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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Trump campaign says it was hacked

Foreign actors to blame, says spokesman, after report on Vance is leaked

BY JOSH DAWSEY, ISAAC ARNSDORF, ELLEN NAKASHIMA AND SHANE HARRIS

Donald Trump's presidential campaign said on Saturday that it has been the victim of a foreign hack, after the campaign received questions from news organizations about a lengthy vetting document on vice-presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio) sent to the outlets.

"These documents were obtained illegally from foreign sources hostile to the United States, intended to interfere with the 2024 election and sow chaos throughout our Democratic process," Steven Cheung, a campaign spokesman, said in a statement.

Cheung pointed to a report released Friday by Microsoft in which the company said it had discovered evidence that Iranian hackers had tried to break into the email account of a "high-ranking official" on a U.S. presidential campaign in June.

The company did not publicly identify the campaign or confirm whether it believed the hack had been successful. A person familiar with Microsoft's work confirmed that the report's reference was to the Trump campaign.

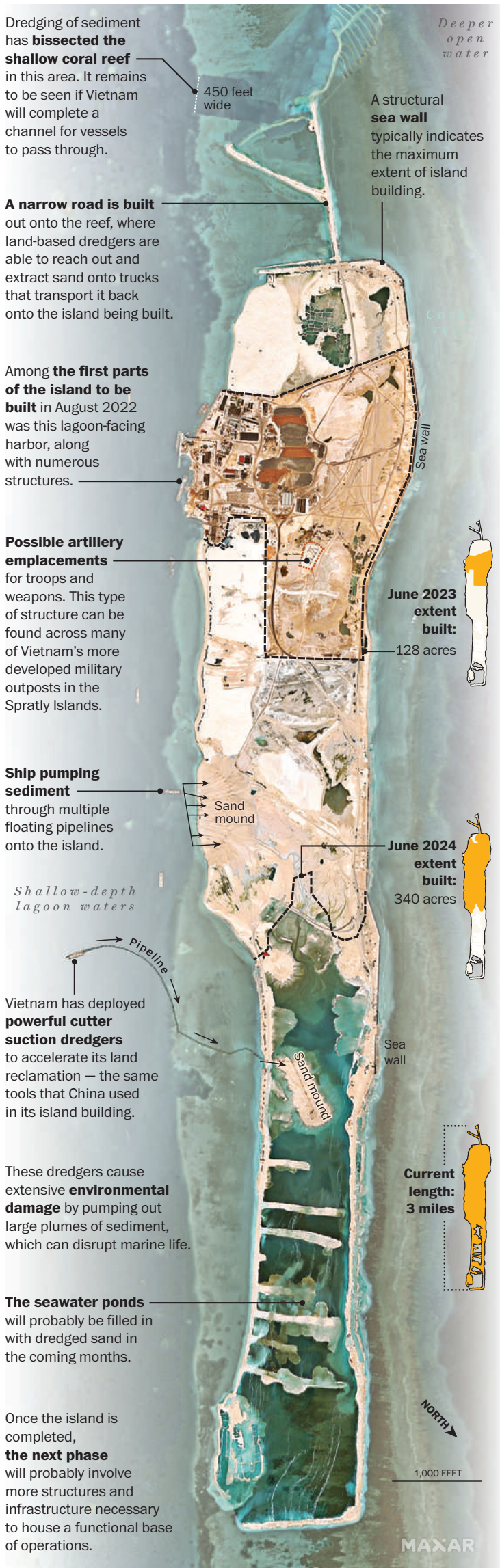
Cheung did not disclose whether the campaign has been in contact with Microsoft and did not offer evidence for its assertion that the documents were hacked by Iran. But he said in a statement that the timing of the episode described by Microsoft coincides with Trump's selection of Vance as his running mate.

People familiar with the matter said the campaign separately concluded earlier this summer its email system had been breached but did not disclose it publicly or to law enforcement. The people said some officials were told to take more protective measures on their email accounts. At the time, campaign officials communicated to others that they weren't sure who hacked the emails. The people

SEE HACK ON A4

Crowd sizes: Democrats join in on bragging about attendance. **A10**

Harris rally: The VP takes on the border and Trump in Las Vegas. **A17**



TROUBLE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Vietnam asserts itself with island building

Nation's land-reclamation campaign is challenging China's maritime claims

BY REBECCA TAN AND LARIS KARKLIS

HANOI — Vietnam has dramatically accelerated its effort to expand islands and reclaim land in the contested South China Sea since the start of the year to challenge rising Chinese assertiveness, according to satellite imagery and interviews with Vietnamese officials, security analysts and diplomats.

While Vietnam has been enlarging its presence across a remote collection of rocks, reefs and islets called the Spratlys since 2021, the country is on pace this year to create more than 1,000 acres of new land there, more than in any year prior.

Not since China carried out its own island-building campaign there a decade ago, turning semi-submerged reefs into sophisticated military bases, has the landscape of the archipelago been so transformed. In just three years, Vietnam has increased its amount of land in the Spratlys tenfold.

