



REBECCA NOBLE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Where Politics and Water Mix**  
Green alfalfa fields sprawl for miles alongside a town of dirt lots in Arizona, where Democrats see an opening as water takes center stage as a political issue. Page A11.

## Trapped and Starving, 2 Families Try to Keep Their Children Alive

**By VIVIAN YEE and BILAL SHBAIR**  
CAIRO — Born in wartime, the baby had not eaten in more than a day, his father said — no formula, no nothing. His parents had already spent the last of their money on food, sold his mother’s gold jewelry to buy milk and begged water from other evacuees to mix the powdered formula. Now even that was gone.  
The baby, Jihad, and his parents, Nour Barda and Heba al-Arqan, were trapped in a storage closet with five other people at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza last month as Israeli troops attacked. They had some Palestinian thyme and foraged wild greens, but only that, and just enough water to moisten their mouths once in a while, Mr. Barda told a Times reporter. Gunfire jackhammered outside. The Israeli military had surrounded the building and told anyone sheltering inside to stay put.

### U.N. Estimates Famine Will Probably Set In by May in Gaza

Al-Shifa was the same hospital where Jihad had been born five months earlier — five months of searching all day for a little food, of nearly getting knifed over a little flour. All his parents could do now was sit and watch their son go hungry. Hungry herself, Ms. al-Arqan had no breast milk to give.  
After two days, they had had enough. Jihad had not eaten in 28 hours. Holding one of Jihad’s dirty white T-shirts up on a broomstick, holding the baby close, they made their way toward the Israeli soldiers.  
They left for southern Gaza that same day, they said, alongside other civilians fleeing the hospital

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## Inside a Decision at Columbia That Escalated Campus Unrest

**By NICHOLAS FANDOS and SHARON OTTERMAN**  
Just after 2 p.m. last Wednesday, Nemat Shafik, the president of Columbia University, stepped out of an office building on Capitol Hill and into an idling black S.U.V.  
She had just endured an intense grilling by a congressional committee investigating antisemitism on elite college campuses. Now, a fresh challenge was rapidly build-

ing back on her own turf, where pro-Palestinian student demonstrators had staked out an encampment dominating Columbia’s lawn.  
For a university trying to reassure Congress that it was getting its campus under control, the timing could scarcely have been worse. With a narrow window to act, Dr. Shafik directed her car to a law firm near the White House, where she set up a makeshift command center.  
The secretive deliberations that followed over 24 frantic hours have sent Columbia into a crisis over free speech and safety unlike any the campus has seen since 1968. The events also set off a chain reaction rattling campuses across the country, just as one of the most trying academic years in memory neared its end.  
In theory, Dr. Shafik had a range

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Protesters at an encampment at Columbia on Tuesday.

## Modern Warfare Gets Mired in Ukraine Trenches

**By DAVID E. SANGER**  
WASHINGTON — The idea triggered a full-scale revolt on the Google campus.  
Six years ago, the Silicon Valley giant signed a small, \$9 million contract to put the skills of a few of its most innovative developers to the task of building an artificial intelligence tool that would help the military detect potential targets on the battlefield using drone footage.  
Engineers and other Google employees argued that the company should have nothing to do

### Conflict Becomes a Lab for New American Technology

with Project Maven, even if it was designed to help the military discern between civilians and militants.  
The uproar forced the company to back out, but Project Maven didn’t die — it just moved to other contractors. Now, it has grown into an ambitious experiment being tested on the front lines in

Ukraine, forming a key component of the U.S. military’s effort to funnel timely information to the soldiers fighting Russian invaders.  
So far the results are mixed: Generals and commanders have a new way to put a full picture of Russia’s movements and communications into one big, user-friendly picture, employing algorithms to predict where troops are moving and where attacks might happen.  
But the American experience in Ukraine has underscored how dif-

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### A Resistance, Minus Cell Service

Rebel forces in Myanmar, often cut off from the internet, are finding other ways to connect. Page A4.

