

Biden Cuts Off
Israeli Settlers
Tied to Attacks

Dual Message Targets
West Bank Violence

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — President Biden on Thursday ordered broad financial and travel sanctions on Israeli settlers accused of violent attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank, a forceful gesture aimed in part at Arab American voters in the United States who have expressed fury about the president’s backing of Israel’s war in Gaza.

Mr. Biden authorized the sanctions with an executive order that goes further than a directive issued in December by the State Department, which imposed visa bans on dozens of Israeli settlers who have committed acts of violence in the West Bank. The sanctions will initially be imposed on four Israelis, who will be cut off from the U.S. financial system and from accessing any American assets or property. They also will be prevented from traveling to the United States or engaging in any commerce with people in the United States.

For Mr. Biden, the order served a dual purpose: It was a sharp diplomatic notice to Israel’s government at a time when the United States is pressing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for restraint. But it also sent a message to Arab Americans, a key part of the political coalition he needs to be re-elected, that he is serious about using the power of the United States on behalf of the Palestinians.

The executive order comes after years of American frustration with Israeli settlers, whom they view as a source of violence and instability and a threat to a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians. And it comes as Mr. Biden faces growing criticism over U.S. support for Israel’s war in Gaza, including from members of his own party. American officials fear a recent surge in attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank could set off even wider violence, making an already combustible situation worse.

“This violence poses a grave threat to peace, security, and stability in the West Bank, Israel and the Middle East region, and threatens the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States,” said Jake Sullivan, the president’s national security adviser.

Israel’s war against Hamas is taking place in the 141-square-mile Gaza Strip, home to about two million Palestinians. But there are also deep tensions in the West Bank, a much larger area that Israel has occupied since 1967. It is home to more than 2.5 million Palestinians.

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Floodwaters in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles. Online misinformation has increased with amateur weather trackers.

Bad Weather
Grows Worse
In Online Lies

By SHAWN HUBLER

SACRAMENTO — Last week, as Californians braced for heavy weather, forecasters found themselves engulfed in a sudden online storm.

“WARNING: Meteorologists are currently debating whether California is about to get hit by something that they’ve been dreading for a long time,” an emergency preparedness enthusiast named Danielle Langlois cautioned on X. “They’re not certain (yet), but it is entirely possible that what is brewing in the Pacific right now heralds the beginning of the dreaded #ArkStorm.”

Ms. Langlois is not a climate scientist or a weather expert. She claims no special knowledge of the “ArkStorm,” a rare atmospheric onslaught modeled by scientists at the United States Geological Survey that would engulf major cities in water. She said later that she is an actor with fewer than 5,000 social media followers, a Californian’s healthy respect for natural disasters and an apartment in the Sherman Oaks neighborhood of Los Angeles.

No matter. Over the next several days, her post went viral while the National Weather Service issued warnings for heavy rain and flooding.

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Maine Struggles With a Shift in Juvenile Justice

By CALLIE FERGUSON

PORTLAND, Maine — Nearly three years ago, Maine lawmakers hoped to be in the vanguard of a national movement to transform how governments deal with teenagers who break the law.

The legislators passed a bill aimed at closing the state’s only youth prison and expanding programs with a better record of rehabilitating adolescents. But Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat and long-time prosecutor, vetoed the June 2021 measure, even though the facility, Long Creek Youth Development Center, had repeatedly been faulted for harmful treatment and dangerous conditions.

Now, Maine has become a cautionary tale about the path to reform. The state sends far fewer adolescents to Long Creek than it did a decade ago. But it hasn’t made comparable strides to bolster how it holds accountable and supports youth in the rest of the juvenile justice system, allowing chronic problems to persist, an examination by The New York Times and The Bangor Daily News found.

Despite Maine’s efforts to establish smaller, secure alternatives to Long Creek, none are currently in operation. Officials have not fixed the severe shortage of community-based intervention programs intended to catch delinquency early. Many in the juvenile justice system are not getting the

Get-Tough Tactics Out of
Favor, but Few Teens
Get Needed Help

help, required by state law, to change their behavior.

And despite a federal investigation, state-commissioned inquiries, a task force and multiple recommendations to overhaul Maine’s handling of troubled teens, the state has not come up with any comprehensive blueprint to do so.

The governor and her administration, by many accounts, have

failed to provide leadership — or offer a clear vision — to resolve the longstanding issues. And lawmakers have largely retreated. Meanwhile, dire consequences are playing out in areas across Maine, according to interviews with dozens of law enforcement and corrections officials, health care providers, watchdog groups, parents, children and others.

Families described watching, powerless, as their teenagers escalated out of control because local intervention programs were not available. In Maine’s rural northernmost county, for example, certain intensive services that help steer adolescents from entering the justice system were not available.

