

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## What's News

### Business & Finance

- ◆ **Trump has toyed with** the idea of selecting and announcing Powell's successor at the Fed by September or October, though the central bank chairman's term runs for another 11 months. **A1**
- ◆ **The U.S. dollar hit** a three-year low against a basket of currencies after the president's musings on the Fed's leadership became public. **B9**
- ◆ **The S&P 500 and Nasdaq** closed just shy of records, rising 0.8% and 1%, respectively, while the Dow industrials advanced 0.9%. **B9**
- ◆ **The U.S. economy** contracted 0.5% in the first quarter, more than previously estimated, new government data show. **A2**
- ◆ **Tesla parted ways** with a top aide to Chief Executive Elon Musk who was in charge of sales and manufacturing operations in North America and Europe. **B1**
- ◆ **CoreWeave is in talks** to acquire Core Scientific after the AI company's unsuccessful attempt to buy the digital-infrastructure firm about a year ago. **B1**
- ◆ **Jes Staley failed** in a bid to clear his name, with a U.K. tribunal upholding a financial-industry ban over the former Barclays chief's ties to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. **B1**
- ◆ **Walgreens reported** higher sales and swung to a loss in its latest quarter, posting mixed results as the pharmacy chain prepares to go private. **B3**
- ◆ **BlackRock is accelerating** a push to broaden access to private investments by including them in funds for 401(k) retirement plans. **B1**

### World-Wide

- ◆ **Two weeks after** China promised the U.S. it would ease the exports of rare-earth magnets, authorities there are dragging out approval of Western companies' requests for the critical components, a situation that could reignite trade tensions. **A1**
- ◆ **Several of Republicans'** largest proposed spending cuts can't be done as written in the fast-track budget process they are using to advance their megabill, the Senate parliamentarian determined. **A4**
- ◆ **The U.S. agreed** with other countries to exempt U.S.-based companies from some corporate taxes that were part of a 2021 international minimum-tax pact, Treasury Secretary Bessent said. **A4**
- ◆ **Some senators emerged** from a classified briefing warning that Iran remains a threat despite the U.S. attack on its nuclear facilities. **A7**
- ◆ **The Trump administration** asked McKinsey, BCG and several other firms with billions of dollars in federal contracts to justify their work and suggest how costs can be reduced. **A2**
- ◆ **The Supreme Court** made it easier for conservative states to remove Planned Parenthood clinics from their Medicaid programs, a financial blow to the abortion provider. **A3**
- ◆ **The European Union** is considering lowering tariffs on a range of U.S. imports in an attempt to clinch a speedy trade deal with Trump. **A16**
- ◆ **Died: Bill Moyers**, 91, acclaimed broadcast journalist. **A6** ... **Carolyn McCarthy**, 81, antigun lawmaker. **A6**

CONTENTS	
Mansion.....	M1-12
Arts in Review A10-11	Markets..... B9
Business & Finance B2-3	Opinion..... A13-15
Business News..... B5	Sports..... A12
Capital Account..... A9	Technology..... B4
Crossword..... A11	U.S. News..... A2-4,6
Heard on Street..... B10	World News..... A7-8,16



## Bezos, Fiancée Primed for Venice Wedding Bash



LUCA BRUNO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOVE CANAL:** Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez shared a kiss Thursday as they sailed to begin three days of festivities around their wedding in Venice, Italy. Celebrities including Oprah Winfrey, Orlando Bloom and Tom Brady were to attend.

## Israel-Iran War Is Realigning Middle East in Unforeseen Ways

Military successes fan regional concerns about Jewish state's increasing power

By STEPHEN KALIN  
AND SUMMER SAID

The Middle East is undergoing a dramatic realignment—just not the one U.S. and regional leaders envisioned less than two years ago.

Before the Hamas-led attacks of Oct. 7, 2023, years of painstaking negotiations brought Saudi Arabia to the

culsp of a landmark deal for diplomatic recognition of Israel. That would have solidified an Israeli-Arab coalition against Iran, locked in U.S. support for Saudi security and opened the door to greater acceptance of Israel in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

This month, Israel's thrashing of longtime enemy Iran scrambled the calculations underpinning that proposed agreement in 12 days. It was the bookend on a series of wars that defanged Iran's powerful militia allies Hezbollah and Hamas, helped advance the collapse of the Iran-backed

Assad regime in Syria and ultimately put Iran in a corner.

