

Delay Denied
In Trump Trial
In Manhattan

Hush-Money Case Set
to Start April 15

This article is by **Ben Protess, Jo-
nah E. Bromwich, Jesse McKinley
and Kate Christobek.**

Donald J. Trump is all but cer-
tain to become the first former
American president to stand trial
on criminal charges after a judge
on Monday denied his effort to de-
lay the proceeding and confirmed
it would begin next month.

The trial, in which Mr. Trump
will be accused of orchestrating
the cover-up of a simmering sex
scandal surrounding his 2016
presidential campaign, was origi-
nally scheduled to start this week.
But the judge, Juan M. Merchan,
had pushed the start date to April
15 to allow Mr. Trump’s lawyers to
review newly disclosed docu-
ments from a related federal in-
vestigation.

Mr. Trump’s lawyers had
pushed for an even longer delay of
90 days and sought to have the
case thrown out altogether. But in
an hourlong hearing on Monday,
Justice Merchan slammed their
arguments, rejecting them all.

In a particularly low moment
for the defense team, the judge
questioned the assertions — and
eventually, the résumé — of one of
Mr. Trump’s lawyers as the former
president looked on.

After a midmorning break, the
judge returned to the courtroom,
said that Mr. Trump had suffered
no harm from the late disclosure
of the documents and made the
April 15 trial date final.

“Defendant has been given a
reasonable amount of time,” the
judge said crisply.

The ruling — coming nearly a
year to the day after the Manhat-
tan district attorney’s office ob-
tained an indictment of Mr. Trump
— makes it highly likely that the
former president will go on trial
next month even as three other
criminal cases against him are
mired in appeals and other delays.

The decision underscored the
limits of Mr. Trump’s favored legal
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TRUMP’S BOND CUT An appeals
court unexpectedly lowered the
amount to \$175 million. **PAGE A13**

Will a Refusal
To Court Haley
Haunt Trump?

By **SHANE GOLDMACHER
and MAGGIE HABERMAN**

When Nikki Haley dropped out
of the 2024 presidential race in
early March, she withheld endors-
ing Donald J. Trump and extended
a pointed invitation for him to
court her and the political coal-
ition she constructed. “This is now
his time for choosing,” she said
then.

It has been nearly three weeks.
He has not called.

There has never been very
much magnanimity in the MAGA
movement.

But as Mr. Trump prepares for a
rematch against President Biden
that is expected to offer little mar-
gin for error — the last race was
decided by fewer than 50,000
votes across three states — the
question is whether Mr. Trump’s
decision to bypass any sort of rec-
onciliation with Ms. Haley after a
brutal and personal primary will
matter.

Even out of the race, Ms. Haley
has continued to pull in a signifi-
cant number of voters in primary
contests. Across the five swing
states that have held primaries —
Arizona, Georgia, Michigan,
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NARIMAN EL-MOFTY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Evacuating the Most Vulnerable From Gaza

Many children have sustained grievous injuries during Israel’s monthslong campaign against Hamas. **PAGE A8.**

Legal Woes Looming, Bolsonaro
Holed Up at Hungarian Embassy

This article is by **Jack Nicas,
Christoph Koettl, Leonardo Coelho
and Paulo Motoryn.**

RIO DE JANEIRO — On Feb. 8,
Brazil’s federal police confiscated
former President Jair Bolsonaro’s
passport and arrested a pair of his
former aides on accusations that
they had plotted a coup after Mr.
Bolsonaro lost the 2022 presiden-
tial election.

Four days later, Mr. Bolsonaro
was at the entrance to the Hun-
garian Embassy in Brazil, waiting
to be let in, according to the em-
bassy’s security camera footage,
which was obtained by The New
York Times.

The former president appeared
to stay at the embassy for the next
two days, the footage showed, ac-

companied by two security
guards and waited on by the Hun-
garian ambassador and staff
members. Mr. Bolsonaro, a target
of various criminal investigations,
cannot be arrested at a foreign
embassy that welcomes him, be-
cause they are legally off-limits to
domestic authorities.

The stay at the embassy sug-
gests that the former president
was seeking to leverage his
friendship with a fellow far-right
leader, Prime Minister Viktor Or-
ban of Hungary, into an attempt to
evade the Brazilian justice system
as he faces criminal investiga-
tions at home.

The Times analyzed three days’
worth of footage from four cam-
eras in the Hungarian Embassy
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Speaker Wants to Aid Ukraine.
The Obstacle Is His Own Party.

By **CATIE EDMONDSON**

WASHINGTON — When
Speaker Mike Johnson opened the
floor for questions at a closed-
door luncheon fund-raiser in New
Jersey last month, Jacquie Colgan
asked how, in the face of vehement
opposition within his own ranks,
he planned to handle aid for
Ukraine.

