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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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## Senators seek D.C. air guard in RFK deal

In exchange, Maryland lawmakers would not oppose redevelopment

BY ERIN COX, SAM FORTIER, MEAGAN FLYNN AND PAUL KANE

Maryland's leaders have proposed a set of conditions that could greatly affect the Washington Commanders football team's stadium search. Among them: If D.C. gives their state one of its Air National Guard squadrons, they may support a bill allowing the District to redevelop the RFK Stadium site, according to three people with knowledge of the negotiations.

The conditions add a new high-stakes layer to negotiations in Congress over the future of the aging stadium site on the banks of the Anacostia River. If D.C. can redevelop the site, that would offer it an advantage in convincing the team to leave Maryland and play once again in its namesake city.

The flight squadron is one of three requests Maryland's two senators — who would prefer to keep the Commanders in suburban Landover — have made in exchange for backing the bill that would give D.C. control of the federally owned RFK site, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive private negotiations.

They have also requested a public statement from the Commanders about their preferred location for the next stadium and assurances about what the team

SEE STADIUM ON A16

## Trans care case could affect bans in 24 states

Tennessee law barring treatments for young people goes to high court

BY CASEY PARKS AND ANN E. MARIMOW

NASHVILLE — The Supreme Court on Wednesday will consider for the first time whether states can ban certain gender transition medical treatments for young people — a closely watched case brought by three transgender teens, their parents and a doctor, all seeking to ensure health care access they say is critical.

At issue is a Tennessee law barring transgender minors from using puberty blockers and hormones, treatments the state characterizes as risky and unproven. Lawmakers said the state should instead encourage adolescents to "appreciate their sex, particularly as they undergo puberty."

The court's ruling might have implications for the more than 100,000 transgender adolescents living in Tennessee or one of the 23 other states that has banned using the drugs to treat minors

SEE COURT ON A4

**FAQ:** What you should know about gender care for minors. A5

# Martial law, then a reversal, in S. Korea



CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES

South Korean soldiers try get into the National Assembly building in Seoul early Wednesday morning. President Yoon Suk Yeol had declared martial law late Tuesday night, citing "antistate" activities by the opposition. Hours later, he lifted the declaration.

## Upheaval puts fate of U.S. ally, Asian security pact in doubt

BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA

The Biden administration breathed a sigh of relief Tuesday as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, in the face of overwhelming domestic opposition, backed down within hours from an emergency declaration of martial law.

But the fast-moving developments in a crucial part of the world left a deep sense of unease over the political future of one of the United States' closest allies and concern for the tripartite U.S.-South Korea-Japan security pact, a deterrent against both China and Russia, that is one of President Joe Biden's signature

foreign policy achievements.

While Yoon is "one of the pillars of our regional engagement strategy," said a U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity, his political future is in doubt.

Following a narrow victory in elections last spring that saw the opposition Democratic Party — considered more accommodating toward North Korea and suspicious of close relations with the United States and Japan — win a legislative majority, Yoon quickly became mired in scandal and political turmoil and was threatened with impeachment. He accused the opposition of

SEE SECURITY ON A10



JINTAK HAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Protesters outside the National Assembly call for Yoon's ouster. Lawmakers — some of whom climbed through windows to get into the chamber — voted to overturn the president's order.

## In Africa, a rising wave of Russian influence

Nation uses opaque network of groups to boost its image on the continent, Western officials say

BY RACHEL CHASON IN OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

When Zoubiré Patrice Sia needed blackboards and notebooks for the school he had founded, he knew where to call. He had seen a pro-Russian group called African Initiative promoted on television, in newspapers and online.

The group's president "didn't even hesitate," Sia said, and together they were hauling new blackboards and hundreds of notebooks into the school courtyard on a recent Monday. Each notebook was adorned with a photo of Burkina Faso's president, Ibrahim Traoré, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, their hands clasped.

"Ibrahim Traoré," shouted African Initiative President Soumaila Azenwo Ayo. "Hoorah!" the students responded.

