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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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FDA head resigns amid turmoil

Leadership team is likely to undergo a broader overhaul in coming days

BY RACHEL ROUBEIN AND DAN DIAMOND

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary resigned Tuesday after months of turmoil at the agency and White House staff last week signing off on a plan to replace him.

Kyle Diamantas, who oversees the agency's food program and was recently elevated to be one of Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s senior counselors, will be the agency's acting leader, President Donald Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Trump also posted a text message from Makary, where Makary offered his resignation and touted his record leading the FDA.

"So much was accomplished under his leadership," Trump wrote.

The FDA's leadership team is likely to undergo a broader overhaul in the coming days, with several other senior officials expected to depart or be reassigned, said two people who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe personnel matters. They declined to detail what those changes would be.

Trump told reporters Tuesday afternoon that the administration was looking for a new FDA commissioner. The president declined to say whether Makary had resigned or been fired.

"Everybody wants that job. It's a very important job," Trump said. "Marty's a terrific guy, but he's going to go on, and he's going to lead a good life."

In a social media post Tuesday afternoon, Kennedy said the

SEE MAKARY ON A2



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/REUTERS

President Donald Trump speaks to the media Tuesday before departing for Beijing, where he will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In pivot, Trump now more conciliatory with China

BY DAVID J. LYNCH AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

Since President Donald Trump last visited Beijing more than eight years ago, U.S.-China merchandise trade has fallen by more than one-third. The partial commercial deal he signed with Chinese leaders failed to live up to advance billing. And the United States gave up trying to convince Beijing to remake its state-led economic model, choosing instead to ape some of China's features.

After a bruising trade war consumed most of 2025, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed last fall to an uneasy economic truce. The White House, struck by Xi's demonstrated willingness to push back hard on

He and Xi adopted an uneasy détente after last year's bruising trade war

Trump's tariffs, now wants the relative calm to last.

Whether it can will be decided at the two leaders' scheduled summit this week in the Chinese capital.

Their discussions are expected to include the customary haggling over potential Chinese purchases of American products, including commercial jetliners and soybeans, as well as a proposal for a joint Board of Trade that would bring government oversight to

their commerce. The two presidents are also likely to talk about ways to adjust tariffs that have grown to double-digit percentages on both sides.

Whatever upbeat diplomatic rhetoric attends this week's ceremonies in Beijing, however, more friction appears inevitable.

Trump already plans to introduce new tariffs this summer, including on Chinese goods, to replace the levies the Supreme Court struck down earlier this year.

After struggling to decipher the unconventional American president in his first term, Chinese officials have learned to wield their economic leverage, warning U.S. business leaders recently that they will retaliate "each and every

time" Washington acts on trade or investment, according to an American executive who asked not to be named discussing confidential talks.

The first Trump administration aimed to coerce China into reorienting its economic model to boost domestic consumption, which would suck in imports, while reducing subsidies for exporters. Today, the Trump team appears ready to settle for erecting higher barriers against Chinese goods.

"The big change with Trump 2.0 is that China has really stopped trying to appease the administration. ... We're going to try to get some wins. But it's really about managed trade, and it's less

SEE SUMMIT ON A12

Conflict drives jump in prices

3.8% INFLATION PACE HIGHEST SINCE 2023

Labor Dept. also reports a decline in real wages

BY ANDREW ACKERMAN AND FEDERICA COCCO

The war in Iran is driving a sharp increase in inflation, as surging gasoline prices ripple through the American economy, dealing a blow to a White House that has staked its economic credibility on bringing costs down.

The Labor Department's consumer price index rose at a 3.8 percent annual pace in the year ending in April, up from 3.3 percent in March and much hotter than the 2.4 percent in February.

Higher energy prices accounted for much of the month-to-month gain in prices in April of 0.6 percent. Gas prices rose 5.4 percent last month and were up about 30 percent over the past year. Shelter costs, which had been artificially suppressed by a data quirk tied to last fall's government shutdown, rebounded in April.

The overall increase marks the steepest year-over-year rise since May 2023 — when inflation hit a 4 percent pace — and the second consecutive month in which the conflict in the Middle East has measurably pushed prices higher for American consumers. Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, rose 2.8 percent over the year ending in April, up from 2.6 percent in March.

The White House, through

SEE CPI ON A14

Shipping firm is charged in collapse of Key Bridge

Prosecutors say company did not maintain proper systems on vessel

BY KATIE METTLER AND JEREMY ROEBUCK

Federal prosecutors criminally charged the operator of the Dali container ship with violating maritime and environmental laws — conduct they say caused the vessel's 2024 crash into Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge that destroyed the span and killed six people.

