



JIM HUYLEBROEK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A woman in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Taliban have outlawed, among other things, the sound of a woman’s voice outside the home.

AT LEAST 4 KILLED IN SCHOOL ATTACK

Shooting Suspect, 14, Is
in Custody in Georgia

This article is by **Alessandro Marazzi Sassoon, Rick Rojas and Thomas Fuller.**

WINDER, Ga. — A 14-year-old student rampaged through the hallways of his Georgia high school on Wednesday, killing two students and two teachers before giving up his gun and surrendering, according to the authorities.

It was the deadliest school shooting of 2024 and a grim reminder, as students returned from their summer breaks, of America’s crescendo of school violence in recent years.

Law enforcement officers who converged on the rural campus of Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga., an hour’s drive outside Atlanta, identified the shooter as Colt Gray and said he would be charged with murder, and as an adult.

Students at the school had gone through active shooter drills in recent years. And teachers and employees had key cards that could initiate a lockdown if they spotted a potential threat. But it was not enough to prevent the deadliest school shooting in Georgia’s history.

At least nine people were hospitalized with injuries, the authorities said, and at least one was flown by helicopter to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, one of the major trauma centers in the region.

The attack sent panicked parents scrambling to find their children at the rural campus, which has around 1,800 students. Several other schools in the area were under lockdown.

Officials in Barrow County, Ga., said they received the first call about the shooting at around 10:20 a.m.

Lyela Sayarath, a 16-year-old student, told CNN that she was in algebra class with the shooter. She said the boy had left the classroom, and then knocked to be let back in, but the door had automatically locked behind him.

Another student went to let him in, but then jumped backward. She backed away and left the door shut, Lyela said.

Lyela said she believed the boy had meant to shoot inside their room. When he wasn’t let back inside, she heard the shots, “about
Continued on Page A14

Unspeakable New Suffering for Afghan Women

By **CHRISTINA GOLDBAUM and NAJIM RAHIM**

No education beyond the sixth grade. No employment in most workplaces and no access to public spaces like parks, gyms and salons. No long-distance travel if unaccompanied by a male relative. No leaving home if not covered from head to toe.

And now, the sound of a woman’s voice outside the home has been outlawed in Afghanistan, according to a 114-page manifesto released late last month that codifies all of the Taliban government’s decrees restricting women’s rights.

A large majority of the prohibitions have been in place for much of the Taliban’s three years in power, slowly squeezing Afghan

Harsh Decrees Cited in Taliban Manifesto Shatter Hopes

women out of public life. But for many women across the country, the release of the document feels like a nail in the coffin for their dreams and aspirations.

Some had clung to the hope that the authorities might still reverse the most severe limitations, after Taliban officials suggested that high schools and universities would eventually reopen for women after they were shuttered. For many women, that hope is now dashed.

“We are going back to the first

reign of the Taliban, when women did not have the right to leave the house,” said Musarat Faramarz, 23, a woman in Baghlan Province, in northern Afghanistan, referring to the movement’s rule from 1996 to 2001. “I thought that the Taliban had changed, but we are experiencing the previous dark times again.”

Since the Taliban regained power in August 2021, the authorities have systematically rolled back the rights that women — particularly those in less conservative urban centers — had won during the 20-year U.S. occupation. Today, Afghanistan is the most restrictive country in the world for women, and the only one that bans high school education for girls, experts say.

The publication of the regula-
Continued on Page A6



JOSÉ A. ALVARADO JR. FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The top tier seats at Arthur Ashe Stadium, where the mood is often more relaxed than lower down.

Row Z at the U.S. Open? What’s Not to Love.

By **HILARY HOWARD and JESUS JIMÉNEZ**

To reach the last row of Section 323 in Arthur Ashe Stadium — one of the highest vantage points from which to watch U.S. Open matches — is something of a marathon.

It starts off easy with a quick flight of stairs, followed by three escalator rides. (There are stairs but it’s best to pace yourself.) From there, fans must trudge through a crowded promenade

Two Expansive Views, and at a Lower Cost

level that gets tighter when lines for gift shops and concession stands collide.

The final ascent is a flight of nine steps, then a turn, followed by another six steps, another turn and then a heart-pumping 71 steps to Row Z.

But once at the top, fans have two expansive views: before them, a match unfolding on Arthur Ashe, and behind them, an unbroken landscape of New York City, with planes touching down or taking off from La Guardia Airport, and trains passing through Mets-Willets Point station and Citi Field, home of the Mets.

Courtside, fans are expected to be quieter during play, keeping chatter to a minimum. But it’s
Continued on Page A15

U.S. Responds To Interference By the Kremlin

Sanctions Target Effort to Sway Fall Election

This article is by **Julian E. Barnes, Glenn Thrush and Steven Lee Myers.**

WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday announced a broad effort to push back on Russian influence campaigns in the 2024 election, as it tries to curb the Kremlin’s use of state-run media and fake news sites to sway American voters.

The actions include sanctions, indictments and seizing of web domains that U.S. officials say the Kremlin uses to spread propaganda and disinformation about Ukraine, which Russia invaded more than two years ago.

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland detailed the actions taken by the Justice Department. They include the indictment of two Russian employees of RT, the state-owned broadcaster, who used a company in Tennessee to spread content, and the takedown of a Russian malign influence campaign known as Doppelgänger.

“The American people are entitled to know when a foreign power engages in political activities or seeks to influence public discourse,” Mr. Garland said.