Leaders of Vietnam's communist government have traditionally been muted about its land-reclamation drive in the South China Sea, often refusing to explain or acknowledge the effort even in private conversations, said security analysts and diplomats.

But in rare interviews in the capital, Hanoi, five former and current Vietnamese officials said the government has been "consolidating" outposts for the purpose

SEE VIETNAM ON A14

Vietnam's 3-mile island

Vietnam's Barque Canada Reef has undergone a massive transformation since the government began expanding it in 2022. This satellite image captured by Maxar Technologies on May 11 reveals the resources and techniques required for this undertaking.

Scores killed in strike on school

IT HOUSED CIVILIANS, GAZA OFFICIALS SAY

Israel says it targeted militants operating inside

This article is by Missy Ryan, Hajar Harb, Mohamad El Chamaa, Adela Suliman and Kelsey Ables

JERUSALEM — An Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians killed at least 93 people in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, civil defense authorities said, deepening global scrutiny of Israel's conduct of the war more than 10 months into its campaign to eliminate Hamas.

Gaza civil defense spokesman Mahmoud Bassal said the al-Taba'een school in Gaza City was housing about 6,000 displaced Palestinians when the bombs struck around 4:30 a.m. He said at least 11 children and six women were among those killed, with at least 54 injured and dozens missing.

Video from the scene showed scores of bodies wrapped in sheets and blankets laid in the schoolyard after the strike, as women crouched over corpses in grief. The strike was one of the single deadliest bombings of the war, and Bassal said the toll was expected to rise. "The recovery operations are indescribable," he said in an interview.

The Israel Defense Forces said the strike targeted Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants it claimed were operating a command and control node from within the school, accusing the group of using civilians as human shields.

An Israeli military official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity in line with IDF protocol, said that three precision munitions struck a prayer hall, which he said was used by militants, on the ground floor of the three-story school building. Residents said the facility had been converted into a shelter for Gazans forced to flee their homes.

The strike, two days after a dozen people were killed in two earlier Israeli strikes on Gaza schools, came at a delicate moment for the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is already under pressure to end a conflict that has left tens of thousands of people dead and plunged the Middle East into a period of renewed upheaval and violence.

In a bid to halt the fighting, the

SEE ISRAEL ON A15

A pastor said God chose Trump. His brother called him a fake.

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE

ORANGE BEACH, ALA. — On the morning he could no longer stand it, the preacher was sipping coffee at his kitchen table. The house was quiet. The boys weren't up yet. Josiah Johnson wanted to savor the peace, but his attention drifted to his younger brother, the one he had decided was a false prophet.

How many souls, he wondered, was that Christian influencer manipulating on social media right now? Hundreds of thousands followed Jeremiah, who'd helped popularize the far-right belief that God handpicked Donald Trump to lead the United States.

Maybe his conscience was nudging him. Or perhaps it was the Lord. The wall sign above him

read: *In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.* Jeremiah wasn't channeling Jesus, though, as far as Josiah could tell, when he claimed that God spoke through him about American politics.

So, Josiah began typing on his matte black iPhone.

"What if you found out that your favorite prophet or pastor wasn't sexually abusing anyone," he wrote in a draft message to his 5,000 Facebook friends, alluding to other religious reckonings, "but INSTEAD they were completely and totally fabricating their dreams, visions, and prophetic words?"

In an era of surging disinformation, as Americans clash over what's real and what's fake, Josiah took no issue with Trump. An

SEE PASTOR ON A6



Barry Svrluga

COLUMN

falling to their knees and all over each other, some with arms raised in full triumph, some without the energy to do even that. Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." blared through the speakers at Parc des Princes. It had been a bit.

The American women didn't come to the Paris Olympics to extend a dynasty, as had been the mission at such tournaments so

PARIS — This is what the U.S. women's soccer team should look like at the end of a major international competition: absolutely spent athletes in red, white and blue

PARIS OLYMPICS

Reboot for the U.S. women's soccer team is off to a golden start



TONI L. SANDYS/THE WASHINGTON POST

The U.S. women's soccer team beat Brazil, 1-0, in the final in Paris on Saturday for its first Olympic gold medal in 12 years.

frequently over the past three decades. They came to reestablish it. We have learned that scenes such as Saturday's don't transpire automatically. It's hard.

"It's not about just putting your jersey on," veteran defender Crystal Dunn said. "It's doing the work and really earning every step on the pitch."

Funny what a few weeks can do. A proud program arrived here as a listing tanker. It leaves with the holes in its hull patched, steaming forward. Mallory Swanson scored the goal that provided a 1-0 victory over a

SEE SVRLUGA ON A20

Golden Curry: Stephen Curry helps Team USA hold off France for its fifth straight basketball gold. **D1**

TRAVEL

El Rocío is a Spanish village where the past feels present.

BOOK WORLD

'Circle of Hope' asks: What is a church called to do?



ARTS & STYLE

Frank Zappa's children are still grappling with his legacy.

THE NATION

People with differing political views on moving beyond partisanship. **A8**



BUSINESS

A glimpse into conversations people have with AI chatbots.

METRO

Proposal would restrict campus access for GWU student protesters.

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