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Long Creek in South Portland is Maine’s only youth prison.



New research suggests small dogs with prominent noses live longer than bigger, flat-faced dogs.

New Research Ties Long Snouts to Longer Lives

By EMILY ANTHERS

All dogs go to heaven. But a bulldog might find itself headed there years before a Border terrier, according to a new study of nearly 600,000 British dogs from more than 150 breeds.

Large breeds and breeds with flattened faces had shorter average

life spans than smaller dogs and those with elongated snouts, the researchers found. Female dogs also lived slightly longer than male ones. The results were published in the journal Scientific Reports on Thursday.

There are exceptions to those broad trends, and the findings might not apply to dogs outside

Britain, where breeding practices — and gene pools — may be different, the researchers noted.

More research will be needed to determine why some breeds have shorter life spans than others. Some breeds are genetically predisposed to serious health problems, but breed-related differences are not the only factor.

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A First Lady and a Dior Pouch Gall South Korea

By CHOE SANG-HUN

SEOUL — The president was grappling with a slowing economy, a deadly crowd crush and nuclear threats from a belligerent neighbor. Then came a much more personal scandal: spy cam footage that showed his wife accepting a \$2,200 Dior pouch as a gift.

It has quickly escalated into one of the biggest political crises for President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea, who has made his mark in foreign policy by aligning his country more closely with the United States and Japan but has been bogged down by controversies at home, many of them involving the first lady, Kim Keon Hee.

The video of Ms. Kim, which emerged late last year, has caused a rift between Mr. Yoon and one of his most trusted lieutenants. It

has roiled his political party — one senior member called on Ms. Kim to apologize and compared her to Marie Antoinette. And, polls show, it has become a significant issue ahead of crucial parliamentary elections in an increasingly polarized political atmosphere.

For nearly two years, Ms. Kim has challenged how this deeply patriarchal society views the role of the presidential spouse. Unlike past first ladies, who typically remained in the shadow of their husband, she has revealed in media attention and even publicly pushed Mr. Yoon’s government to ban the breeding and butchering of dogs for human consumption. She has talked about Mr. Yoon’s devotion to her, saying in 2022 that he had vowed to cook for her and “kept that promise for the past decade.”

But Ms. Kim has also frequently courted controversy, sometimes in ways that, critics say, highlight her undue influence on the government.

In 2021, when Mr. Yoon, a former prosecutor, was campaigning for the presidency, she apologized for inflating her résumé to promote her art-exhibition business. Then came the release of conversations with a reporter, who she

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Kim Keon Hee, South Korea’s first lady, is a polarizing figure.

WEEKEND ARTS C1-14

Meditations of Matched Pairs

In the play “The Following Evening,” two theater-making couples reflect on mortality and renewal. PAGE C1

Brushing Up on Her Spycraft

Maya Erskine co-stars in a series reboot of “Mr. & Mrs. Smith,” a film merging marital strife and espionage. PAGE C1



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Big Detour for Big Ships

Shipping companies have tripled the prices they charge as they reroute cargos to avoid the Suez Canal and the threat of Houthi airstrikes. PAGE A6

Dossier Suit Is Dismissed

A British court ruled that Donald J. Trump had no grounds for seeking compensation over unproven claims linking him to Russia. PAGE A5

\$1.6 Million in Pilfered Wines

More than 80 rare bottles were discovered to be missing from the cellar of a 400-year-old Paris restaurant during a routine inventory. PAGE A4

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Universal Music Exits TikTok

The music giant, home to stars like Taylor Swift and Drake, pulled its songs as licensing talks with the social media juggernaut broke down. PAGE A13

Drug Crises, Side by Side

Drug-related problems in Portugal declined after decriminalization. Liberal cities like San Francisco have struggled to match that success. PAGE A11

Utah Joins Diversity Ban

Conservatives in a number of states have argued that D.E.I. programs in education are “doing more to divide us than to bring us together.” PAGE A17

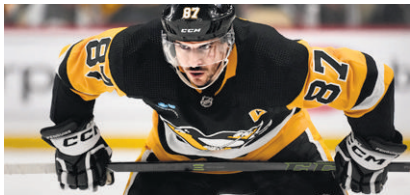
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A Former Prodigy’s Pain

Ricky Rubio, who retired after a 12-year N.B.A. career, looked back at the anguish hidden by his exuberance. PAGE B7

Crosby’s M.V.P.-Level Season

At 36, Sidney Crosby is reminding the N.H.L. of his game-breaking ability to set up goals for the Penguins. PAGE B10



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China Stifles Economy’s Critics

As the stock market and the real estate sector struggle, Beijing is clamping down on negative commentary. PAGE B1

Apple Rankles Developers

App makers say Apple’s solution to comply with new European regulations comes with risk and expense. PAGE B1

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Thomas L. Friedman

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