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Numbing Cold Forces Inauguration Inside

President-elect Donald J. Trump’s swearing-in on Monday will be in the Rotunda, a first since Ronald Reagan’s in 1985. Page A15.

Israeli Cabinet Approves Deal For Cease-Fire

This article is by **Aaron Boxerman, Rawan Sheikh Ahmad, Johnatan Reiss, Ephrat Livni and Adam Rasgon.**

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government approved a cease-fire deal with Hamas early Saturday that calls for the release of dozens of hostages and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners after hours of deliberations, setting up the first reprieve in a 15-month, devastating war in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli prime minister’s office, which announced the agreement after the full cabinet voted, said the deal would go into effect on Sunday.

Palestinians have celebrated the provisional cease-fire with the hope that it will finally end the conflict, and Israelis are anxiously awaiting the return of scores of captives abducted by Hamas.

Daniel Lifshitz, whose grandfather Oded, 84, was among the 250 captives taken in the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, said, “The stomach is turning, and the heart is poured out on the floor, but it’s what we’ve been waiting for.”

The initial attack killed about 1,200 people, setting off a wave of bombardments by Israel that has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to Gazan health officials, who do not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

The vote on Saturday was the second and final one required to approve the cease-fire and hostage release agreement. Hours earlier on Friday, the security cabinet voted to approve it, overcoming a key hurdle to enacting a deal that U.S. and other diplomats see as the best chance to end the war. Hamas had said that there were no longer any barriers to the agreement.

President Isaac Herzog of Israel, who holds a largely ceremonial role, had hailed the security cabinet’s vote, although he acknowledged the difficulties ahead in enacting the agreement. “I harbor no illusions — the deal will bring with it great challenges and painful, agonizing moments,” he said in a statement.

Under the agreement, both sides would begin a six-week truce, during which Israeli forces would withdraw eastward, away from populated areas. Hamas

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How Biden’s Inner Circle Shielded His Stumbles

This article is by **Katie Rogers, Adam Entous, Maggie Haberman and Carl Hulse.**

WASHINGTON — The people closest to President Biden were well aware that he had changed. He talked more slowly than he had just a few years before, needed to hoist himself out of his seat in the presidential limousine and walked with a halting gait.

“Your biggest issue is the perception of age,” Mike Donilon, the president’s longtime strategist, told him in mid-2022, according to three close aides who heard it.

Dismissed Fears While Managing Decline

That bit of feedback, delivered repeatedly by Mr. Donilon, was the sort of blunt talk that did not often make its way to a man who had spent a half century in politics prizing loyalty and deference.

Mr. Biden acknowledged the concerns, but the warnings only ignited his defiant, competitive streak. In April 2023, without convening his family or having long deliberations with aides, he announced he was running again.

Now, as President-elect Donald J. Trump heads back to the White House, demoralized Democrats debate what might have been had the president bowed out in time to let a younger generation run.

Mr. Biden, 82, has at the same time made the extraordinary admission that he might not have made it through a second term. “Who knows what I’m going to be when I’m 86 years old?” he said in an interview with USA Today on Jan. 5.

The president’s acknowledgment has put a new spotlight on his family and inner circle, all of

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MAGGIE SHANNON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Sign of Hope in the Ashes

Darrell and Susan Toler Carr found a beloved work in the ruins of their Altadena home. Page A18.

Miller Built Clout With Trump. He’s Set to Use It.

This article is by **Jonathan Swan, Maggie Haberman, David A. Fahrenthold and Charlie Savage.**

WASHINGTON — When Stephen Miller met with Mark Zuckerberg at Mar-a-Lago late last year, the 39-year-old Trump adviser was in a position of power that would have been unimaginable a decade ago.

Back then, Mr. Miller was a mere Senate staffer railing about the evils of immigration. Now he was holding forth on U.S. policy

Poised to Be Attack Dog on Immigration

with the billionaire chief executive of Meta, a man he had vilified for years as a globalist bent on destroying the nation.

The scale had flipped.

Mr. Miller told Mr. Zuckerberg that he had an opportunity to help reform America, but it would be on President-elect Donald J.

Trump’s terms. He made clear that Mr. Trump would crack down on immigration and go to war against the diversity, equity and inclusion, or D.E.I., culture that had been embraced by Meta and much of corporate America in recent years.

Mr. Zuckerberg was amenable. He signaled to Mr. Miller and his colleagues, including other senior Trump advisers, that he would do nothing to obstruct the Trump agenda, according to three people

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Justices Back TikTok Law Forcing App’s Ban or Sale

Unanimous Ruling Means Platform May Go Dark in the U.S. by Sunday

By **ADAM LIPTAK**

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court on Friday upheld a law that effectively bans the wildly popular app TikTok in the United States starting on Sunday. The ruling ended, at least for now, a legal battle involving national security, free speech and a cultural phenomenon that had millions of Americans deliriously swiping their phone screens at any given moment.

The ruling, which forces the app to go dark if it remains under Chinese control, could be a death blow to TikTok’s American operations. President-elect Donald J. Trump, who is to be inaugurated the following day, has vowed to “save” the app, though his mechanisms for doing so remain unclear.

