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**Seeking a Drive-By Blessing**  
A baby being held toward Pope Francis as he was being driven to the airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday during his Pacific tour.

Defining Harris Is Top Priority  
For Both Candidates in Debate

**By SHANE GOLDMACHER**  
For eight years, Donald J. Trump has singularly dominated the American political landscape. But as he prepares to debate Vice President Kamala Harris for the first time next week, the former president is facing a rare moment when the spotlight will be far more on his opponent than on him. The race to define Ms. Harris has emerged as a central political battleground of the 2024 contest since her surprise entry replacing President Biden in July. Voter sentiments about Mr. Trump have hardened after a decade in the public eye. Those sentiments have been effectively

Opportunity for Trump  
to Counter Her Gains

frozen even after impeachments, indictments, a felony conviction and an assassination attempt. In comparison, Ms. Harris's support has been volatile. Voter views of the vice president have improved suddenly and sharply in the nearly seven weeks of her candidacy, strengthening her standing against Mr. Trump. For Ms. Harris, the debate on Tuesday is her best chance to solidify those gains. For Mr. Trump,

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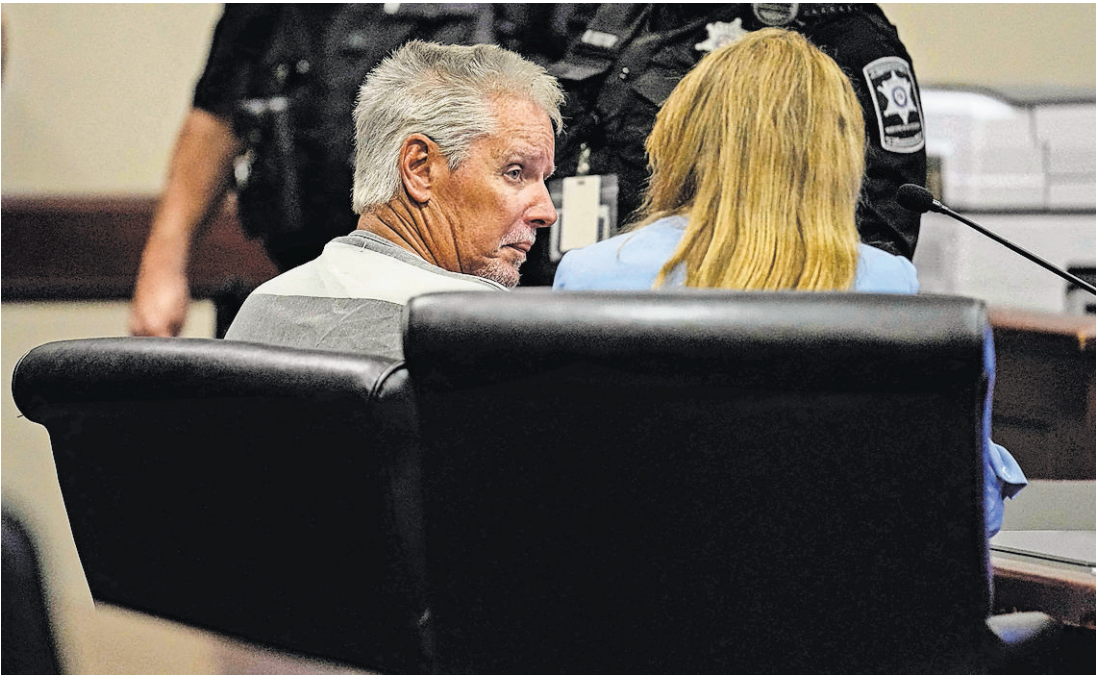
Republicans Flag False Threat  
To Election: Immigrant Voting

**By ALEXANDRA BERZON**  
In late July, a group of Republican activists met on a Zoom call to discuss preparations for the November election. The topic was how to keep undocumented immigrants from voting in November, a problem they claim, inaccurately, to be a looming threat to a fair election. One woman, a local party chair from Georgia, recommended scouring school enrollment figures to find neighborhoods with large numbers of migrants. Another, Darlene Hennessy, an activist from the Detroit area, recommended hanging up signs in “ethnic” neighborhoods warning peo-

