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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Companies backslide on climate promises

At a crucial moment for the planet, corporations aren't delivering on vows

BY EVAN HALPER

When the insurance giant AIG rattled the industry last year with an audacious plan to stop writing policies for some of the most heavily polluting fossil fuel projects, environmentalists and lawmakers showered the company with plaudits.

Now they are quickly losing patience with it.

Like so many other large companies pledging to help the world avert climate catastrophe, AIG is finding that making such vows is easier than making good on them. The company is now a target of a Senate investigation into the insurance industry, led by lawmakers who warn that AIG and other companies continue to play a pivotal role in underwriting some of the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel projects in the world — despite lofty climate promises.

They sent a pointed letter to AIG in June, charging that its continued investment in projects such as a Canadian pipeline that will ship some of the world's most heavily polluting oil to British Columbia and a huge liquefied natural gas terminal in Australia belie AIG's promise to reorient its business toward the targets in the 2015 Paris climate agreement. That agreement aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels.

"We have seen little evidence so far that the insurance industry is taking meaningful action to align its investment and

SEE CLIMATE ON A17

Victims split as high court weighs shield for Sacklers

BY DAVID OVALLE
AND ROBERT BARNES

Families that have lost relatives to overdoses share plenty of outrage at Purdue Pharma, the bankrupt maker of OxyContin that has been accused in lawsuits of helping ignite the nation's opioid crisis.

But they are split over a legal challenge that could upend Purdue's agreement to settle thousands of lawsuits and provide billions of dollars that underwrite state campaigns fighting addiction and that offer compensation to victims. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Monday about a controversial aspect of the company's bankruptcy plan that shields Purdue owners the Sackler family from future lawsuits in exchange for the family's contributing up to \$6 billion and relinquishing control of the company.

Gary Carter's son, Bryant, overdosed on fentanyl in 2018 after years of battling an addiction that started with prescription painkillers stolen from his grandparents. Carter doubts he will get much, if any, settlement money but thinks the promised

SEE PURDUE ON A4



PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A rising threat to Myanmar's rulers

Rebel ethnic minorities are increasingly shaping the trajectory of the nation's civil war

BY REBECCA TAN
IN SOUTHEASTERN MYANMAR

For decades, Myanmar's ethnic minorities have rebelled against the country's military, but mostly on their own and with little success.

Now, however, nearly three years after a military coup ousted Myanmar's democratic government and triggered a civil war, it's these ethnic rebels, camped out in the country's mountains and jungles, who pose the biggest potential threat to the ruling junta.

While Western governments and international aid agencies have focused much of their attention on the pro-democracy forces led by exiled members of the ousted civilian government, it is increasingly the ethnic rebels tenaciously allied with them who are shaping the trajectory of the conflict, security analysts say. These groups have troops, guns and grenades. They control territory,

SEE MYANMAR ON A12



TOP: KNU fighters move through the jungle after returning from the front line in Myanmar. ABOVE: A lush mountain range of Karen-held territory in Myanmar is seen across the Moei River, which runs along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

IMPERFECT UNION

In one Texas city, immigrants fought for an education. Now, their dreams are dying.

Undocumented people who arrived as children see their ambitions thwarted amid legal uncertainty

BY MARIA SACCHETTI
AND KEVIN SULLIVAN

TYLER, TEX. — Joseline Leyva knotted her long black hair and pulled on her gray beret, topping off her dress blue Army ROTC uniform. It was senior night, the last high school football game of the season, and the 18-year-old soon would be honored on the field.

"I am the future of the United States of America," Leyva recited, recalling the Junior ROTC cadet creed she has spoken every week for the last four years.

But that's not how the law sees Leyva. Brought to this country by her parents when she was a 1-year-old, Leyva is an undocumented immigrant.

