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**Refusing to Cede to Russia**  
Ukrainian soldiers in the Zaporizhzhia region this month. Russia has continued its airstrikes against Ukraine daily, and its troops are still pushing to occupy more land.

PUTIN DISMISSES  
LATEST SANCTIONS

Trump Imposes Curbs on  
2 Russian Oil Giants

By IVAN NECHEPURENKO  
and ANTON TROIANOVSKI

A day after President Trump's first major punitive action against Russia over its war in Ukraine, President Vladimir V. Putin on Thursday called new U.S. oil sanctions "an unfriendly act" and warned of an overwhelming response if Kyiv gets the powerful missiles it seeks.

Speaking with journalists in Moscow, Mr. Putin said that the sanctions against the two biggest Russian oil giants would hurt the country's economy, but that Moscow would never make any concessions under pressure.

"This is an unfriendly act toward Russia, and it doesn't strengthen relations between Russia and the United States that only began to get restored," Mr. Putin said. "But no self-respecting country and no self-respecting people ever decide anything under pressure."

Asked about Ukraine's push to get long-range Tomahawk missiles from the United States or other Western states, a request that Mr. Trump has publicly entertained but so far not approved, Mr. Putin warned that "this is an attempt at escalation."

"If a strike is made on Russian territory with such a weapon, the response will be very serious, if not staggering," he said. "Let them think about that."

Mr. Putin's comments signaled that the Kremlin was not willing to soften its maximalist demands to end the war in Ukraine. Russia has continued to strike Ukraine daily with drones and missiles, and its troops are still pushing to occupy more Ukrainian territory, even as the Trump administration has demanded that Moscow agree to a cease-fire along the current battle lines.

Still, the Russian leader refrained from directly criticizing Mr. Trump, in keeping with a strategy in which the Kremlin has

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U.S. Charges Insiders in N.B.A. Gambling Scams

This article is by Santul Nerkar, Maria Cramer, Tania Ganguli and Jonah E. Bromwich.

On March 23, 2023, an N.B.A. player left a game in New Orleans after playing just 10 minutes. His team said the player, Terry Rozier, was experiencing "foot discomfort."

But according to federal prosecutors, Mr. Rozier's departure was a key moment in an insider-trading scheme. Before the game, they say, Mr. Rozier had informed his childhood friend Deniro Laster

Coach and Others Also  
Named in Poker Plots  
With Mafia Ties

that he would be exiting the game early, so that Mr. Laster and others could bet hundreds of thousands of dollars on his underperformance for the Charlotte Hornets.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Rozier was arrested in Orlando,

Fla., and charged with wire fraud and money laundering conspiracy. He was one of dozens of people — including Chauncey Billups, the head coach of the Portland Trail Blazers — named in two indictments aimed at illegal gambling.

The charges spanned the worlds of professional sports, Mafia families and online betting, pairing traditional smoky-room card cheating with corruption enabled by today's ubiquitous betting apps and smartphones. Each

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Newest Battle  
Over Districts  
Is in Virginia

By REID J. EPSTEIN

The next front in the nation's pitched battle over mid-decade congressional redistricting is opening in Virginia, where Democrats are planning the first step toward redrawing congressional maps, a move that could give their party two or three more seats.

The surprise development, which was announced by legislators on Thursday, would make Virginia the second state, after California, in which Democrats try to counter a wave of Republican moves demanded by President Trump to redistrict states to their advantage before the 2026 midterm elections. No other Democratic state has begun redistricting proceedings, while several Republican states have drawn new maps or are deliberating doing so.

Democrats now hold six of Virginia's 11 congressional seats. Redistricting could deliver two or three additional seats for the party, depending on how aggressive cartographers choose to be in a redrawing effort.

"We are coming back to address actions by the Trump administration," said Scott Surovell, the Virginia Senate majority leader.

The Virginia Democrats' moves are the latest in a monthslong tango that has resulted in Texas

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TRUMP PARDONS  
CRYPTO MAGNATE  
BEHIND BINANCE

UNDOING A CRACKDOWN

Firm Founded by Tycoon  
Has Deal With First  
Family's Start-Up

By DAVID YAFFE-BELLANY  
and KENNETH P. VOGEL

President Trump granted a pardon to Changpeng Zhao, the billionaire founder of the cryptocurrency exchange Binance, wiping away one of the U.S. government's most significant crackdowns on crypto crime.

Mr. Zhao had pleaded guilty to money-laundering violations in 2023 and served four months in federal prison, after a yearslong investigation by financial regulators and U.S. prosecutors.

"President Trump exercised his constitutional authority by issuing a pardon for Mr. Zhao, who was prosecuted by the Biden administration in their war on cryptocurrency," Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, said in a statement on Thursday. "The Biden administration's war on crypto is over."

