



Mostly sunny 92/70 • Tomorrow: Sunny, hot 94/73 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024 • \$3

ELECTION 2024

For Harris, race is on to find her own VP

She is looking at a dozen potential running mates, plans to decide by Aug. 7

BY PATRICK SVITEK, TYLER PAGER AND DAN DIAMOND

Vice President Harris is in a two-week sprint to lock in a running mate after President Biden's stunning decision to end his re-election campaign, a search that suddenly elevates the potential political assets — and vulnerabilities — of the Democratic Party's bench.

Harris is considering roughly a dozen potential vice-presidential candidates, though allies say three have risen to the top: Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro (D), Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.) and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper (D). The allies, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a confidential process, cautioned that the process is in its early stages and that Harris's aides are still mulling an expansive group of contenders.

The process officially got underway Tuesday, and Harris plans to make a decision by Aug. 7, aligning with the national party's plan to virtually nominate a ticket by then.

"She has a lot of great people to choose from," Cooper told The Washington Post on Thursday, SEE HARRIS ON A6

Trump, Netanyahu meet after tense years

Relationship had soured when prime minister recognized Biden's win

BY LAURA MECKLER AND STEVE HENDRIX

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Friday with former president Donald Trump, working to mend their relationship at a time of political tension between their countries and personal tension between the two men.

The pair were close allies during Trump's presidency, but Trump was incensed when Netanyahu called Joe Biden to congratulate him on his 2020 election victory. Since then, the former president has been openly critical of Netanyahu's management of the war in Gaza.

During Friday's session at Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Fla., they downplayed past antagonisms. "It was never bad," Trump insisted when asked by reporters about the rift. "We've always had a very good relationship." He added: "I was very good to Israel, better than any president's ever been."

Afterward, Netanyahu posted SEE TRUMP ON A6

Federal insider: Trump's agenda plans a purge of public workers. A2

Endorsement: The Obamas are the final key leaders to back Harris. A4

IN THE NEWS

Potential biosignature The Mars rover discovered rock that might indicate biological activity on the planet, but NASA officials stress that it's not a definitive sign of life. A2

Extortion scheme Federal prosecutors said a "psyhic" was the mastermind of a ruse that led a man to steal \$4.2 million. B1

THE NATION California's Park Fire has grown to be the largest in the state this year, officials said. A2
The Pentagon will review medals awarded after the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee. A3

Iowa residents are seeking out-of-state care as the state's six-week abortion ban nears. A3
An investigation into Delta Air Lines' flight cancellations is looking into possibly misleading texts. A7

THE WORLD After nine years as Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau has seen his political fortunes fade. A8
Video of a police officer in the United Kingdom kicking a man on the ground sparked protests and accusations of racism. A12

THE ECONOMY Companies are increasingly changing the way they do business as they cope with more frequent episodes of extreme weather. A13
Online education giant 2U filed for bankruptcy and will go private after years of growth and debt. A14

THE REGION A new institute in Richmond examines how the slave trade helped build modern America. B1
Charges have been dropped against 11 people arrested in protests of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's D.C. visit. B1

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PARIS OLYMPICS

Spectacle on the Seine marks a gleeful revival



MICHAEL MADRID/POOL/USA TODAY

Teddy Riner and Marie-Jose Perec light the cauldron during the Opening Ceremonies for the Paris Olympics on Friday.

GAMES OPEN WITH A STRUT AFTER COVID

Paris organizers faced daunting challenges

BY CLAIRE PARKER AND RICK NOACK

PARIS — France's audacious plan to open the Paris Olympic Games on the Seine raised plenty of eyebrows before Friday night's ceremonies.

Detractors worried about security, about crowd management, about the logistics of moving 85 boats carrying 6,800 athletes down the Seine. Coordinated arson attacks on France's high-speed rail network Thursday night further raised anxieties about unwelcome disruptions.

But in the end, Paris transformed itself into a spectacular stage — and demonstrated that bold thinking could bring a certain shine back to a global sporting event that has seen its popularity slump in recent years.

A century after the 1924 Paris SEE OLYMPICS ON A9

'Sabotage': Arson attacks on rail lines cause mass disruptions. A9

Power trio: Ledecky, McIntosh and Titmus set for women's 400 free. D1

Mexico not told of cartel arrests until U.S. had men in custody

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN, NICK MIROFF AND DAVID OVALLE

MEXICO CITY — Mexico was not informed of the secret U.S. operation to whisk two Sinaloa cartel leaders to the United States until after the men were taken into custody, one of the country's top security officials said Friday. The arrests of Ismael "El Mayo"

Nations give conflicting details about capture of two drug kingpins

Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López on Thursday were a historic coup for U.S. agents pursuing a drug syndicate that has flooded

the United States with fentanyl and trafficked tons of heroin, cocaine and methamphetamines worldwide. The operation unfolded like a Hollywood thriller, with Zambada duped into boarding a U.S.-bound plane, a plan even American agents initially doubted could work, officials said.