## F.T.C. Bans Noncompete Clauses, Freeing Workers to Join Rivals

**By J. EDWARD MORENO**  
The Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday said employers could no longer, in most cases, stop their employees from going to work for rival companies.  
The sweeping action could help create jobs, raise wages and increase competition among businesses, the agency said. But the action is all but certain to be chal-

lenged in court by businesses that say they need to protect trade secrets and confidential information.  
The move bars contracts known as noncompetes, which prevent workers from leaving for a competitor for a certain amount of time, in most circumstances. Noncompetes cover about 30 million U.S. workers, the trade commission said, in a variety of jobs that

### Move Expected to Face Legal Challenges

include TV news producers, hairdressers, corporate executives and computer engineers.  
The commission has said the proposal would raise wages by forcing companies to compete

harder for talent. It was approved in a 3-to-2 vote. Commissioners Melissa Holyoak and Andrew N. Ferguson, both Republicans, voted against the measure.  
“The F.T.C.’s final rule to ban noncompetes will ensure Americans have the freedom to pursue a new job, start a new business or bring a new idea to market,” the commission’s chair, Lina M. Khan,

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<div><div>BUSINESS B1-6</div><div><div><div>G.M. Helped Spy on Drivers</div><div>A Times reporter and her husband bought a Chevrolet in December. Two risk-profiling companies were getting data on their driving ever since. PAGE B1</div></div></div><div><div>INTERNATIONAL A4-10</div><div><div><div>The Brazenness of Modi</div><div>Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vilification of India's Muslims made clear he saw few checks on his power. PAGE A5</div></div></div><div><div><div>Britain, Rwanda and Asylum</div><div>The passage of a contentious bill puts the U.K. closer to sending asylum seekers to the African country. PAGE A9</div></div></div></div></div>	<div><div>FOOD D1-10</div><div><div><div>A More Inclusive Flavor</div><div>A company started by the former N.B.A. player Channing Frye is bringing wine to communities of color. PAGE D9</div></div></div><div><div><div>Seeking Local Seafood</div><div>Fish from nearby waters often don't appear on local menus. Below, golden tilefish at a market in Brooklyn. PAGE D8</div></div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div>NATIONAL A11-18</div><div><div><div>Jury Weighs Prisoner Abuse</div><div>Three men who were detained at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq are suing a defense contractor that provided interrogation services. PAGE A17</div></div></div><div><div><div>States Debate Abortion Data</div><div>Some with Republican-controlled legislatures want more, while Democrats want less, fearing it could be used to target patients or providers. PAGE A14</div></div></div><div><div><div>U.S. Settles in Nassar Case</div><div>The Justice Department agreed to pay \$138.7 million over the F.B.I.'s failure to investigate gymnasts' claims of sexual abuse by the former doctor. PAGE A15</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>ARTS C1-6</div><div><div><div>Apocalyptically Optimistic</div><div>All the talk of climate catastrophe hasn't caused a change in course. Maybe a more upbeat approach will help. PAGE C1</div></div></div><div><div><div>Getting Back on Track</div><div>The musician Judith Hill was close to Michael Jackson and Prince. Now she is writing her own story. PAGE C6</div></div><div></div></div></div>	<div><div>SPORTS B7-10</div><div><div><div>Savior? Jets Aren't So Sure.</div><div>Aaron Rodgers, brought in to lift the Jets, has spent more time voicing conspiracy theories than playing. PAGE B7</div></div></div><div><div><div>Tough Calls, Tougher Finishes</div><div>The 76ers and the Lakers took exception to officiating calls as they each gave up late Game 2 leads. PAGE B10</div></div></div><div><div><div>OPINION A20-21</div><div><div><div>Bret Stephens</div><div>PAGE A20</div></div></div></div><div><div><div>0 354613 9</div><div></div></div></div></div></div>
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