The Justice Department secured a sealed indictment against Synergy Marine Group, a Singapore-based global shipping company, in federal court in Baltimore in April, alleging those in charge of the massive ship failed to maintain proper systems aboard that vessel and two others in their fleet.

Those lapses included the chronic use of improper fuel pumps that crippled the Dali's ability to restore steering power as the ship experienced two blackouts on the Patapsco River in the early hours of March 26, 2024, and careened toward a critical Key Bridge support pillar.

The company knew about the improper fuel pump usage on its

ships, prosecutors alleged, but did not halt the practice — a dangerous choice that stole the lives of construction workers filling potholes that night, prompted the months-long closure of one of the East Coast's busiest ports and dealt a significant economic blow to the state.

The indictment also alleges the company and the Dali's technical supervisor, Radhakrishnan Karthik Nair, falsified safety inspection records and lied to investigators with the FBI and National Transportation Safety Board after the crash.

The companies and Nair face charges including counts of conspiracy; misconduct or neglect of ship officers resulting in death; violations of the Clean Water Act and Ports and Waterways Safety Act; and obstruction of an agency proceeding.

Kelly O. Hayes, the U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland, announced the charges at a news conference Tuesday aboard a ship docked in the Port of Baltimore, the backdrop a clear view of the gaping hole where the bridge once stood. Flanked by officials from the FBI, the Justice Department's Environmental and Natural Resources Division, and the Environmental Protection Agency, she called the indictment a "first step" in holding those responsible for the crash to

SEE KEY BRIDGE ON A5



RESHMA KIRPALANI/THE WASHINGTON POST

Roxana Torres Valdés started a group chat after her partner, Maikel Rojas, left, was detained.

'It rips apart the fabric of the family'

A greater share of men now being deported have lived in U.S. for years

BY EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, ARELIS R. HERNÁNDEZ, MARIANNE LEVINE AND RESHMA KIRPALANI

The Trump administration's vast deportation effort has led to the removal of an unusually high number of undocumented men who have lived and worked in the United States for years, according to a Washington Post analysis, upending the livelihoods and routines of scores of

families.

Men account for nine out of every 10 people who have been deported by federal immigration officers since President Donald Trump began his second term last year. That ratio is not new: Women have historically represented a smaller share of those in detention, even as rising numbers of families have arrived in recent years.

But the characteristics of the men being taken into custody have changed, and the number of

SEE DEPORTEES ON A6

Scrutiny for Pentagon as Iran war drags along

As truce falters, Hegseth and Caine face bipartisan ire over strategy, costs

BY NOAH ROBERTSON

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth faced intense scrutiny from members of Congress on Tuesday over the Trump administration's handling of the Iran war, as lawmakers from both parties pressed him to clarify the Pentagon's plan to cover the conflict's rising costs and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

His testimony alongside Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, marks the senior Pentagon officials' last scheduled appearance before Congress to defend the administration's record \$1.45 trillion defense budget proposal. They spoke first with the House panel on defense spending before meeting with Senate appropriators.

Both sessions proved more courteous overall than Hegseth's appearances late last month before the House and Senate Armed

SEE HEGSETH ON A2

IN THE NEWS

Hantavirus outbreak Some top health figures who had publicly questioned the credibility of agencies during covid are now central to explaining a new and uncertain threat. A4

Treason claim In a flurry of late-night posts, the president accused Barack Obama of spying in 2016 and called for his arrest. A9

THE NATION FBI agents suspended for misconduct have been paid millions to settle claims, a House Democrat said, raising concern over what he described as rewards for Trump allies. A9

THE WORLD The Kremlin is curbing online access using Iran-style controls, citing security concerns, but many Russians fearful of losing connection to the global internet are finding detours. A10

THE ECONOMY One of the most concerning parts of carrying student debt isn't just the interest and principal balance. It's the theft of your time, Michelle Singletary writes. A13

Rising oil prices and falling AI stocks put the brakes on Wall Street's record-setting run. A13

STYLE 'The Comeback' with Lisa Kudrow, which has wrapped up its third and final season on HBO, was the best TV show about work. B1

SPORTS Jason Collins, the first active, openly gay player in the NBA, has died of brain cancer at 47. B7

THE REGION A Maryland office that reviews prison sentences has undergone a shake-up, giving some inmates hope of release. B13

FOOD Good wine doesn't have to break the bank. Buy in bulk, explore clubs and share bottles at restaurants to save cash.

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