"Vladimir Putin!" Ayo shouted next. "Hoorah! Hoorah! Hoorah!" the students chanted in response, just as they had rehearsed with Sia, pumping their fists.

In the year since its creation,

SEE RUSSIA ON A12

**Biden in Africa:** He decries legacy of slavery, urges partnership. A11



ADRIEN BITIBALY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A stand set up by a pro-Russian organization at a fair last month in Ouagadougou. Russia has intensified its efforts to bolster its standing in Burkina Faso and other parts of West Africa.

## PRESIDENT'S DECREE UNLEASHES TURMOIL

Failed move evokes history of dictatorship

BY MICHELLE YE HEE LEE

SEOUL — South Korea's deeply unpopular president, Yoon Suk Yeol, stunned the nation Tuesday by declaring "emergency martial law" — a risky power play that launched an extraordinary six hours of turmoil and evoked the military dictatorships that many South Koreans believed had been consigned to the history books.

Yoon's decree, made in a televised announcement late Tuesday night as he accused the opposition of "antistate" activities, prompted thousands of protesters demanding a return to democratic government to gather outside the National Assembly, where lawmakers convened urgently to overturn the order. With police officers forming a barricade around the parliamentary complex, some opposition lawmakers even climbed through windows to get into the voting chamber.

Before dawn Wednesday morning, Yoon said he would lift martial law in line with the parliamentary vote and withdraw troops from the streets.

He capped off his remarks with one last reference to "antistate" activities, though it came off more like an afterthought than a justification to take military control of the country.

The political roller-coaster was extreme even by the standards of South Korea, where deep polarization and combative politics often lead to dramatic power moves and countermoves.

While Yoon's reversal was swiftly approved by his cabinet, the shock and anger that spilled onto the streets — where protesters physically stopped military vehicles and confronted soldiers forming a barricade around the National Assembly — are likely to

SEE SOUTH KOREA ON A10

## Oz's touting of drugs may pose conflicts of interest

BY DESMOND BUTLER, LAUREN WEBER AND CAITLIN GILBERT

In a 2019 production of his eponymous show, Mehmet Oz extolled the transformational results of Ozempic in an interview with comedian Billy Gardell about managing his Type 2 diabetes — and shedding 21 pounds after five months on the medication.

"Whoa! Now we're talking!" Oz said as he double high-fived Gardell before turning to a drug company representative to explain the results.

The nine-minute infomercial embedded into Oz's daytime talk show was sponsored by the drug's manufacturer, Novo Nordisk, which Oz twice referred to as a "trusted partner."

The segment, one of the earliest instances of Oz promoting Ozempic, showcases the financial

SEE OZ ON A6

**Probe sought:** Oz is said to be tied financially to firms he markets. A6

## IN THE NEWS

**Subminimum wages** The Biden administration has moved to phase out a program that allows some employers to pay far less to people with disabilities. A3

**Traffic scofflaws** The Department of Public Works is impounding more cars and issuing more tickets as D.C. attempts a crackdown. B1

**THE NATION** **GOP senators** are meeting this week with Donald Trump's pick for defense secretary. A7  
**A Chinese man** under an SEC probe invested \$30 million in Trump's crypto project. A7

**THE WORLD** **Prices for foods** and drinks Americans love could rise if Trump slaps a tariff on Mexico. A8  
**In Syria**, fierce fighting continued. In Lebanon, the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire teetered. A9

**THE ECONOMY** **Scammers** are using AI to quickly sift through the vast troves of personal data online. A14  
**FEMA** is making it easier for Native American communities to apply for federal aid in the wake of disasters. The changes come after years of meetings with tribes. A15

**THE REGION** **Forty-one percent** of Maryland schools received at least 4 out of 5 stars on the state's annual report card this year, up from 38 percent in 2023. B1  
**Burglars wielding** sledgehammers broke into at least 18 D.C. stores, police said. B1

**SPORTS** **The Commanders** announced Mark Clouse, CEO of the Campbell's Company, as the new team president. D1

**FOOD** **The 14 best cookbooks** of 2024, spanning cuisines and styles, will educate and inspire you in the kitchen. E1

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