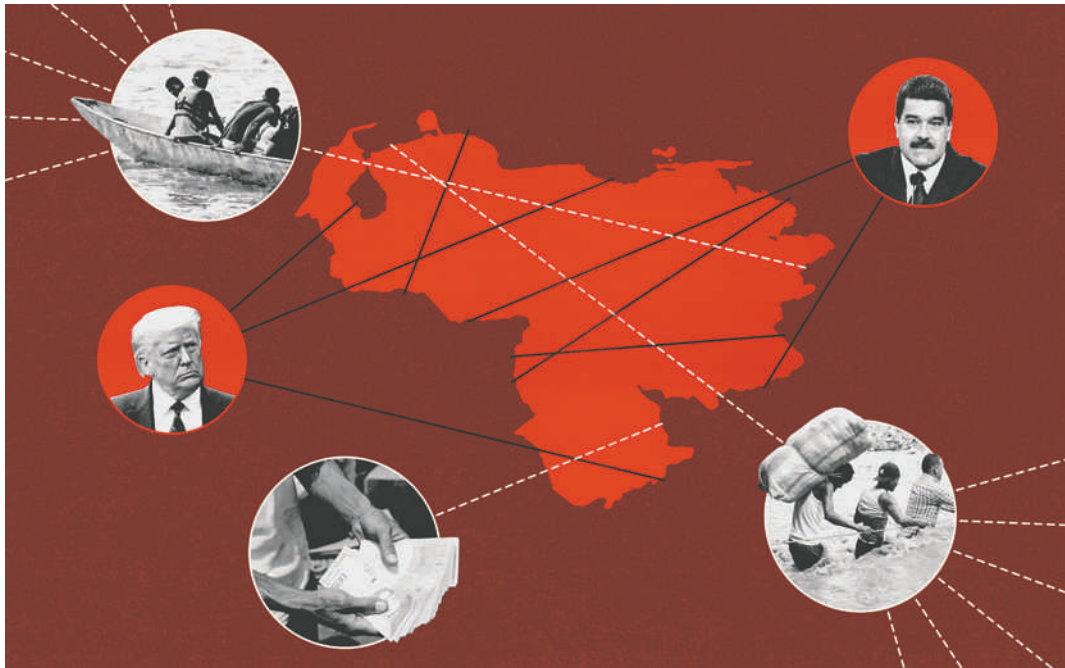
A day after the operation, details remained murky. Security Minister Rosa Icela Rodríguez

told reporters Friday that a small Cessna airplane piloted by an American took off from the Hermosillo airport in the northern Mexican state of Sonora just before 8 a.m. Thursday and landed around 10 a.m. at the airport in Santa Teresa, N.M., near El Paso. Zambada, 76, a co-founder of the Sinaloa cartel, and Guzmán, 38, a son of the notorious drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Lo-

era, were arrested by agents for the Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI when the aircraft landed.

But a Justice Department official said the plane was a Beechcraft King Air and that the name of the pilot given by Rodríguez was incorrect.

The U.S. Embassy did not notify Rodríguez of the operation until SEE MEXICO ON A11



CHANTAL JAHCHAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THE MONEY WAR

VENEZUELA SANCTIONS IGNITED AN EXODUS

BY JEFF STEIN, ELLEN NAKASHIMA AND SAMANTHA SCHMIDT

The Trump White House was warned that harsh sanctions on Venezuela could accelerate that country's economic collapse and speed an exodus of millions of migrants to neighboring nations, according to three current and former U.S. government officials.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis delivered the classified assessments — part of a broader examination of how Venezuela's economic implosion could affect migration in Latin America — to the White House National Security Council

and the top two DHS officials in at least four reports between 2017 and 2019, the people said.

The Trump administration nevertheless imposed some of the harshest economic penalties in U.S. history on Venezuela in response to documented human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings and corruption by the regime of dictator Nicolás Maduro. The sanctions are fiercely defended by proponents, who say they were a necessary response to one of the most brutal crackdowns on civilians in two decades.

SEE VENEZUELA ON A10

The years-long voyage of 'A Soldier's Journey'

Shaped in New Jersey and then Britain, sculpture will land in D.C. to finish World War I memorial

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE AND KATIE SHEPHERD

Soldiers, nurses and children appear on a battlefield landscape littered with debris. Their faces show anguish, determination and pride. Everything seems to be in motion as the figures advance through scenes from World War I.

But the story is frozen in bronze.

The dramatic 58-foot-long sculpture "A Soldier's Journey" is the centerpiece and final element of Washington's National World War I Memorial, located in the former Pershing Park just four

blocks from the White House.

The 25-ton sculpture is expected to arrive in Washington on Saturday, and once installed over the next few weeks, will be the largest free-standing high-relief bronze in the Western Hemisphere, according to the World War I Centennial Commission.

"It's magnificent," Daniel S. Dayton, executive director of the commission, said Wednesday. "It's just stunning."

The official unveiling, or "first illumination," is scheduled for the evening of Sept. 13.

The sculpture joins the 90-year-old D.C. War Memorial SEE MEMORIAL ON A7



JEENAH MOON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sabin Howard works on one of the figures featured in "A Soldier's Journey," the centerpiece of the National World War I Memorial.