



Mostly sunny, cold 31/23 • Tomorrow: Cloudy 38/29 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 • \$3

U.S. bid to contain violence is tested

Latest strikes threaten to exacerbate instability in the Middle East

BY MISSY RYAN, DAN LAMOTHE, SUSANNAH GEORGE AND MUSTAFA SALIM

The United States faced intensifying military action by Iran and its allies on Tuesday, an escalating threat to the Biden administration's effort to contain violence across the Middle East following the launch of Israel's war with Hamas militants.

A drumbeat of tit-for-tat incidents between U.S. forces and Iranian-backed armed groups, including a new round of strikes Tuesday against Houthi militants in Yemen, and Iranian strikes into Iraq and Syria on Monday, served as a test of Washington's attempt to limit regional instability and avoid a direct confrontation with Tehran.

The incidents also highlight the potential for miscalculation as military action accelerates and the United States continues support for its close ally Israel, whose response to Hamas's bloody Oct. 7 attacks has killed more than 24,000 people in the Gaza Strip, most of them Palestinian civilians, and galvanized opposition across the Arab world to Israel and its chief backer.

Tuesday's strike on the Iranian-linked Houthi movement in Yemen, the third such attack in the past week, targeted four sites where the rebels were preparing

SEE YEMEN ON A16

AI might be ally against kids' heart disease

Researchers develop tool to diagnose children at risk of hidden condition

BY MARK JOHNSON

When Kelsey Brown met Mohammed, the 15-year-old Ugandan boy looked terribly worried. He was in the late stages of rheumatic heart disease, which kills about 400,000 people a year worldwide. His scheduled heart surgery to address the illness had been postponed a day.

By this point, fluid that backed up from Mohammed's heart into his lungs made it so hard to breathe that he had to sleep sitting upright. Brown, a cardiology fellow at Children's National Hospital in Washington, assumed that he was anxious about undergoing the surgery. But Mohammed told her that he was not scared to face the procedure.

"He was most nervous that his surgery would be canceled and his heart would not be repaired," Brown said, noting a startling contrast to children in the United States whose understandable fear is the surgery itself.

Now, in an advance that shows the potential of artificial intelligence to aid medicine, research-

SEE HEART ON A2



JOE LAMBERTI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Federal rulemaking at stake in fish cases before high court

BY ANN E. MARIMOW

CAPE MAY, N.J. — A slender, silvery fish, sold for bait and canned as sardines, has the potential to play an outside role in weakening the power of federal agencies to regulate vast areas of American life — overturning long-standing Supreme Court precedent in the process.

But the case before the high court this week is not really about the herring.

For 40 years, courts have generally deferred to the judgment of federal agencies when it comes to turning laws passed by Congress into detailed regulations designed to protect the environment, consumers and the workplace.

Justices may erode agencies' ability to turn laws into regulations

They did so because of the precedent set in 1984 in *Chevron U.S.A. v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, which requires judges to defer to the reasonable interpretation of federal agency officials charged with administering ambiguous federal laws.

But as the court has moved to the right in recent years, the conservative majority has been less likely to invoke that ruling, which outside groups have long seen as giving unaccountable bureaucrats too much

power.

Now the high court is reviewing a pair of challenges to federal rules requiring commercial fishermen to pay for at-sea monitors — cases that could lead to the demise of *Chevron*, much as *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in 2022 overturned the historic *Roe v. Wade* ruling and eliminated the nationwide right to abortion.

The cases brought by Atlantic herring fishermen in New Jersey and Rhode Island will be argued Wednesday before a court remade by the addition of three justices nominated by President Donald Trump, whose administration put a premium on judges skeptical of federal

SEE HERRING ON A22

A worker inspects herring in New Bedford, Mass., on Jan. 3. The Supreme Court will hear two cases involving commercial-fishing costs. A victory for the plaintiffs may erode a 40-year precedent of courts deferring to agencies.

Former Israeli hostage fears for women left behind

17-year-old recounts the terror and confusion she endured during 51 days in Hamas's clutches



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Agam Goldstein-Almog was kidnapped from her home at Kibbutz Kfar Aza in Israel during the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7. "We were freed just before losing hope, just before losing our sanity," she said.

