

’24 Candidates
Guard Details
About Health

Biden and Trump Pick
What Public Knows

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — In 2008, when Senator John McCain was the oldest person to seek a first term in the White House, his campaign set out to reassure the public about his health. It let reporters examine 1,173 pages of handwritten notes, lab results and insurance documents, including details of the senator’s biopsies, his prostate exams and even the “very light tan freckling” on his buttocks.

He was 71 years old.

Today, President Biden is 81 and his rival, Donald J. Trump, is 77, and many voters believe both men are too old for another term. Their doctors proclaim them fit to serve, but neither has agreed to throw open his medical charts to prove it.

Mr. Biden released a six-page summary of medical test results in February, but his doctor has refused to be interviewed by reporters, breaking from past practice. Mr. Trump has revealed less than Mr. Biden; his last public note from his doctor, in November, was three paragraphs long. Neither man has sat for a comprehensive assessment of his mental fitness, a battery of tests often administered to people their age.

The longstanding truth about the American political system is that presidents and presidential candidates choose what to test, what to ignore, how much medical information to release to the public and, in the end, what voters will know about their health and well-being.

But the election between the two oldest people to ever seek the presidency is challenging that notion. Not only are Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump failing to do anything extra to reassure Americans that they can lead well into their ninth

Continued on Page A13



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A woman from Venezuela with her children in Panama. She said she was a victim of sexual violence while crossing the Darién Gap.

‘They Do All Kinds of Evil’: Assaults on Migrants Rise in a Jungle

By JULIE TURKEWITZ

DARIÉN GAP, Panama — The girl, 8, from Venezuela, had slept fitfully the night before, wailing in her dreams, her mother said, about the men trying to kill her.

Days earlier, the family had entered the Darién Gap, the jungle straddling Colombia and Panama that in the last three years has become one of the world’s busiest migrant highways. After climbing mountains and crisscrossing rivers in their quest to reach the United States, their group was accosted by a half-dozen men in ski

masks, holding long guns and issuing threats.

“Women, take off your clothes!” the assailants shouted, the mother said, before they probed each woman’s intimate parts looking for cash.

Sons, brothers and husbands were forced to watch. Then the men turned to the girl, her mother said, ordering her to undress for a search, too.

Assault, robbery and rape have long been a grim risk of migrant journeys around the globe. But aid groups working in the Darién Gap say that in the past six months they have documented an ex-

Panama Has a Level of
Sexual Attacks Rarely
Seen Outside War

traordinary spike in attacks, with patterns and frequencies rarely seen outside of war zones.

Nearly all the attacks, they say, are happening on the Panamanian side of the jungle.

Long-established aid groups, including Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF, with experience working in conflicts, say the

attacks are organized and exceptionally cruel. Perpetrators beat victims and take food, even baby formula, leaving people battered and starving in the forest.

And the assaults often involve cases in which dozens of women are violated in a single event.

In January and February, Doctors Without Borders recorded 328 reports of sexual violence, compared with 676 in all of 2023. This year, 113 came in a single week in February.

“The level of brutality is extreme,” said Luis Eguiluz, the organization’s director in Colombia

Continued on Page A6



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Players practicing on Wednesday before the Doral tournament.

Trump’s New Vision for Hotels
Focuses on Golf, With Saudi Help

By ERIC LIPTON

DORAL, Fla. — Amateur golfers lined up on Thursday at the Trump National Doral near Miami, having agreed to pay more than \$9,000 apiece to play a friendly round alongside some of the world’s top professionals.

Rooms at the resort hotel will fill up with fans as a pro tournament featuring some of the biggest names in the sport gets underway on Friday. The resort’s restaurants and bars will pull in more business, and the Trump name will be beamed around the world on television and the internet.

Behind this surge in business at one of former President Donald J. Trump’s properties is his deal to host tournaments for LIV Golf, the upstart league sponsored by

Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund.

LIV’s eagerness to pay to have Mr. Trump host tournaments at his resorts is just one more example of the ties between the Saudis and the Trump family even as he seeks the presidency again, an arrangement that continues to generate conflicts of a type and scale unique to Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump spoke recently with Saudi Arabia’s leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, two people briefed on the discussion said; the Biden administration has been working with Saudi Arabia on a Middle East peace plan. It is not clear what Mr. Trump and the Saudi leader discussed. Officials representing Mr.