For hundreds of thousands of people who came to the United States as children without immi-



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Daniela, 19, and Joseline Leyva, 18, wait to take part in Tyler High School's senior night on Nov. 3. The sisters, who are undocumented immigrants, have been shut out of DACA and its protections.

gration papers, their only stability has come from DACA — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

That program, created in 2012 by President Barack Obama, offered protection from deportation and access to a driver's license and a work permit. It was supposed to be a temporary measure while U.S. lawmakers decided on a permanent policy. Polls consistently show that about three-quarters or more of Americans support allowing the young people — often known as "dreamers" — to stay in the United States.

Congress, however, has been paralyzed on the issue. And now DACA is in jeopardy, pushed to the brink by Republicans who say Obama overstepped his authority. Then-President Donald Trump

SEE DREAMERS ON A6

U.S. plans future of Gaza

CHOOSING LEADERS
POSES CHALLENGE

Searching for the best of bad, unpopular options

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM,
WILLIAM BOOTH
AND HAZEM BALOUSHA

TEL AVIV — The Israelis say they don't want the job. Arab nations are resisting. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas might volunteer, but the Palestinian people probably don't want him.

As the Biden administration begins to plan for "the day after" in Gaza — confronting problematic questions such as who runs the territory once the shooting stops, how it gets rebuilt and, potentially, how it eventually becomes a part of an independent Palestinian state — the stakeholders face a host of unattractive options.

On a trip to Israel and the West Bank last week, Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought to advance those discussions, but there were few easy answers. The Biden administration is pushing to install a "revitalized" Palestinian Authority as Gaza's administrator, but it is an unpopular idea with the Israeli government and even among many Palestinians. U.S. officials acknowledge the challenge, but say the group is the best, and perhaps the only, solution among a list of worse options, which include a return to direct Israeli occupation of the

SEE FUTURE ON A13

Gaza civilians finding few safe spaces in what is left

BY HAZEM BALOUSHA,
MIRIAM BERGER
AND HANNAH ALLAM

AMMAN, JORDAN — Israel on Sunday launched strikes in northern and southern Gaza, hitting densely populated areas where it says Hamas militants are hiding, and squeezing civilians into smaller patches of territory as options dwindle for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians seeking refuge.

Casualties appeared to be heaviest in the already hard-hit north, where fresh strikes on the Jabalya refugee camp came Sunday as residents were still reeling from a barrage the day before, according to local news reports. Meanwhile, Israel signaled a widening of ground operations with new evacuation warnings in the southern hub of Khan Younis, where Palestinians already displaced from the north had been instructed to move.

"The Israeli army is continuing and expanding the ground operation against the Hamas presence in every part of the Gaza Strip," Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said at a briefing Sunday.

SEE GAZA ON A13

IN THE NEWS

Housing conditions A fire displaced families in the District's rapid rehousing program, but some considered it a blessing to leave their dilapidated apartments. B1

College Football Playoff The four berths went to Michigan, Washington, Texas and Alabama, omitting 13-0 Florida State. D1

THE NATION Both parties see reliably liberal states as key in the 2024 fight for control of the House. A3
The Pentagon is facing pressure to stop the flow of Russian oil into its supply chain. A8

As Democrats push to ban discrimination by caste, some Indian Americans object. A16

THE WORLD A blind mole thought extinct since 1936 was recently rediscovered. A8

The arrest of a Guatemalan influencer highlights the new coalition that helped elect a reformer as president. A9

THE ECONOMY A prominent disinformation scholar dismissed by Harvard accused the university of bowing to Meta. A17

THE REGION Levar M. Stoney, the Democratic mayor of Richmond, is set to announce a 2025 run for Virginia governor. B1
Animal welfare activists in Maryland have set their sights on making cage-free eggs the only kind available in the state. B1

STYLE To finance "Origin," an adaptation of a bestseller on the cultural history of racism, Ava DuVernay turned to philanthropists entirely new to the world of feature film. C1
Smartmatic's lawsuit against Fox News is heating up with depositions of the Murdochs. C1

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