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"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, sunshine, low humidity, high 78. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, low 63. Tomorrow, partly to mostly sunny, continued low humidity, high 78. Weather map is on Page B12.

# The New York Times



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Preparations on Monday in Philadelphia for the debate between Kamala Harris and Donald J. Trump. Coverage at nytimes.com.

## Rivals Face Different Tests In Crucible of TV Debate

### NEWS ANALYSIS

**Too Old? The Focus Is Now on Trump.**

### By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — The last time the nation held a debate with the presidency on the line, a candidate with about eight decades of life behind him faced the challenge of proving that he was still up to the job of running the country. He failed.

Two and a half months later, the cast of characters has shifted and another candidate heading toward the octogenarian club confronts his own test to demonstrate that he has not diminished with age. Whether he passes that test may influence who will be the next occupant of the Oval Office.

At 78, former President Donald J. Trump exhibits more energy and speaks with more volume than President Biden does at 81, but he, too, has mixed up names, confused facts and stumbled over his points. Mr. Trump's rambling speeches, sometimes incoherent statements and extreme outbursts have raised questions about his own cognitive health and, according to polls, stimulated doubts among a majority of voters.

With Mr. Biden now out of the race, the politics of age have been turned on their head. Mr. Trump is now the oldest person ever to run for president on a major party ticket and, if he wins, would become the oldest president in history by the end of his term, when he would be 82.

Mr. Quiboloy is on the FBI's most-wanted list. He faces charges in the United States and at home of masterminding a human trafficking and child sex abuse ring.

*Continued on Page A6*

Mr. Biden was his opponent while Mr. Biden was his opponent, the rival he will square off against at Tuesday's prime-time debate in Philadelphia will be Vice President Kamala Harris, who at 59 is nearly two decades younger.

The issue has been propelled

*Continued on Page A20*

**Harris Aims to Offer Change While Not Forsaking Biden**

### By KATIE ROGERS and ERICA L. GREEN

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris will try to use her debate on Tuesday against former President Donald J. Trump to argue that Americans are ready to turn the page on the politics of the past decade, with its turmoil and social animus.

But Mr. Trump, standing just feet away, is likely to make a different case: He is expected to try to paint Ms. Harris, the sitting vice president, as the candidate of the status quo.

The debate will pose a challenge for Ms. Harris, who will have to decide how much to embrace or distance herself from President Biden and his policies at a moment when polls show that many Americans are hungry for change. It is a conundrum other vice presidents have faced while seeking the presidency, and Ms. Harris's allies said she would have to tread carefully as she makes a case for herself.

"She can praise Biden and talk about the accomplishments, but also acknowledge that the work is not done," said Bakari Sellers, an ally of Ms. Harris and a Democratic political commentator. "So she has to be willing to display to the American people a level of empathy and understanding, and not simply say everything we did was God's gift to politics."

A recent poll by The New York Times and Siena College highlighted the difficult task Ms. Harris faces. It found that 61 percent of likely voters said the next president should represent a major change from Mr. Biden. Only 25 percent said Ms. Harris represented that change, while 53 percent said Mr. Trump did.

One of the most glaring vulnerabilities for the vice president is

*Continued on Page A13*

## Flight of Rival Helps Maduro Firm His Grip

## Philippine Pastor Sought by F.B.I. Is Captured

By HANNAH BEECH

DAVAO CITY, Philippines — The Appointed Son of God, as his followers call him, favors satiny white suits. The young women who surround him in photos are often clothed in the same virginal attire.

The past year has been marked

by months of repression leading up to a disputed presidential election.

The vote was followed by a brutal crackdown by the authoritarian government of President Nicolás Maduro.

Still, many Venezuelans held

out hope that through a negotiated exit the socialist-inspired administration might step aside and let Mr. González, a soft-spoken former diplomat, assume power.

His departure on Saturday nar-

rowed that slim possibility even

further. And it came as Venezuelan security forces surrounded the Argentine diplomatic residence in Caracas where six top opposition leaders have been taking shelter since March.

Mr. Maduro has solidified his

hold on power, some analysts say,

even if many Venezuelans and

governments around the world

have not recognized his claim

that he was re-elected to the presi-

dency in the July 8 election.

Efforts by countries in the re-

gion, including Brazil, Mexico and

Colombia, to broker a resolution to

the conflict have gone nowhere,

and the opposition, which has

called on the global community to

rally behind it, has seemingly few

options.

Mr. González, a 75-year-old

grandfather of four, was thrown

into the race in March as a stand-

in for the popular opposition

leader María Corina Machado after

the country's top court barred her

from the presidential ballot.

Ms. Machado, who won a pri-

mary election last year organized

by the opposition, has inspired a

nearly religious fervor among her

supporters, but for the govern-

ment, her decades-long record as an

unwavering opponent of the

25-year-old socialist system made

her a threat.

Many analysts saw Mr.

González's candidacy as a hope

if unexpected turn of events,

and

Continued on Page A8

### Appointed Son of God' Accused of Leading Sex Abuse Ring

By GENEVIEVE GLATSKY

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