The pardon was the latest example of how high-profile business partners of Mr. Trump and his family have benefited from his rollback of the wide-ranging crypto crackdown orchestrated by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. To seek the pardon, Mr. Zhao hired lawyers and lobbyists with ties to the Trump administration, while Binance struck a business deal with World Liberty Financial, the Trump family's crypto start-up.

That deal alone is poised to generate tens of millions of dollars a year for the Trumps and the fam-



TYRONE SIU/REUTERS

Changpeng Zhao had admitted money-laundering breaches.

ily of Steve Witkoff, the president's top Middle East adviser.

Mr. Trump has granted clemency to several other prominent crypto executives, including Ross Ulbricht, who ran the Bitcoin-fueled drug marketplace Silk Road. And since Mr. Trump took office, regulators have dropped lawsuits against Coinbase and other large crypto firms.

But even in the context of Mr. Trump's broader dismantlement of crypto enforcement, the pardon for Mr. Zhao was extraordinary.

Long considered the crypto industry's richest man, Mr. Zhao — a Chinese-born executive who

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Fake Images, Real Attacks

President Trump has freely used graphics made by A.I. in his social media commentary. Page A16.

At Louvre, Neon Safety Vests  
Made Thieves All But Invisible

By ALEX MARSHALL

LONDON — When clothing manufacturers first made high-visibility jackets, the purpose was to make the laborers who wore them as visible as possible. But brightly colored safety clothes are now so ubiquitous that they often have the opposite effect so that the wearer blends in, even as the bold colors catch the eye.

That can make the safety gear a

key part of the criminal's tool kit.

On Sunday, when thieves broke into the Louvre Museum in Paris and stole \$102 million worth of jewelry, two of them wore neon-colored safety vests. Other criminals have donned the vests to rob jewelry stores and airports, commit murders and steal cars, daub buildings in graffiti and strip

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Trying to Slow Mamdani, Adams Backs Cuomo

By DEBRA KAMIN  
and EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

Mayor Eric Adams endorsed former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo in the New York City mayor's race on Thursday, casting aside months of bitterness to try to stop the momentum of Zohran Mamdani, the race's front-runner.

Mr. Adams, a Democrat, ended his re-election campaign last month after it became clear that he did not have a path to victory in the November election. He lashed out at Mr. Cuomo for pressuring

A Testy Relationship Is  
Repaired With Speed

him to leave the race, calling him "a snake and a liar."

But Mr. Cuomo and Mr. Adams had mended fences by Wednesday night, when they sat together courtside at the New York Knicks' season opener. Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat running as a third-party candidate, rushed to Madison Square Garden from Queens immediately

after the final debate of the race ended.

Mr. Adams made it official on Thursday afternoon, appearing in a Knicks cap at a news conference with Mr. Cuomo on a sidewalk outside a New York City Housing Authority development in East Harlem and calling Mr. Mamdani the "king of the gentrifiers."

"Brothers fight," Mr. Adams said of Mr. Cuomo. "But when families are attacked, brothers come together."

Mr. Cuomo welcomed the may-

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**Global Force to Disarm Hamas**  
Vice President JD Vance said a yet-to-be formed coalition would take the lead on the process. PAGE A6

**Blasting the Music in Indonesia**  
In many villages, there's no party without a giant wall of speakers on wheels, shaking everything in sight. PAGE A8

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As cuts to federal health care funding take hold, local clinics like Delta Health Center in Mississippi will be stretched thin more than ever. PAGE A10

**Long Odds for Tort Claims**  
The law the president invoked to try to obtain hundreds of millions of dollars is ordinarily a legal labyrinth. PAGE A14

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**British Star of 'The Collector'**  
Samantha Eggar, nominated for an Oscar for the 1965 thriller featuring Terence Stamp, was 86. PAGE B10



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Shohei Ohtani leads the Dodgers' quest to become M.L.B.'s first repeat champion in a quarter century. PAGE B6

**A Rivalry of Mutual Respect**  
When Aaron Rodgers first faced Micah Parsons, the quarterback and the linebacker exchanged jerseys. PAGE B9

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**Quantum Computer's Big Leap**  
Designed to accelerate advances in medicine and other fields, Google's computer ran an algorithm 13,000 times as fast as a traditional supercomputer that relies on classical physics. PAGE B1

**Paramount's Secret Pursuit**  
A letter from the company's chief executive, David Ellison, to Warner Bros. Discovery's board of directors reveals weeks of talks between the two entertainment giants. PAGE B1

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**The Boss in the Void**  
Jeremy Allen White portrays Bruce Springsteen in a drama about making the 1982 album "Nebraska," when the singer slipped into despair. PAGE C1

