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A Seismic Shift in the Drug Trade
Guatemalan forces looking for opium poppies. The fentanyl boom has ruined the market for the plant used to make heroin. Page A9.

POLITICAL MEMO

Trump Rarity: Verbal Blasts May Backfire

By **MAGGIE HABERMAN**
and **JONAH E. BROMWICH**

“So that’s not true? That’s not true?”

The judge in control of Donald J. Trump’s Manhattan criminal trial had just cut off the former president’s lawyer, Todd Blanche. Mr. Blanche had been in the midst of defending a social media post in which his client wrote that a statement that had been public for years “WAS JUST FOUND!”

Mr. Blanche had already acknowledged during the Tuesday hearing that Mr. Trump’s post was false. But the judge, Juan M. Merchan, wasn’t satisfied.

“I need to understand,” Justice Merchan said, glaring down at the lawyer from the bench, “what I am dealing with.”

The question of what is true — or at least what can be proven — is at the heart of any trial. But this particular defendant, accused by the Manhattan district attorney’s office of falsifying business records to conceal a sex scandal, has spent five decades spewing thousands and thousands of words, sometimes contradicting himself within minutes, sometimes within the same breath, with little concern for the consequences of what he said.

Mr. Trump has treated his own words as disposable commodities, intended for single use, and not necessarily indicative of any deeply held beliefs. And his tendency to pile phrases on top of one another has often worked to his benefit, amusing or engaging his supporters — sometimes

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Israelis Bracing for Arrest Warrants From Hague

By **RONEN BERGMAN**
and **PATRICK KINGSLEY**

Israeli officials increasingly believe that the International Criminal Court is preparing to issue arrest warrants for senior government officials on charges related to the conflict with Hamas, according to five Israeli and foreign officials.

The Israeli and foreign officials also believe the court is weighing arrest warrants for leaders from Hamas.

If the court proceeds, the Israeli officials could potentially be accused of preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and pursuing an excessively

International Court Also Expected to Target Hamas Officials

harsh response to the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, according to two of the five officials, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

The Israeli officials, who are worried about the potential fallout from such a case, said they believed that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among

those who might be named in a warrant. It is not clear who might be charged from Hamas or what crimes would be cited.

The Israeli officials did not disclose the nature of the information that led them to be concerned about potential I.C.C. action, and the court did not comment on the matter.

Arrest warrants from the court would probably be seen in much of the world as a humbling moral rebuke, particularly to Israel, which for months has faced international backlash over its conduct in Gaza, including from President Biden, who called it “over the top.”

It could also affect Israel’s poli-

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MICHAEL NOBLE JR. FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Waking Up to Destruction
Tornadoes battered parts of Missouri, Oklahoma, above, and Texas overnight Saturday. Page A16.

The Weinstein Offense That Can’t Be Measured, or Prosecuted

By **JODI KANTOR**

For the first time in years, there is a chance that Harvey Weinstein could walk free.

His New York conviction for sex crimes was overturned on Thursday. Manhattan’s district attorney says he wants to retry Mr. Weinstein, but that seems, at most, a maybe. The former film producer still has a long sen-

tence to serve in Los Angeles, though next month he is expected to appeal that conviction on grounds similar to those that were successful in New York. His lawyer is the same one who got Bill Cosby’s conviction tossed out.

Many of Mr. Weinstein’s accusers say they are horrified. Even some of the seven judges who participated in the decision were

NEWS ANALYSIS

outraged. The majority — ruling that his trial was unfair because it introduced witnesses separate from the central charges — prevailed by a single vote, 4 to 3. The dissenting judges described that decision as “oblivious,” “naïve” and “endangering decades of progress.” They have

joined a roiling debate about what the standard of evidence in sex crimes trials should be.

But criminal convictions have never seemed like the ultimate measure of Mr. Weinstein’s behavior. Whether he remains a felon or not, he can never be tried for the most overarching offense he is accused of.

That is because, at its core, the

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Arab Leaders Pushing Back On Protesters

Fury at War in Gaza Is Met With Arrests

This article is by **Vivian Yee**, **Vivian Nereim** and **Emad Mekay**.

CAIRO — Like other governments across the Middle East, Egypt has not been shy about its position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its denunciations of Israel over the war in Gaza are loud and constant. State media outlets broadcast images of long lines of aid trucks waiting to cross from Egypt into Gaza, spotlighting Egypt’s role as the sole conduit for most of the limited aid entering the besieged territory.

This month, however, when hundreds of people gathered in downtown Cairo to demonstrate in solidarity with Gaza, Egyptian security officers swooped in, arresting 14 protesters, according to their lawyer. Back in October, the government had organized pro-Palestinian rallies of its own. Yet at those, too, it detained dozens of people after protesters chanted slogans critical of the government. More than 50 of them remain behind bars, their lawyers say.

It was a pattern that has repeated itself around the region since Israel, responding to an attack by Hamas, began a six-month siege of Gaza: Arab citizens’ grief and fury over Gaza’s plight running headlong into official repression when that outrage takes aim at their own leaders.