Rights Advocates Fear  
Risk to Legal Ballots

ple not to vote if they were not eligible. She also suggested searching voter rolls for certain types of surnames. “I think it’s unfortunate, but sometimes the only way you can find out is to look for ethnic names,” Ms. Hennessy said, according to a recording of the call obtained by The New York Times. “We don’t want to be doing anything illegal,” she added. There is no indication that non-

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POOL PHOTO BY BRYNN ANDERSON

**Suspect and Father Appear in Court**  
Colin Gray is accused of allowing his son access to the rifle used in a Georgia attack. Page A16.

10-Day Israeli Blitz Leaves Ruin in West Bank

**By RAJA ABDULRAHIM**  
JERUSALEM — Israeli military forces appeared to withdraw on Friday from the city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank, according to Palestinian news media and residents, 10 days into a major raid that has killed dozens of people, including children, and caused widespread destruction. Hours after the Israeli military

Teen and U.S. Woman  
Die in Other Clashes

pulled back from Jenin, Palestinian civil defense teams along with public works employees and volunteers fanned out to assess the damaged homes, businesses, roads and water lines, and began

the effort to restore essential services, according to Wafa, the Palestinian Authority’s official news agency. Elsewhere in the West Bank, a Turkish American woman who was protesting against an Israeli settler outpost was fatally shot. A 13-year-old Palestinian girl who was watching a clash between Israelis and Palestinians was also

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Foreigners Find  
Adoption Door  
Shut in China

**By ALEXANDRA STEVENSON and ZIXU WANG**  
HONG KONG — For three decades, China sent tens of thousands of young children overseas for adoption as it enforced a strict one-child policy that forced many families to abandon their babies. Now the government will no longer allow most foreign adoptions, a move that it said was in line with global trends. The ban raises questions for many of the hundreds of families in the United States who were in the process of adopting children from China and had heard earlier this week from adoption agencies that China was moving to bar international adoptions. The official confirmation came in the form of a brief comment by China’s foreign ministry on Thursday. “We are grateful for the desire and love of the governments and adoption families of relevant countries to adopt Chinese children,” said Mao Ning, a spokeswoman for the ministry. She offered few details about the new policy, except to say that exceptions would be made only for foreigners adopting stepchildren and children of blood relatives in China. Before the Covid pandemic, China was a top country of origin for international adoption, having

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Judge Pushes Sentencing  
Of Trump to After Election

Voters Will Not Know if Former President  
Will Be Jailed in Hush-Money Case

This article is by Ben Protess, Kate Christobek and William K. Rashbaum.  
The judge overseeing Donald J. Trump’s criminal case in Manhattan postponed his sentencing until after Election Day, a significant victory for the former president as he seeks to overturn his conviction and win back the White House. In a ruling on Friday, the judge, Juan M. Merchan, rescheduled the sentencing for Nov. 26, citing the “unique time frame this matter currently finds itself in.” He had previously planned to hand down Mr. Trump’s punishment on Sept. 18, just seven weeks before Election Day, when Mr. Trump will face off against Vice President Kamala Harris for the presidency. “This is not a decision this court makes lightly but it is the decision which in this court’s view, best advances the interests of justice,” Justice Merchan wrote in the four-page ruling, which noted that “this matter is one that stands alone, in a unique place in this nation’s history.” The judge appeared eager to skirt a swirl of partisan second-guessing in the campaign’s final stretch. Asserting that the court is a “fair, impartial and apolitical institution,” he said that “the integrity of our judicial system demands” that the sentencing be “free from distraction or distortion.” But while his decision will avert a courtroom spectacle before the election, the delay itself could still affect its results, keeping voters in the dark about whether the Republican presidential nominee will eventually spend time behind bars. It is unclear whether sentencing Mr. Trump in September would have helped or harmed him politically; his punishment could have been an embarrassing reminder of his criminal record, but could have also propelled his claims of political martyrdom. Justice Merchan’s decision came at the request of Mr. Trump, who had asked to delay the sentencing, partly to win more time to challenge his conviction on charges that he falsified records to cover up a sex scandal. Prosecutors working for the Manhattan district attorney, Alvin L. Bragg, who brought the case, had deferred to the judge, paving the way for at least a brief postponement. The judge’s ruling Friday took a defensive tone, refusing to address some of Mr. Trump’s supporting arguments for a delay, which he described as a “litany of perceived and unsubstantiated grievances.” He also vented frustration at Mr. Bragg’s pursuit of a middle ground, noting that despite the district attorney’s “stated neutrality,” his prosecutors’ filing had highlighted logistical challenges to a September sentencing and “seemingly supports” Mr. Trump’s bid to delay. A spokeswoman for Mr. Bragg said, “A jury of 12 New Yorkers swiftly and unanimously convicted Donald Trump of 34 felony counts,” adding that the district attorney’s office “stands ready for sentencing on the new date set by the court.” The judge’s decision is likely to

