

**FREE SPEECH THREATENED**

Countries around the world are cracking down on expression — from Myanmar to the United States. See more on Page 4.

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**Biden, GOP seek deal on tax code**

**JOHN BORK/Associated Press**

President Joe Biden is trying to break a logjam with Republicans on how to pay for their infrastructure proposals, improving a 10% minimum tax on corporations’ overseas profits as the possibility of revenue from increased corporate tax rate hits a uphill climb.

Biden prefers the GOP approach of a $2 trillion package, paid for by raising their own red line of keeping corporate tax rate at 21%. President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he was trying to give Republicans a way to back infrastructure without violating their own red line of keeping corporate tax rate at 21%. The offer was made Wednesday to Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia as part of the bipartisan negotiations and did not reflect a change in Biden’s vision for funding the package.

While House minority leader Kevin McCarthy and Republican lawmakers are skeptical of the proposal, and the tax overhaul from the campaign and administration is too complex for both common ground with Republicans and broad agreement on a minimum corporate tax rate seemed like an option.

“In the end, what we could do is get a path forward with our Republican colleagues on the specific registration,” Psaki told reporters Thursday. “That’s what I’m going to propose for a path that’s built on the broader agreement on that front and I’ve been very open to that.”

Biden has proposed increasing the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% to help fund a package to repair roads and bridges, abandon a proposal to allow for full expensing of capital improvements for businesses. The American Rescue Plan’s $1.9 trillion bill is 80% funded by $1.9 trillion in corporate tax revenue and $1.9 trillion in additional tax revenue.

BY THE NUMBERS

**On Thursday, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said he would reject any bill that did not include $1 trillion in tax increases from corporate and wealthy individuals.**

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**Texas jobless rate shrinks by half after year long historic losses**

**ARNA FRIEDMAN, MELISSA HERNANDEZ AND BERNIE CASARES**

The jobless rate in Texas was 6.7% in April, which is down from 13% in April 2020.

The decrease in jobless rate was nearly a 50% decrease in jobless rate for the month of April. Texas lost over 10,000 jobs in the month of April, but job losses were not the only factor driving down the jobless rate.

Thousands of businesses in Texas were forced to close due to the pandemic, and many more were forced to close due to the pandemic. The jobless rate for March 2020 was 3.7% and the jobless rate for March 2021 was 6.7%.

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US unemployment claims drop to pandemic low

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits dropped last week to levels not seen since mid-March 2020, the lowest point in the coronavirus pandemic, a sign the labor market is slowly recovering.

The Labor Department said Thursday that another 248,000 people applied for unemployment aid last week, down from 298,000 the previous week. That is the fewest claims filed since mid-March 2020, when the animals of the winter storm that hit Texas and other southern states sent millions to the unemployment system.

The decline in applications reflects an economy that continues to recover, even as the virus variants spread across the country. But the job market's recovery is far from complete.

Employers have added 11.5 million jobs in the past three months, but the unemployment rate stood at 5.8% last month, though it remains historically high by historical standards.

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### Myanmar sentences 2 reporters

More than 90 journalists arrested since military coup

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**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**SUMMARY** — A military court in Myanmar has sentenced two reporters to two years in prison for their reports on a raid against the country’s top court and information minister, according to the journalists.

Aung San Suu Kyi, a reporter for The Democratic Voice of Burma and Zaw Mizzima, a reporter for The Irrawaddy, have been sentenced to two years in prison for reporting on a raid against the country’s top court and information minister, according to the journalists.

The court sentenced the journalists for “defamation and abusing of official capacity,” according to the Myanmar Journalists’ Association.

The military court in Yangon sentenced the two reporters on Wednesday after The Times said it had learned that investigators last year seized their phone records as part of leak investigations.

Aung San Suu Kyi is being held in a jail in Yangon, where she has been imprisoned since February, while Zaw Mizzima is being held in Rangoon, the country’s capital.

The journalists are among at least 14 journalists who have been arrested since the military coup took power in February.

**FREE SPEECH**

### Russian police release dissident held for 2 days

**BRIEFS**

**FREE SPEECH**

Russian police release dissident held for 2 days

A Russian police officer released a dissident journalist who had been held for two days after failing for three days to provide information about the location of his country house on Thursday in what privacy advocates say is an attempt by the security service to foil offers of safe haven abroad.

The security service’s press office did not clarify whether he released instead of transferring him to a foreign country.