

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, sunny, low humidity, high 83. Tonight, mainly clear, light wind, low 67. Tomorrow, a good deal of sunshine, warmer, not too humid, high 88. Weather map, Page A24.

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ERIC THAYER/GETTY IMAGES

Dropping fire retardant on a blaze in Piru, Calif., on Thursday. Perimeter Solutions is the sole supplier of the product in the U.S.

NEWS ANALYSIS

## Israel Risks Landing in a Familiar Deadlock

**By PATRICK KINGSLEY**  
JERUSALEM — Throughout the war in Gaza, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has repeatedly said that he just needs one more military maneuver to finally defeat Hamas. In April last year, Mr. Netanyahu said that Israel was merely “a step from victory” — as long as it captured Rafah, a city in southern Gaza. This March, with Rafah long decimated and Hamas still refusing to surrender, Mr. Netanyahu started a campaign that he promised would finally give Israel victory. When it did not, he launched an even broader operation in May that, three months later, has failed to

### Netanyahu’s Gaza Plan Echoes Past Failures and Lofty Goals

dislodge Hamas’s battered remnants, while leaving many Palestinian civilians on the brink of starvation. Now, Mr. Netanyahu is planning another major push after his cabinet voted on Friday to prepare to capture Gaza City, the main city in the enclave. That followed his announcement on Thursday that Israel would finally defeat Hamas by occupying all of Gaza and then handing it to

“Arab forces that will govern it properly without threatening us.” This latest endeavor, which may take weeks to begin, risks ending the same way as all his previous efforts: in a strategic dead-end, with Hamas still holding on by its fingertips, Israeli hostages still in Hamas’s grip, and Palestinian civilians trapped in a dystopian nightmare. Israel captured much of Gaza City in the first months of war, seizing some areas more than once, before relinquishing it all on the false assumption that Hamas had been defeated. Mr. Netanyahu’s decision to expand the campaign yet again, despite intense international

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## A CRUCIAL TOOL WITH 1 SUPPLIER

### Locking Up a Monopoly on Fire Retardant

**By CHRIS HAMBY**

Fire retardant, the reddish liquid dropped from planes to slow spreading flames, has become an indispensable tool for saving lives and property from more frequent and intense wildfires. But the entire supply of the product in the United States is controlled by a single company. That company, Perimeter Solutions, has deployed an extensive lobbying and public-relations campaign to undercut would-be rivals, even as government officials have voiced concerns about the risks of relying on one source for such an essential product, a New York Times investigation found. Perimeter has used its dominance to increase profits at the expense of federal and state government agencies — its biggest customers. The retardant that California’s firefighting agency dropped to protect Los Angeles in January cost 20 to 30 percent more than it did four years ago, substantially outpacing inflation, according to state contracts obtained through a public records request. The U.S. government’s spending on the substance roughly doubled to more than \$250 million over the same period, federal data shows. The rising prices have helped fuel a windfall for Perimeter and the investors who orchestrated a deal to buy the company in 2021 and take it public. Since then, Perimeter’s profits have roughly

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## Struggle to Bring Aid to Gaza As Deaths From Hunger Rise

Israel says it is working to let in more aid, but less is coming in than earlier in the war, and many have been killed trying to get it. Page A10.