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Chidimma Adetshina after being named Miss Universe Nigeria.

Driven From a Crown at Home,  
She Tried in Nigeria. And Won.

**By LYNSEY CHUTEL and NELSON C.J.**  
On only her second visit to Nigeria, Chidimma Adetshina won that country’s Miss Universe beauty pageant. Ms. Adetshina was crowned last week in Lagos, Nigeria’s largest city, just weeks after she was forced to withdraw from the Miss Universe pageant in South Africa, the country of her birth, when public scrutiny of her Nigerian heritage triggered a national debate about nationality, immigration and ultimately xenophobia. “I think I really do embody the spirit of perseverance and resilience,” Ms. Adetshina said on her social media account after her victory, a sash draped on her shoulder, a crown glittering on her head. Later, in an interview with the BBC’s Nigerian Pidgin outlet, her composure collapsed when she was asked about her experiences. “Only now, it’s starting to cloud

Debates Over Identity  
Overshadow Pageant  
in South Africa

me, and affect me,” she said, dabbing tears. Along with her duties as Nigeria’s representative to the Miss Universe pageant, she would seek therapy, she added. While beauty pageants have long been derided as archaic and out of step with contemporary feminism, they remain popular. If anything, global competitions have become a source of national pride. South Africa crowned a deaf woman for the first time this year, and there has been at least one transgender contestant. A contestant with Nigerian heritage, though, proved too much for some. Ms. Adetshina, 23, made it to the finals of the Miss South Africa pageant, a reinvention of the tra-

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**Brazil’s Bossa Nova Pop Master**  
Sergio Mendes, who found fame with the song “Mas Que Nada,” was 83. PAGE B11

**A Busy Actor Is Ready to Roar**  
Aaron Pierre stars in a new thriller and “Mufasa: The Lion King.” PAGE C1

**Doubts Raised About Adams**  
The revelation that much of the mayor’s inner circle is under investigation has some New Yorkers worried the officials’ work could be affected. PAGE A17

**Floridians Revolt Over Parks**  
A plan to build golf courses and hotels in state parks was shelved after residents fought back. PAGE A9

**Rape Trial Begins in France**  
A woman testified against her ex-husband, who’s accused of drugging her and inviting men to assault her. PAGE A8



**Some Wonderful Whistle Stops**  
Our writer bought a \$499 USA Rail Pass, and hopped off here and there to explore a few remarkable places along Amtrak’s Empire Builder route. PAGE C7

**Carlos Lozada** PAGE A18

**Silicon Valley Wary of China**  
Entrepreneurs and venture capitalists are setting up firms across the Pacific, only to find that any investment with Chinese ties is a hard sell. PAGE B1

**Hiring Shifts Into Lower Gear**  
Employers added fewer jobs than expected, and previous months were revised downward. PAGE B1

**Breaking Down the Big Money**  
Opendorse’s Black Book tracks college athletes’ expected annual pay, and is being used to set market rates. PAGE B7

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