



RUSSIAN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE, VIA GETTY IMAGES

A Search for Answers to a Plane Crash

The Russian Investigative Committee released video of the Belgorod area where it said Ukrainian P.O.W.s on the flight died. Page A11.

C.I.A. Director
To Renew Push
For Gaza Deal

This article is by Julian E. Barnes, Hiba Yazbek, Aaron Boxerman and Roni Caryn Rabin.

William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, plans to travel to Europe to meet with senior Israeli, Egyptian and Qatari officials, in a sign the United States is pushing to secure a deal to release the hostages being held in the Gaza Strip and broker a prolonged cease-fire, according to U.S. officials.

U.S. officials said Israel's apparent willingness to agree to a cessation of hostilities in return for the release of more hostages being held in Gaza has created a new opening for negotiations.

Any new deal would most likely include phased releases of hostages, though the White House is hoping that a more ambitious one, potentially leading to the release of all of the remaining hostages, might be possible. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomacy.

Mr. Burns and David Barnea, the chief of Israel's Mossad spy agency, helped broker a deal in November that led to a weeklong pause in the fighting and the release of more than 100 hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by Israel. The talks were mediated by Qatar, which was negotiating with Hamas, as well as by Egypt.

Continued on Page A14



REUTERS

MEASURING THE TOLL An Israeli strike on a Gaza neighborhood targeted a Hamas leader. It came at a cost to civilians. PAGE A12

Track’s Changing Rules Derail Athlete’s Dream

By JÉRÉ LONGMAN

Maximila Imali, a top Kenyan sprinter, did not lose her eligibility to compete in the Paris Olympics because she cheated. She did not fail a doping test. She broke no rules.

Instead, she is set to miss this year's Summer Games because she was born with a rare genetic variant that results in naturally elevated levels of testosterone. And last March, track and field's global governing body ruled that Ms. Imali's biology gave her an unfair advantage in all events against other women, effectively barring her from international competition.

As a result, Ms. Imali, 27, finds her Olympic dream in peril and her career and her livelihood in limbo.

Unless she is willing to suppress her testosterone levels through medication — which she is not — or she prevails in an appeal she has filed challenging the new regulations, she and other intersex athletes will be barred from competing in all running, jumping and throwing events under the increasingly restrictive and contentious rules that govern women's track and field.

The legality of those rules has been disputed as they have evolved, and as sports governing bodies attempt to balance fair play in women's sports with the complicated issues of biological sex and gender identity. But the application of the regulations continues to cause confusion for those

Intersex Runner Barred
From the Olympics

affected: rule changes sometimes made with little or no warning; careers forcibly switched abruptly or ended at their peak; and embarrassment, humiliation and fears about personal safety.

“They are destroying our talent, and our dignity,” Ms. Imali said in a recent video interview about her appeal. She said she should not be punished for the way she was born because she had done nothing wrong.

“I was given this talent by God,” she added, “and I’m using it the way it is.”

The precise impact of muscle-

Continued on Page A8



KANG-CHUN CHENG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Maximila Imali's running career and her livelihood are in limbo.

U.S. Economy Showing Resilience in Recovery

By BEN CASSELMAN

The U.S. economy continued to grow at a healthy pace at the end of 2023, capping a year in which unemployment remained low, inflation cooled and a widely predicted recession never materialized.

Gross domestic product, adjusted for inflation, grew at a 3.3 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department said on Thursday. That was down from the 4.9 percent rate in

Healthy 3.3% Growth
and Cooling Inflation

the third quarter but easily topped forecasters' expectations and showed the resilience of the recovery from the pandemic's economic upheaval.

The latest reading is preliminary and may be revised in the months ahead.

Forecasters entered 2023 ex-

pecting the Federal Reserve's aggressive campaign of interest-rate increases to push the economy into reverse. Instead, growth accelerated: For the full year, measured from the end of 2022 to the end of 2023, G.D.P. grew 3.1 percent, up from less than 1 percent the year before and faster than the average for the five years preceding the pandemic. (A different measure, of average output over the year, showed annual growth of 2.5 percent in 2023.)

Continued on Page A22

Ruthless Steps
And Luck Fuel
Trump’s Wins

Feuding Within Party
Gave Him an Edge

This article is by Shane Goldmacher, Jonathan Swan and Maggie Haberman.

Donald J. Trump's campaign couldn't have scripted the results in Iowa any better.

Except for a single vote.

Standing backstage at his victory party in downtown Des Moines, Mr. Trump appeared almost giddy with disbelief as television screens blared the news of an outcome so lopsided it was called while the voting was still underway. He had won more than 50 percent of the vote — and 98 of the state's 99 counties — and his rivals, Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley, were clustered together far behind. Mr. DeSantis edged just ahead of Ms. Haley, enough to stall her momentum but not enough to save his candidacy.