The Trump administration and Israel's government have signaled they want to make a new push for normalization. But with Iran now on the back foot, there is less incentive for Saudi Arabia to set aside other concerns to move forward. It will need time to assess the implications of the shocking advantage Israel demonstrated with its military and intelligence capabilities—and its high tolerance for the risks of using them.

Senior Gulf officials are concerned their investment in

relations with Washington, including hosting President Trump's high-profile trip to the Gulf in May, haven't paid off in influence. Trump's repeated encouragement of Israel's attacks and threats against Iran's supreme leader made them fear a wider war.

Trump ordered a limited strike on Iran's main nuclear sites, then brokered a ceasefire that stopped the fighting, at one point warning Israel to turn its bombers around. But while the worst scenarios were avoided, Gulf leaders are going to reassess the land-

Please turn to page A8

## China's Rare-Earth Exports to U.S. Lag After Deal

By JON EMONT

Two weeks after China promised the U.S. it would ease the exports of rare-earth magnets, Chinese authorities are dragging out approval of Western companies' requests for the critical components, a situation that could reignite trade tensions.

Western companies said they are receiving barely enough magnets for their factories and have little visibility of future supplies. Firms are waiting weeks as Chinese authorities scrutinize their applications—only to be rejected in some cases. And applications for raw rare earths, which are used to make magnets, are rarely granted.

As a result, Western companies are concerned that the shortages could soon affect manufacturing. Companies are so desperate for magnets that they are opting for expensive airfreight whenever licenses are granted to prevent costly production shutdowns. Some manufacturers are experimenting with workarounds that would allow them to make their products without the most powerful magnets.

"It's hand to mouth—the normal supply-chain scrambling that you have to do," Lisa Drake, a vice president overseeing Ford's industrial planning for batteries and electric vehicles, said this week. Although she said the

Please turn to page A6

## Wintour Turns Page at Vogue



PIERO GUCCATTI/AP/GETTY IMAGES

**RUNWAY:** Anna Wintour is stepping down as editor in chief of the American edition of Vogue after more than three decades, setting the stage for changes at the publication. **B1**

### On the Mean City Streets, It's Every Food Robot for Itself

\* \* \*

Automated fetchers get stuck in snow, flipped on their backs; 'Staff' is on the way

By HEATHER HADDON  
AND OWEN TUCKER-SMITH

The future of human-robot relations is playing out on city streets and college campuses, and it's looking a bit scary—for the robots.

Tasked with delivering late-night pizza and snacks to the couchbound, robots are getting stuck in snow piles or flipped on their backs, and sometimes relying on the kindness of human strangers to get back on track.

In West Hollywood, Calif., Madeline Topete recently watched a black Mercedes clip a delivery robot named "Finnegan." The bot toppled over in the street, its alert screen reassuring passersby:

"STAFF IS ON THE WAY." Topete helped Finnegan get back on its wheels.

"I know that it's technically not a human," she said. But with their eyes and names, "they're cute."

Having conquered many factory and manufacturing jobs, robots are trying their mechanical hand at the restaurant business, an industry perpetually searching for workers.

Thousands of robots, run by startups like Coco, Bear and Serve, now shuttle Shake Shack burgers, Little Caesars pizza and other takeout to people's homes and hotel rooms. They run plates to diners in Buffalo Wild Wings and

Please turn to page A4

## College Grads A Driving Force In New York Race

Mamdani appealed to educated voters frustrated by the city's high costs

They came to New York looking to make it. Instead, they're struggling to keep up with the city's high costs, and having an even harder time seeing a future in the city.

By Rachel Louise  
Ensign, Chao Deng,  
Maggie Grether and  
Jack Gillum

Zohran Mamdani, poised to be New York's unlikely new Democratic candidate for mayor, ran on a socialist platform promising to uplift New Yorkers with rent freezes, city-owned grocery stores, and free bus rides. He was propelled to the Democratic primary in a stunning upset by a group of economic rebels just as unlikely: young, educated New Yorkers, many of them white. Their support of 33-year-

old Mamdani is rooted in deep economic frustrations that for decades plagued the working classes of the city. Now that frustration has become acute among college-educated earners, who battle steep rents and the lowest housing availability in more than half a century.

"Money is always on our mind," said 36-year-old William Albuquerque, a Brooklyn resident who canvassed for Mamdani's mayoral campaign. "Rent is such a huge part of our cost every month, it's impossible not to think about it."

Albuquerque, who plans to

Please turn to page A9

◆ **Greg Ip: A misguided vote for cheaper housing.....** A9  
◆ **Adams hits Mamdani in mayor's race.....** A9