BY SHIRA RUBIN

SHFAYIM, ISRAEL — As soon as Hamas gunmen abducted Agam Goldstein-Almog, 17, from her home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza on Oct. 7, they worked to dismantle her identity.

They shuffled her between subterranean tunnels, abandoned apartments and a school that doubled as a rocket launching site, she said, covering her in a headscarf and a long dress and commanding her to look at the ground. She said they ordered her to recite Islamic prayers and renamed her Salsabil, the natural springs of paradise mentioned in the Quran. They allowed her to shower five times in 51 days, she said.

"They took me, what remained of my family and it felt like, 'That's it, now we are living in Gaza,'" she told The Washington Post. "And that's why it felt like it would be forever."

Agam said she was forbidden from crying. She was not to mourn her father and older sister, 20-year-old Yam, shot dead

SEE HOSTAGE ON A15

ELECTION 2024

Next up: N.H. — and new frictions

TRUMP GAINS STEAM AFTER ROMP IN IOWA

Long-shot GOP rivals sharpen their attacks

BY MAEVE RESTON, COLBY ITKOWITZ AND MARIANNE LEVINE

MANCHESTER, N.H. — The GOP presidential race bounded into snow-covered New Hampshire on Tuesday, with new frictions erupting among the three remaining candidates as Donald Trump aimed to build on his landslide Iowa victory in a pivotal battleground.

Trump and his two long-shot rivals turned their attention to the Granite State a week before a primary seen as perhaps the final chance for Republicans seeking a Trump alternative to slow his march to the nomination. The former president, fresh off a resounding success in Iowa, set his sights on a second straight decisive win, in an early state where his advantage has been narrowest.

Former United Nations ambassador Nikki Haley, who has emerged as the biggest threat to Trump in New Hampshire, sharpened her attacks on his age. After a third-place finish in Iowa on Monday that fell short of some expectations, Haley sought to position herself as the chief alternative to Trump, shrugging off planned debates with Florida

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A6

Trump left nothing to chance in Iowa

Psychological warfare, opponents' blunders helped him dominate

BY JOSH DAWSEY, MICHAEL SCHERER AND HANNAH KNOWLES

DES MOINES — Donald Trump recently began telling dinner guests at Mar-a-Lago about a haunting memory from the 2016 Iowa caucuses.

His daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner, had shown up to speak at a Des Moines caucus site, not really understanding what to expect. They discovered a Trump campaign in disarray, without organized volunteers or staff members.

"Daddy, I don't think you're going to win," Trump recalled Ivanka telling him in a phone call that night, according to someone who heard the story more than once. "These people don't know what they're doing."

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), powered by a high-tech turnout machine,

SEE IOWA ON A5

Court and a rally: Juxtaposition on the day after Trump's Iowa win. A7

Takeaways: Trump's dominance, Haley's standing and more. A6

IN THE NEWS

Gaza resolution fails Senators rejected a push from Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) that would have forced an inquiry into potential human rights abuses by Israel. A14

Snow day The heaviest storm to hit the D.C. region in over two years disrupted travel but also delighted some who stayed home. B1

THE NATION

A hot-air balloon crash left four people dead in an Arizona city known for its air sports. A3
Google will stop storing tracking history, an evidence source in Capitol riot cases. A11

THE WORLD

Belgorod, in western Russia, has become a regular target of Ukrainian air attacks. A12
Gaza's cellphone network has suffered from outage after outage since the war began. A13

THE ECONOMY

A Senate committee said it will review walk-away deaths and other safety lapses at assisted-living facilities. A18
A judge blocked a merger of JetBlue and Spirit airlines, a win for the Biden administration's efforts to preserve industry competition. A18

THE REGION

A.D.C. police database of purported gang members is unreliable and unfairly impacts people's lives, civil rights groups concluded in a report. B1
After a petition from local Girl Scouts, hundreds of acres of Prince George's County forest will be conserved. B1

STYLE

Messenger founder Jimmy Finkelstein had big dreams for the news site, which launched in May. Now it's struggling to stay afloat. C1

FOOD

These recipes are perfect for honing your slicing, mincing, julienning and chopping skills. E1

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| BUSINESS NEWS..... | A17 |
| COMICS..... | C6 |
| OPINION PAGES..... | A19 |
| OBITUARIES..... | B4 |
| TELEVISION..... | C3 |
| WORLD NEWS..... | A12 |

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