In ruling against TikTok, the court acknowledged the wide-ranging cultural impact of the app while siding with the government’s position that China’s role posed national security concerns.

“There is no doubt that, for more than 170 million Americans, TikTok offers a distinctive and expansive outlet for expression, means of engagement, and source of community,” the court’s opinion said. “But Congress has determined that divestiture is necessary to address its well-supported national security concerns regarding TikTok’s data collection practices and relationship with a foreign adversary.”

TikTok gained a foothold in American culture in 2020 as a pandemic curiosity and swiftly grew into a juggernaut. It serves up short-form videos that are a leading source of information and entertainment to tens of millions of

Americans, especially younger ones.

Not only has the app given rise to a new crop of celebrities and fueled chart-topping books, music and movies, but it has also helped shape conversation around the Israel-Hamas war and last year’s U.S. presidential election.

Although TikTok’s lawyer told the justices last week that the app would “go dark” if it lost the case, it was not clear how quickly a shutdown would happen. At a minimum, app store operators



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

Jacob Smith telling viewers to follow him on other platforms.

like Apple and Google face significant penalties imposed by the law if they continue to distribute and update the TikTok app.

TikTok challenged the law on First Amendment grounds, saying the government was required to use more modest measures to address its security concerns. For example, the company said, Congress could have barred sending Americans’ data abroad and required disclosure of China’s role in

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WRY WELCOME In their migration to the Chinese app RedNote, social media users jabbed at the U.S. government. Critic’s Notebook. PAGE A16

BIG MARKET For ByteDance, TikTok’s parent company in China, the loss of 170 million monthly users in the U.S. would be a blow. PAGE B1

Biden Declares E.R.A. Passed; Won’t Enforce

This article is by **Peter Baker, Erica L. Green and Annie Karni.**

WASHINGTON — President Biden declared on Friday that he believes that the Equal Rights Amendment has met the requirements of ratification and therefore is now part of the Constitution, but he declined to order the government to finalize the process by officially publishing it.

“In keeping with my oath and duty to Constitution and country, I affirm what I believe and what three-fourths of the states have ratified: The 28th Amendment is the law of the land, guaranteeing all Americans equal rights and protections under the law regardless of their sex,” Mr. Biden said in a statement.

Under the Constitution, however, the president has no direct role in approving amendments and his statement has no legal force by itself. The archivist of the United States, a Biden appointee, has refused to formally publish the amendment on the grounds that it has not met the requirements to become part of the Constitution.

Aides said that Mr. Biden was not ordering the archivist, Colleen Shogan, to reverse her position and publish the amendment, as advocates have urged him to do. Asked for comment on Friday, the archivist’s office referred to previous statements refusing to publish the amendment, indicating that Dr. Shogan would not change her stance.

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Kennedy Tried To Quash Shots As Covid Raged

By **CHRISTINA JEWETT**

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President-elect Donald J. Trump’s choice to lead the nation’s health agencies, formally asked the Food and Drug Administration to revoke the authorization of all Covid vaccines during a deadly phase of the pandemic when thousands of Americans were still dying every week.

Mr. Kennedy filed a petition with the F.D.A. in May 2021 demanding that officials rescind authorization for the shots and refrain from approving any Covid vaccine in the future.

Just six months earlier, Mr. Trump had declared the Covid vaccines a miracle. At the time Mr. Kennedy filed the petition, half of American adults were receiving their shots. Schools were reopening and churches were filling.

Estimates had begun to show that the rapid rollout of Covid vaccines had already saved about 140,000 lives in the United States.

The petition was filed on behalf of the nonprofit that Mr. Kennedy founded and led, Children’s Health Defense. It claimed that the risks of the vaccines outweighed the benefits and that the vaccines weren’t necessary because good treatments were available, including ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, which had already been deemed ineffective against the virus.

The petition received little notice when it was filed. Mr. Ken-

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Moving Homeless Out of Sight

With New Orleans set to host major events, Louisiana’s governor has ordered downtown to be cleared. PAGE A9

Adams Visits Trump in Florida

The New York mayor, who has shown interest in a pardon, met with the president-elect and his son Eric. PAGE A21

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Bracing for Deportations

Mexican officials and other leaders in Latin America have not been able to meet with the incoming Trump administration about its plans. PAGE A4

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China’s Population Again Falls

The third annual decline came despite a rise in births last year and a campaign to increase child bearing. PAGE B1



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Dynasty Freezes Out Rivals

Patrick Mahomes and Kansas City, driving for another N.F.L. title, have left a trail of frustration. PAGE B7

Conundrum for Michigan Fans

It won’t be easy for them to root for one of two football rivals, Ohio State and Notre Dame, in the title game. PAGE B9

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He Showed Us Who We Are

The director David Lynch came off as almost performatively normal. Masterpieces like “Eraserhead” and “Mulholland Drive” said otherwise. PAGE C1

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Coach Who Began Movement

Bill McCartney, 84, transformed the University of Colorado’s football team and founded the Promise Keepers, a men-only Christian group. PAGE B12

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Jessica Grose

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A Cellphone Phantasm

As astrotourism booms, the vivid colors that digital photography bestows on images of the northern lights are creating awe and confusion. PAGE C8