“Did you think it was going to be like this?” Mr. Trump remarked to an adviser, according to two people who witnessed the interaction.

That night, the former president and his usual coterie of top aides were joined by about a dozen Iowa staffers headed for New York, boarding the plane his campaign calls Trump Force One.

Not everyone was invited. Mr. Trump had lost Johnson County, home of the University of Iowa, by a single vote. The regional political director who had overseen the area was not given a seat on the plane. The next morning, according to two people familiar with the matter, she was informed by a terse email from her supervisor that her contract with the Trump campaign was not being renewed.

It was the type of ruthlessness the Trump team had deployed in the prior 14 months: Win — or else. The approach has fit the requirements of a candidate who faces the threat of imprisonment if impending trials and the 2024 presidential race do not go his way.

On Tuesday, Mr. Trump beat Ms. Haley by 11 percentage points in New Hampshire, the early state

Continued on Page A19

TWO AMERICAS The matchup that seems likely is about disparate visions of the nation. PAGE A18

DEAL ON BORDER
IN PERIL AS TRUMP
WIELDS INFLUENCE

G.O.P. ‘IN A QUANDARY’

Thumb on Party Agenda
Grows Heavier After
2 Primary Wins

By ANNIE KARNI

WASHINGTON — For months, Senate Republicans have been working with Democrats on a deal they have described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for a conservative border security bill, and for weeks they have hinted that they are tantalizingly close to an agreement.

Their timing could not be worse.

As former President Donald J. Trump moves closer to becoming his party's presidential nominee and Republican lawmakers consolidate behind him, he is wielding a heavier hand than at any time since leaving office over his party's agenda in Congress. His vocal opposition to the emerging border compromise has all but killed the measure's chances in a divided Congress as he puts his own hard-line immigration policies once again at the center of his presidential campaign.

His shadow has always loomed large over the Republican-controlled House, which has opened congressional investigations to defend him, begun an impeachment inquiry into his chief rival and approved legislation to reinstate the hard-line immigration policies he imposed. But as Mr. Trump barrels toward the party's 2024 nomination, his influence on the legislative agenda on Capitol Hill is expanding.

His “America First” approach to foreign policy already helped to sap G.O.P. support for sending aid to Ukraine for its war against Russian aggression, placing the fate of that money in doubt. That led Republicans to demand a border crackdown in exchange for any further funding for Kyiv, a compromise that Mr. Trump has now repudiated. He frequently consults with the inexperienced Speaker Mike Johnson, weighing in on policy and politics. And his uncompromising approach has

Continued on Page A18

Trump Ally Sentenced to Prison;
Flouted House Panel’s Subpoena

By ZACH MONTAGUE

WASHINGTON — Peter Navarro, a trade adviser to former President Donald J. Trump who helped lay plans to keep Mr. Trump in office after the 2020 election, was sentenced on Thursday to four months in prison for defying a subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Mr. Navarro, 74, was found guilty in September of two misdemeanor counts of criminal contempt of Congress, making him the second Trump aide to face penalties related to one of the chief investigations into the Capitol riot. The judge overseeing the case, Amit P. Mehta, had rejected Mr. Navarro's primary defense: that Mr. Trump had personally directed him not to cooperate with the subpoena, and that he believed he was shielded by executive privilege.

“The words ‘executive privilege’ are not magical incanta-



SHAWN THEW/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

Peter Navarro had been found guilty of contempt of Congress.

tions,” Judge Mehta said in handing down the sentence after a tense two-and-a-half-hour hearing in which he repeatedly took issue with Mr. Navarro's claim of executive privilege.

“It's not a get-out-of-jail-free card,” he said.

Mr. Navarro was also ordered to

Continued on Page A20

INTERNATIONAL A4-14

French Honor to the Enslaved
A monument will list the names of those freed in 1848, a design some say does more to glorify France for abolition than to atone for slavery itself. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A15-23

1st U.S. Execution by Nitrogen
Alabama put to death Kenneth Smith using the untested method of nitrogen hypoxia after the Supreme Court denied an effort to stop it. PAGE A23

BUSINESS B1-5

Bright Spot in Housing Market
As homeowners remain reluctant to put their properties on the market, developers are rushing to build new houses to meet demand. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-9, 12

Gauff Ousted in Semifinal
The 19-year-old American's run at the Australian Open ended against Aryna Sabalenka, a big hitter from Belarus and the defending champion. PAGE B9

OPINION A24-25

Thomas L. Friedman PAGE A25



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