What followed was an pas-
sioned monologue by Mr. Johnson
in which he explained why contin-
ued American aid to Kyiv was, in
his view, vital — a message
starkly at odds with the hard-right
views that have overtaken his
party. He invoked his political
roots as a Reagan Republican, de-
nounced President Vladimir V.
Putin of Russia as a “madman”
and conceded the issue had forced
him to walk a “delicate political
tightrope.”

Reminded by Ms. Colgan, a
member of the American Coal-
ition for Ukraine, a nonprofit advo-
cacy group, of the adage that the
only thing necessary for the tri-
umph of evil was for good people
to do nothing, Mr. Johnson replied
that he kept a copy of the quota-
tion framed in his office.

“That’s not going to be us,” he
assured her. “We’re going to do
our job.”

The exchange reflects what Mr.
Johnson has privately told do-
nors, foreign leaders and fellow
members of Congress in recent
weeks, according to extensive
notes Ms. Colgan took during the
New Jersey event and interviews
with several other people who

‘We’re Going to Do Our
Job,’ Johnson Vows

have spoken with him.

While the speaker has re-
mained noncommittal about any
one option, he has repeatedly ex-
pressed a personal desire to send
aid to Ukraine — something he
has voted against repeatedly in
the past — and now appears to be
in search of the least politically
damaging way to do it.

The challenge for Mr. Johnson
is that any combination of aid
measures he puts to a vote will
likely infuriate the growing isola-
tionist wing of his party, which
considers the issue toxic. Repre-
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HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Speaker Mike Johnson.

Michigan Is Looking for a Hollywood Comeback

By **MATT STEVENS
and CHRISTOPHER KUO**

Michigan desperately wanted a
Hollywood makeover. And for
\$500 million, studios were more
than happy to help.

When the state started writing
checks in 2008 from one of the na-
tion’s most generous film incen-
tive programs, productions
flocked there, making box-office
hits like Clint Eastwood’s “Gran
Torino,” Sam Raimi’s “Oz the
Great and Powerful” and Zack
Snyder’s “Batman v Superman:
Dawn of Justice.”

Pricey Film Tax Breaks
Are Rarely Worth It,
Experts Say

Then Michigan did the math.

After a state economist deter-
mined that “the film incentives
represent lost revenue” and that
their economic benefits were
“negligible,” Michigan, which cut
funding for the police and schools
while facing a severe budget
deficit, eventually decided to end

its incentives.

As the program gradually un-
wound, “The Avengers” moved to
Cleveland and “Iron Man 3” went
to Wilmington, N.C. Even “De-
troit” was filmed in Boston.

Now, almost a decade after the
state stopped paying Hollywood,
lawmakers think they can no long-
er afford not to.

“We’re not on an even playing
field,” said Dayna Polehanki, a
state senator and one of the spon-
sors of legislation that would
thrust Michigan back into fierce
competition with dozens of states
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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Tracing the Moscow Attackers

Online videos and images appear to
connect the four suspects detained by
Russia to last week’s massacre. **PAGE A6**

Sanctions on Chinese Hackers

The United States accused the nation’s
elite hacking units of targeting critical
infrastructure in America. **PAGE A5**

NATIONAL A11-17

Who Makes Hunting Rules?

A bill in Vermont that would add people
who don’t hunt or fish to the board that
drafts hunting and fishing rules has
stirred an outcry in the state. **PAGE A15**

Settlement for Home’s Value

After a Black couple claimed bias relat-
ing to their house’s appraisal, their
mortgage lender agreed to a payout and
several policy changes. **PAGE A16**

Agents Raid Combs’s Homes

Homeland Security agents searched
homes in Los Angeles and Miami that
were said to be linked to Sean Combs,
the hip-hop mogul. **PAGE A14**

BUSINESS B1-6

Boeing C.E.O. to Step Down

The chief executive, Dave Calhoun, said
he would leave at the end of the year
amid the company’s most significant
safety crisis in years. **PAGE B1**

NBC Faces On-Air Rebellion

In live remarks, some of the network’s
best-known anchors questioned a de-
cision to hire a political analyst. **PAGE B1**

SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

Doubts on Psychedelic Studies

A scientist was known for rigorous
research into the benefits of psilocybin,
but now questions have arisen. **PAGE D1**

SPORTS B7-10

Leave Me Alone, Coach

Major league hitters and pitchers are
struggling to sort through all the voices
in their ears as the coaching staffs
expand and the players also work with
their own advisers. **PAGE B7**

A Testament to Toughness

Four Houston starters fouled out and a
walk-on had to shoot crucial free throws
for a 100-95 overtime victory against
Texas A&M in the N.C.A.A. men’s bas-
ketball tournament. **PAGE B8**

OPINION A18-19

Tina Brown

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ARTS C1-6

Afghan Bowls in Connecticut

Matin Malikzada, a ceramist who left
Afghanistan in 2021, has made a new
life in America. Above, “wedding” clay
before putting it on a wheel. **PAGE C5**