The Treasury Department imposed sanctions on ANO Dialog, a Russian nonprofit that helps run the Doppelgänger network, as well as the editor in chief of RT, Margarita S. Simonyan, and her deputies.

The State Department has offered a \$10 million reward for information pertaining to foreign interference in an American election. The department specifically said it was seeking information on a group known as Russian Angry Hackers Did It, or RaHDit.

The State Department also said it would designate five Russian state-funded news outlets, including RT, Ruptly and Sputnik, as foreign government missions and restrict the issuance of visas to people working for Kremlin-supported media institutions.

American officials have stepped up their warnings about Russian election influence efforts. American spy agencies have assessed that the Kremlin favors former President Donald J. Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris in the November contest, seeing him as more skeptical of U.S. support for Ukraine.

The United States was caught flat-footed in 2016 as its spy agen-
Continued on Page A12

ACTIVISTS CHARGED A case in Florida offers a look at Russia’s propaganda push. PAGE A10

BIDEN TO OPPOSE U.S. STEEL’S SALE TO JAPANESE FIRM

AN ALLIANCE IS TESTED

National Security Risk Is Seen in Deal Facing Bipartisan Qualms

This article is by **Andrew Duehren, Alan Rappeport and Lauren Hirsch.**

WASHINGTON — President Biden is preparing to soon block an attempt by Japan’s Nippon Steel to buy U.S. Steel on national security grounds, according to three people familiar with the matter, likely sinking a merger that became entangled in election-year politics in the United States.

A decision to block the takeover would come after months of wrangling among lawmakers, business leaders and labor officials over whether a corporate acquisition by a company based in Japan — a major U.S. ally — could pose a threat to national security. A move by Mr. Biden to block the deal on those grounds could roil relations between the two nations at a moment when the United States has been trying to deepen ties with Japan amid China’s growing influence in East Asia.

For months, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, has been scrutinizing the deal over potential risks. There has been mounting speculation that the Biden administration could intervene before the November election.

A White House official told The New York Times that CFIUS “hasn’t transmitted a recommendation to the president, and that’s the next step in this process.”

CFIUS is made up of members of the State, Defense, Justice, Commerce, Energy and Homeland Security Departments and is led by the Treasury secretary, Janet L. Yellen.

The committee sent a letter to U.S. Steel in recent weeks saying that it had found national security concerns with the transaction,
Continued on Page A11



GENE J. PUSKAR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. Steel sale is viewed as a pivotal issue in Pennsylvania.

Partisan Races Can Often Lack Opponent, Usually a Democrat

By **MICHAEL WINES**

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. — This November, voters in rural Perry County, Mo., will face a ballot with candidates for a bevy of local offices: state senator, state representative and circuit judge; two county commissioners, sheriff and many more.

What they won’t face is a choice. Each of the 17 down-ballot races in Perry County has only one candidate. Just south, Cape Girardeau County fares only slightly better: Three of 12 races have two candidates.

All the candidates in the uncontested races are Republicans. And in those few races where a Democrat also is on the ballot, Republican victories are foregone conclusions in a rural area where voters overwhelmingly favor the G.O.P. “There’s strength in numbers,”

Kelly McKerrow, the chairwoman of the Perry County Democratic Party organization, said. “And we just don’t have them.”

Amid the feverish hand-capping of an election often called crucial to the future of American democracy, Missouri tells a different story, repeated time and again across a deeply polarized country where it can feel futile to run as a Democrat or Republican in a stronghold of the other party. In half of all races for partisan offices, candidates are elected — often multiple times — without opposition.

And though defending democracy was a dominant theme of the Democratic National Convention last month, in the 2022 midterms, Democrats failed to field a single
Continued on Page A11



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Deadly Flooding in Pakistan

Millions of people still recovering from the devastation of 2022 have been swamped again. PAGE A4

High Toll in Poltava

Short notice and blocked exits contributed to the loss of life in a Russian missile attack in Ukraine. PAGE A9

NATIONAL A10-16

Passing Sentence on Trump

Justice Juan M. Merchan has tried to treat Donald J. Trump like all the others whose fates he has decided. But this ruling could alter history. PAGE A13

Asylum Limits May Continue

The Biden administration could act to make the tough restrictions ordered in June almost impossible to lift. PAGE A12

SPORTS B8-11

A Star Hiding in Plain Sight

Lamar Jackson, the Baltimore Ravens’ quarterback, is authentically himself, and he won’t apologize for it. PAGE B8



BUSINESS B1-7

Fixing a Dry Panama Canal

In the wake of a drought that hampered shipping, the canal’s overseers want to expand water storage. PAGE B1

Is It Really Recycled Plastic?

A green accounting method known as mass balance certifies that certain marketing claims are accurate. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-8

Las Vegas’s Newest Attraction

Elaine Wynn, the casino magnate, and Michael Govan, with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, are teaming up to help create the Las Vegas Museum of Art. It could open in 2028. PAGE C1

Better Parts for Asian Men

Western pop culture, past and present, has often emasculated Asian men in film and television roles. But a new wave of romantic leads may be changing the conversation. PAGE C1

OPINION A18-19

Lindsey Graham

PAGE A19



THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

Gap Goes for a Glow-Up

Can Zac Posen, the designer known for over-the-top glamour, reinvent the American mall brand — and change his reputation in the process? PAGE D7



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