking goes, and it will no longer be able to fertilize the eggs of the female peahens in its harem.

“Peacocks are bona fide polygamists,” said Dr. Don J. Harris, the

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ROBBIE ROBERTSON, 1943-2023

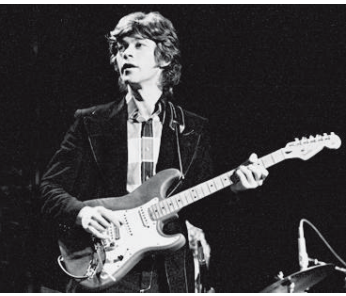
The Lyrical Soul of Americana

By JIM FARBER

Robbie Robertson, the chief composer and lead guitarist for the Band, whose work offered a rustic vision of America that seemed at once mythic and authentic, in the process helping to inspire the genre that came to be known as Americana, died on Wednesday in Los Angeles. He was 80.

His manager, Jared Levine, said he died after a long illness.

The songs that Mr. Robertson, a Canadian, wrote for the Band used enigmatic lyrics to evoke a hard and colorful America of yore, an especially amazing feat coming from someone not born in the United States. With uncommon conviction, they conjured a wild place, often centered in the South, peopled by rough-hewed characters, from the defeated Confeder-



G. HANEKROOT/REDFERNS, VIA GETTY IMAGES

ate soldier in “The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down” to the tough union worker of “King Harvest Has Surely Come” to the shady creatures in “Life Is a Carnival.”

The music he matched to his passionate yarns mined the roots of every essential American genre, including folk, country, blues and gospel. Yet when his his-

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NATIONAL A11-17

A Needed Harvest Is in Peril

Extreme weather has Kansas facing a shrinking wheat crop, an added worry in a hurting global grain market. PAGE A11

DeSantis Suspends Prosecutor

Florida’s governor said the elected state attorney in Orlando, a Democrat, was too lenient, a claim she denied. PAGE A14

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Frozen Peas, Please

Britain’s vegetable producers are hoping that a time of rising food prices could produce a revival of their humble but cost-effective staple. PAGE A8

A Concert Shakes Up Rome

A rap show set off vibrations at the Circus Maximus, raising concerns about using ancient venues. PAGE A10

OBITUARIES B10

Folk Singer Found Fame Late

Rodriguez, who performed using only his surname and was the subject of a 2012 documentary, was 81.



BUSINESS B1-5

An Identity Forged in Food

Chefs in Taiwan are using an abundance of local ingredients to reflect the island’s roots. PAGE B1

Who’s in the Driver’s Seat?

Officials in San Francisco are hesitant to expand a plan to offer round-the-clock driverless taxi service. PAGE B1

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The Path Not Taken

For a while, the actor Justin H. Min believed that he should try a career in journalism. Now he has a starring role in the comedy “Shortcomings.” PAGE C1

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New Looks for a New Era

From the World Cup to Wimbledon, female athletes are increasingly rebelling against uniform conventions handed down over decades. PAGE D5

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Charles M. Blow PAGE A19



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A Pregame Pilgrimage

When visiting Mexico City, many baseball players go to the Basílica de Santa María de Guadalupe. “It’s an indescribable sensation,” a pitcher said. PAGE B6

