



Mostly sunny 87/69 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 89/69 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024 • **\$3**

# 9/11 judge to review plea deal reversal

Examining legality of Austin’s decision will likely delay trial further

BY DAN LAMOTHE

A military judge overseeing the cases against Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two others accused of plotting the 9/11 attacks will examine if it was legal for Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to rescind plea agreements that would have spared them the death penalty, a move that drew praise among some victims’ families and blowback from critics of the Pentagon’s oft-maligned judicial proceedings at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

The judge, Air Force Col. Matthew McCall, issued his order Monday, according to a memo obtained by The Washington Post. It means the years-long effort to prosecute Mohammed and his alleged accomplices, Walid bin Attash and Mustafa al-Hawsawi, for the murders of nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001, could face another extended delay as lawyers for the three men and the prosecution turn their attention to the propriety of Austin’s 11th-hour maneuver.

The Guantánamo military commissions have been bogged down for years amid disputes over government secrecy, conflicts of interest and the documented U.S. torture of many defendants. Longtime observers of the war court viewed the deals as a way of providing overdue resolution and some measure of justice for those killed in the deadliest attack on

SEE AUSTIN ON A9

# Fearful of pain, some delay IUD removal

Federal health officials push providers to better address patient concerns

BY LINDSEY BEVER

Ami Claxton’s birth control method — an intrauterine device — expired 14 years ago. But she has been too scared to have it removed because of the excruciating pain she experienced the last time she had it replaced.

This summer, the 55-year-old asked her gynecologist for options to help manage the pain during removal, but was told there weren’t any. “So I said, ‘Forget it. I’m not going to get it out,’” said Claxton, of Chandler, Ariz.

While it has been well documented that many patients experience severe pain when getting an IUD, less is known about how those painful experiences affect reproductive health care. Some women say that their worries about pain have deterred them from getting IUDs removed or replaced when needed, and they have become reluctant to return to the gynecologist, even for different procedures.

Last week, federal health officials

SEE IUD ON A16



FABEHA MONIR FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

# For Bangladeshi protesters, hope mixed with foreboding

Prime minister’s ouster could bring dramatic change, or a backlash by the old guard

DHAKA, BANGLADESH — Amid their jubilation, many of the student protesters who chased Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from power last week were afraid over the weekend that she was scheming to return with the help of her ally, the country’s chief justice.

So students on Saturday surrounded the high court and demanded his resignation, fearing he might overturn the selection of the country’s new, temporary leader. Again, they prevailed.

The repeated success of the students in recent days has fueled hope across the capital, Dhaka, that the tremendous violence that culminated in Hasina’s overthrow will yield dra-

BY KARISHMA MEHROTRA AND ANANT GUPTA

matic political and social changes, including in how Bangladesh elects its leaders and how its government, courts and police operate.

“We will keep hitting the streets if we have to,” said Shima Akhtar, a protester who said several of her friends had been killed by police during the demonstrations. “This is a time for real change.”

But expressions of hope were mixed with fears that the old guard would hijack the revolution by undermining the transitional government, headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus. There are also con-

cerns about the prospect of ethnic violence or a breakdown of law and order after the departure of Hasina, who had ruled with an increasingly iron fist over the past 15 years, and anxiety over the country’s deepening economic crisis.

“It’s not very easy to hope for something better,” said Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, a Dhaka University international studies professor who mentored the student protest leaders. “We had this same experience in the past and we failed every time.”

Since the country’s independence from Pakistan in 1971, Bangladesh has cycled through repeated military

SEE BANGLADESH ON A20

Students and lawyers, fearful that Bangladesh’s chief justice might overturn the selection of the country’s new, temporary leader, protest Saturday outside the high court in Dhaka.

ELECTION 2024

# Walz’s handling of unrest faces newfound scrutiny

Republicans say he was slow to respond to George Floyd protests, but activists say he showed restraint

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.,  
ABBIE CHEESEMAN  
AND ROBERT SAMUELS

MINNEAPOLIS — Days after George Floyd was murdered in 2020, as the video of the last moments of his life ricocheted around the country and sent waves of demonstrators onto Minnesota streets, Gov. Tim Walz (D) sat in a room with public safety officials and pondered his options.