Continued on Page A15

Why Big Soccer Learned to Embrace Ramadan

By TARIQ PANJA

Yousseff Chippo had a secret.

A few months into his life as a soccer pro in Europe, Chippo, a Moroccan midfielder, was pushing to prove himself and didn’t want to do anything that might hurt his chances of success. That included revealing he was fasting for Ramadan, a normal practice for the world’s billion Muslims but not in the locker room of Portugal’s F.C. Porto in 1997.

The team’s double practice sessions — morning and afternoon — were arduous. Taking part while going without food and water from sunup to sundown made things harder. Eventually, after enduring days of dizziness and headaches in silence, Chippo came clean, and the club quickly put together a plan to preserve his energy and his health.

For decades, though, other Muslim players found teams to be less accommodating, at least officially. So in a sport where continuous play and a lack of substitutions offer little opportunity for a



GEORGE WOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Premier League players breaking their fast in a match Tuesday.

mid-game trip to the bench, those players have long relied instead on resourcefulness and improvised solutions to break their fasts: teammates who faked or embellished injuries just after sundown to buy a moment for

their Muslim colleagues to rush to the sideline; a few dates or a sugary drink slipped into a hand by a staff member at the appointed hour; trainers rushing out to attend to an injured knee carrying a

Continued on Page A7

Spraying Vitriol, Parents in New York Clash Over What’s Taught

By TROY CLOSSON

New York City has never been immune to heated education fights, but in recent months those fights have taken on a new level of vitriol and aggression, and expanded to focus on a broader menu of divisive issues.

The battles reflect the nation’s growing political divide even in this deep blue city, as parents lay-

er old debates — how issues of race and discrimination are taught in schools, for example — over newer ones, such as the role of transgender students in sports and how schools should address the Israel-Hamas war.

Parents have shouted over one another, called one another bigots and made formal complaints about behavior at meetings traditionally focused on issues like

Feuding on Issues Like
Race and Gender

school improvements and student achievement. Some parents have filed police reports against one another for harassment. One woman said she was mailed a parcel with feces inside.

The battlegrounds have also multiplied, from a few notoriously quarrelsome parent councils to traditionally peaceful spots around the city.

In other districts around the country, changes in school board policy can transform what happens in classrooms. In New York City, the parent councils where many of the fights are occurring

Continued on Page A16

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Trying to Keep a Tilt in Check

The Italian city of Bologna is looking to Pisa, home of the most famous leaning tower, for help keeping the Garisenda, its own tipping tower, upright. PAGE A4

Doctors’ Protest Drags On

Thousands of physicians in South Korea walked off the job weeks ago. Patient frustration, with hospitals and the government, is boiling over. PAGE A10

Taiwan’s Disaster Prep Pays Off

Decades of learning from other catastrophes, tightening building codes and increasing public awareness helped to mitigate earthquake damage. PAGE A11



NATIONAL A12-19, 22

I’d Just as Soon Lose a ...

Even in the woodworking world, there are trade-offs where policy, public safety, patents and profit meet. PAGE A12

No Dismissal in Records Case

A judge said Donald Trump cannot escape prosecution by claiming secret federal materials as his own. PAGE A22

BUSINESS B1-5

Ditching Apple for Android?

Even if you manage to surrender your iPhone, Apple’s hooks are still there. Switching is the easy part; it’s the aftermath that stings. PAGE B1

Ford Slows Its Push Into E.V.s

The automaker said it would delay new battery-powered models and shift its focus to hybrid cars. PAGE B1

OBITUARIES B10-11

Pathbreaking Novelist

John Barth, who wrote “The Sot-Weed Factor,” believed literary conventions were exhausted. He was 93. PAGE B10



WEEKEND ARTS C1-14

Gum-Wrapper Michelangelo

Lyndon J. Barrois Sr. is perhaps the world’s greatest gum-wrapper sculptor. (Not that it’s a crowded field.) PAGE C11

Goodbye to a Cultural Refuge

The Rubin Museum of Art will leave its space this fall and transition into being a global museum “without walls.” PAGE C1

SPORTS B6-9, 12

A Winding Road to Stardom

Kamilla Cardoso was an anxious teenager when she left Brazil. She’s led South Carolina to the Final Four. PAGE B6

Silencing the Doubters

Mookie Betts, the Dodgers star, has made an unthinkable position switch, from right field to shortstop. PAGE B8

OPINION A20-21

David Brooks PAGE A20



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