Out of step with their people on matters of economic opportunity and political freedoms, some governments in the Arab world have long faced added discontent over their ties with Israel and its chief backer, the United States. Now the Gaza war — and what many Arabs see as their own governments’ complicity — has driven an old wedge between rulers and the ruled with new force.

Morocco is prosecuting dozens of people arrested at pro-Palestinian protests or detained for social media posts criticizing the kingdom’s rapprochement with Israel. In Saudi Arabia, which is pursuing a normalization deal with Israel, and the United Arab Emirates, which has already struck one, the authorities have displayed such hypersensitivity to any hint of op-

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SURVIVORS Dentistry graduates in Gaza had big plans. Now they are counting the dead. PAGE A6

UKRAINIANS SAY TRAUMA LINGERS AFTER CAPTIVITY

RUSSIA ABUSE ALLEGED

Prisoners of War Return to Service Too Soon, Critics Charge

By **CARLOTTA GALL**
and **OLEKSANDR CHUBKO**

KYIV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian marine infantryman endured nine months of physical and psychological torture as a Russian prisoner of war, but was allotted only three months of rest and rehabilitation before being ordered back to his unit.

The infantryman, who asked to be identified only by his call sign, Smiley, returned to duty willingly. But it was only when he underwent intensive combat training in the following weeks that the depth and range of his injuries, both psychological and physical, began to surface.

“I started having flashbacks and nightmares,” he said. “I would only sleep for two hours and wake up with my sleeping bag soaking wet.” He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and referred for psychological care and is still receiving treatment.

Ukraine is just beginning to understand the lasting effects of the traumas its prisoners of war experienced in Russian captivity, but it has been failing to treat them properly and returning them to duty too early, say former prisoners, officials and psychologists familiar with individual cases.

Nearly 3,000 Ukrainian prisoners of war have been released from Russia in prisoner exchanges since the invasion in 2022. More than 10,000 more remain in Russian custody, some of whom have endured two years of conditions that a United Nations expert described as horrific.

The Ukrainian government’s rehabilitation program, which has usually involved two months in a sanitarium and a month at home, is inadequate, critics say, and the traumas suffered by Ukrainian prisoners are growing with the length and severity of the abuse they are being subjected to as the war drags on.

Russia’s torture of prisoners of war has been well documented by the United Nations, with former inmates speaking of relentless beatings, electric shocks, rape,

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In Drink-Happy New Orleans, Visionaries Saw All That Glass

By **CARA BUCKLEY**

It started with a lament over the fate of empty beer and wine bottles.

In early 2020, Franziska Trautmann and Max Steitz, then seniors at Tulane University, were spitballing ways to keep their glass out of the trash. For all of its imbibing, New Orleans didn’t offer curbside glass recycling. Pretty much all of the many bottles drained in the Crescent City ended up in landfills.

For Ms. Trautmann and Mr. Steitz, this wasn’t just galling, but a missed opportunity. The city’s wetlands were fast eroding, and glass could be ground up into sand. What if they collected glass around town, crushed it into sand and put it to good use?

Buoyed by the optimism of youth and enthusiastic crowdfunding, they bought a small glass pulverizer and put it in the backyard of an accommodating local fraternity, Zeta Psi.

Almost immediately, their drop-off barrels overflowed. “We underestimated how much demand



ANNIE FLANAGAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bottles cover Glass Half Full headquarters in New Orleans.

there was,” Mr. Steitz, 27, said.

Now, four years later, their company, Glass Half Full, is the only glass recycling facility in New Orleans. It has become the founders’ full time work, employs a staff of 15 and has expanded far beyond what they imagined.

To date, their operation has

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Scrutiny on a Gambling Sting
The N.C.A.A. penalized athletes from Iowa and Iowa State, but now the inquiry itself is facing questions. PAGE D1

Out With a Whimper
With hopes dwindling for the Premier League season, the new Liverpool manager faces big decisions. PAGE D6

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Reaction to Mural Splits Town
The 6,000 residents of Littleton, N.H., had found a way to coexist despite their differences until an official’s words set off a conflagration. PAGE A12

Denied a Do-Over Senior Year
After Covid ruined high school graduation for the class of 2020, the response to campus protests might upend their college commencements. PAGE A10

A New City for Louisiana
A court allows part of Baton Rouge to become St. George, but some fear the white, wealthier enclave could have devastating consequences. PAGE A13



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Young Diners at Senior Cafes
In China, community canteens have become popular among budget-conscious young professionals. PAGE B1

Tech Plans a Costly Upgrade
The spending that the industry’s giants expect A.I. to require is starting to come into focus, and it is large. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Who Will Be Sent to Rwanda?
For the tens of thousands of asylum seekers in Britain, a new law brings the possibility of deportation to central Africa closer. We asked how it was affecting them. PAGE A4

Francis Visits Venice Biennale
At the Holy See’s installation at the famed art show, incarcerated women serve as artists and guides, reflecting the pope’s longtime commitment to society’s marginalized people. PAGE A9

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Treasure Hunt at the Met
For this year’s Roof Garden installation, Petrit Halilaj embeds the space with messages from his youth in the form of graffiti-like sculptures. PAGE C1