The protests were growing increasingly violent, and the Minneapolis mayor had requested that Walz send the National Guard to help. To Walz, the question was not just how many Guard members he could muster, but what they would do when they got there.

“There were people out in those streets who were in grief over decades of systemic racism — they saw murder,” Walz recalled of the deliberations in a 2021 interview with a Washington Post reporter for a book about Floyd’s life and legacy. “And there were people out in those streets

SEE WALZ ON A8



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

When Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (D) sent the National Guard to Minneapolis in 2020, a police precinct had been burned and many businesses had been destroyed.

# Zelensky boasts of success in Kursk

KYIV POINTS TO GOAL OF PRISONER SWAP

Ukraine says its aim isn’t to hold Russian territory

BY DAVID L. STERN  
AND ROBYN DIXON

KYIV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and his top military commander boasted Tuesday of continued success in Ukraine’s surprise incursion into western Russia, claiming further territorial gains and the capture of Russian forces who Zelensky said could be exchanged for Ukrainian prisoners of war.

The statements from Zelensky and Oleksandr Syrsky, made a day after Zelensky for the first time acknowledged the ongoing operations in Kursk, seemed to imply that the thrust into Russian territory was part of a strategy for future negotiations and not an indefinite occupation.

In a video posted on Zelensky’s official Telegram channel, which showed the president in his office speaking to his top general via video link on his computer, Syrsky is seen delivering a short report on Ukrainian forces’ gains over the previous 24 hours in Russia’s western Kursk region, which Ukrainian troops entered nearly a week ago.

Syrsky said that his forces had “advanced one to three kilometers” and had taken under their control some 15 square miles and 74 settlements. On Monday, Zelensky said Ukrainian troops had seized some 386 square miles of territory.

In the video, Zelensky thanked Syrsky for “filling our fund of exchange” of captured Russian soldiers who could be traded for Ukrainian prisoners of war.

“Hundreds of Russian soldiers have already surrendered, and all of them will receive humane treatment. They did not have such treatment even in their own

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

# Oil tycoon draws in big donors for Trump

BY JOSH DAWSEY  
AND MAXINE JOSELOW

After Donald Trump asked the oil industry to contribute \$1 billion to his presidential campaign in April, oil baron Harold Hamm immediately started working the phones.

Hamm, the billionaire founder of Continental Resources, called other oil executives and encouraged them to attend fundraisers and open their wallets, according to people with knowledge of the outreach who, like others interviewed for this article, spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions.

“We’ve got to do this because it’s the most important election in our lifetime,” Hamm said as he made calls after the April dinner at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Club, where the former president

SEE TRUMP ON A6

## IN THE NEWS

**Election interference** Iran appears to again be meddling in U.S. campaigns, but experts remain unsure of the nation’s plans. **A13**

**Public housing evictions** Local authorities have moved to push out tenants after erroneous rent increases, according to lawsuits, experts and court records. **B1**

### THE NATION

**A wind turbine blade** washed up on Nantucket, galvanizing opposition to such projects. **A2**  
**A former police chief** who led a raid on a Kansas newspaper faces a felony charge. **A9**

### THE WORLD

**Poliovirus has been found** in sewage in Gaza, where the war has leveled infrastructure. **A10**  
**Archaeologists** unearthed the remains of two people at the ancient site of Pompeii. **A12**

### THE ECONOMY

**Both major-party** presidential nominees want to end taxes on tips, but experts say the proposal wouldn’t do much to help workers. **A14**  
**Starbucks forced out** its CEO to bring in an executive credited with reviving Chipotle’s fortunes. **A15**

### THE REGION

**The search** for a Virginia mother who disappeared in July has intensified as her community grows frustrated with waiting for answers. **B1**  
**Research found** that a “high-impact tutoring” program in D.C. helped students improve scores and attendance. **B1**

### STYLE

**Jorts**, once considered the uncool attire of tourist dads, are back in style as a new generation embraces their loose fit. **C1**

### FOOD

**Invasive blue crabs** are thriving in Venice’s lagoon, damaging its ecosystem but influencing its cuisine. **E1**

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