



A plane descending toward an airstrip in the Amazon. Aircraft carrying equipment and ores are modified to avoid detection.

SECRET AIRSTRIPS CUTTING AMAZON

Small Planes Enable an Illegal Mining Crisis
This article is by Maurizio Andreoli, Black Nightjar, Public Roles and Deeds La.
BOA VISTA, Brazil — From 2,500 feet in the air, the dirt airstrip is just a crack in a seemingly endless ocean of rainforest...

A Quiet Balcony Became al-Zawahri's Downfall

By JULIAN E. BARNES and ERIC SCHMITZ
WASHINGTON — Intelligence officers made a crucial discovery this spring after tracking Ayman al-Zawahri, the leader of Al Qaeda, to Kabul, Afghanistan: He liked to read alone on the balcony of his safe house early in the morning.
Analysts search for that kind of pattern-of-life intelligence, any hint the C.I.A. can exploit. In al-Zawahri's case, his long balcony visits gave the agency an opportunity for a clear missile shot that could avoid collateral damage.



The Taliban sealed off the site of a drone strike that killed Ayman al-Zawahri, the leader of Al Qaeda.

Taliban Entering a New Era of Global Isolation

By CHRISTINA GOLDBAUM and THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
Hours after an American drone strike killed the leader of Al Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahri, in downtown Kabul, Taliban security forces rushed to seal off the site. Green tarps were thrown over destroyed warehouses. Checkpoints were put up, and shops were closed.

Pelosi's Visit to Taiwan Attracts Beijing's Scorn But Bipartisan Support

China Puts Pressure on Island's Trade
This article is by Paul Mozur, Chris Horton and Amy Cheng Chiu.
TAIPEI, Taiwan — Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the House, arrived in Taiwan on Tuesday, causing a diplomatic row between the Biden administration and the risk that her high-profile diplomatic visit could stoke a new flare-up in tensions that has been met with a subdued defiance.
Politicians from Taiwan's two main political parties have offered support for the trip, a sentiment welcomed by many in the self-ruling democracy of more than 23 million people, which China claims as its own.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan's parliament on Wednesday and later met the Taiwanese president in defiance of Beijing's warnings that the visit would undermine U.S.-China relations.

Foreign Minister Joseph Wu Welcomes Speaker Nancy Pelosi in Taipei on Tuesday.
"America's solidarity with the 23 million people of Taiwan is more important today than ever, as the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy," she said in a statement issued as she was greeted by Joseph Wu, Taiwan's foreign minister, adding that the visit did not contradict United States policy on Taiwan.
While the planning for the trip was characterized by more of a carnival atmosphere, Ms. Pelosi arrived at Taiwan's legislature with a police escort and a

Kansas Retains Abortion Rights In Critical Post-Roe Referendum

By MITCH SMITH and KATIE GLECK
OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Kansas voters resoundingly rejected a ballot measure that would have allowed the right to abortion from the State Constitution, according to The Associated Press, a major victory for the abortion rights movement in a state.
The result of the ballot referendum was the most tangible demonstration yet of a political backlash against the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2020, beginning with the landmark decision that had protected abortion rights throughout the country. The decisive margin came as supporters and both sides fanned millions into last year's election, with voters throughout a sweltering 8-

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British Airways is temporarily halting ticket sales
BP reported strong second-quarter profit

World Wide

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The CIA drone strike that killed al-Zawahri
Kansas voters soundly rejected a proposed state constitutional amendment
Homes in Missouri, Kansas, Michigan, Arizona and Washington state went to the polls Tuesday to select nominees for federal and state offices

Pelosi Visits Taiwan, Defying China



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan's parliament on Wednesday and later met the Taiwanese president in defiance of Beijing's warnings that the visit would undermine U.S.-China relations.

Speaker hails island as 'vibrant democracy' as Beijing says it plans military exercises

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Wednesday in what she called a show of American solidarity for the island, defying repeated warnings from Beijing and halting U.S.-China tensions.
Pelosi, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit the island in a quarter-century, said in a statement shortly after landing that the trip signaled "America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy."
The visit has angered Beijing

Robinhood Plans More Staff Cuts As Trading Plunges

By CAROL McCANN
Robinhood Markets Inc. is slashing about 25% of its full-time staff as the online brokerage continues to reel from a sharp downturn in customer trading activity.
The job cuts mark the second round of layoffs that year at Robinhood, which in April slashed its staff by about 9%. Together, the two rounds cut more than 1,000 jobs.
"Last year, we started many of our operations functions under the assumption that the heightened retail engagement we had been seeing with the stock and crypto markets in the Covid era would persist into 2022," Mr. Teves said in the message. "In this new environment, we are operating with more staffing than appropriate. As CEO, I approved and

Tactical Questions Follow Killing of al Qaeda Chief

By WAMM P. STEWART and MEXAR R. GONZALES
WASHINGTON — The CIA drone strike that killed al Qaeda's leader demonstrates U.S. capabilities to target individual terror chiefs, but it leaves unanswered the question of whether Washington can routinely thwart plots in Afghanistan before they become a threat.
Senior U.S. officials said that Ayman al-Zawahri, who was killed in Kabul on Sunday morning by a Hellfire missile, wasn't involved in planning al Qaeda terror operations at the time of his death, but rather offered guidance to the group and many affiliates.
U.S. officials said the strike, almost a year after President Biden ordered the U.S. withdrawal, proved an American presence in Afghanistan still needed to be global terror groups. But critics of the administration's Afghanistan policy say the operation, while a welcome development in the long-term campaign to eliminate terrorism, was a tactical error.
Foreign policy returns to focus for Biden — A6
Taliban relations with U.S. Qaeda end — A7

Stephen King Takes The Stand

The horror novelist published in a federal antitrust case Tuesday that new authors would be harmed if his longtime publisher Simon & Schuster were acquired by rival Penguin Random House.
By ELEANOR DRAGAN

College Essay Prompts Get Absurd

Writings may now play a greater role in admissions
By BRADLEY HARRIS
Rachel Quare-Anastasi has been in her senior year at Brooklyn Technical High School in New York. She is writing several top-notch college essays, but she is not sure what to write about.

Equifax Sent Lenders Wrong Credit Scores

By ANDREW ARONSON and ANA MARINA ARONSON
Equifax Inc. provided inaccurate credit scores on millions of U.S. consumers seeking loans during a three-week period earlier this year, according to a lawsuit filed in federal court.
Equifax said it has fixed the error, which the company described as a "technical coding issue." The lawsuit says the error affected millions of consumers' credit reports and could have affected their ability to get loans or other financial services.
The scores were sometimes off by 20 points or more in either direction, the people said.
Equifax said the erroneous scores on people applying for auto loans, mortgages and credit cards to banks and non-bank lenders had small inaccuracies. She is already providing her personal statement for college applications, describing how her upbringing shaped her worldview around money and capitalism.
But some colleges, she is writing several top-notch college essays, but she is not sure what to write about.

SoftBank Emerges As a Loser in Rout Of Tech. Again.

CEO urged staff to pour money into startup firms last year, at close to their market top
By ELEANOR DRAGAN
Several of his staff feeling like sobriquets, the former entrepreneur said.
Despite a pledge to be more positioned in his investing, given a history that included embarrassing errors, SoftBank Group Corp. was not investing in enough of them.
His executives needed to persuade more companies to take their money, the Japanese billionaire lectured, according to former employees.
Mr. Son, SoftBank's chief executive, set up a spreadsheet tracking calls to companies and issued internal notes to invest quickly. It was an environment that left

INSIDE
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SPORTS
The NFL suspends the Miami Dolphins' owner for tampering with Tom Brady