

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
**Today**, rain, heavy at times, flooding possible, high 53. **Tonight**, rain ends early, mainly cloudy, chillier, low 33. **Tomorrow**, mostly sunny, chilly, high 48. Weather map is on Page B8.

VOL. CLXXIII . . . . No. 60,102      © 2024 The New York Times Company      SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024      Prices in Canada may be higher      \$4.00

## HOUSE APPROVES NEW BUDGET BILL IN DIFFICULT VOTE

### \$1.2 TRILLION PACKAGE

#### Passage Sets Off G.O.P. Revolt, With Senate Poised to Act

**By CATIE EDMONDSON**  
WASHINGTON — The House on Friday passed a \$1.2 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September and avert a partial shutdown at the end of the week, setting off a G.O.P. revolt that threatened Speaker Mike Johnson’s hold on his job.

In a 286-to-134 vote that came down to the wire as leaders scrounged for the two-thirds majority needed for passage, Democrats rallied to provide the support to overcome a furious swell of opposition by conservative Republicans.

Infuriated by the painstakingly negotiated bipartisan legislation to keep funding flowing for government agencies including the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security, the hard right balked, and as the vote was still ongoing, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia began the process of calling for a vote to oust Mr. Johnson.

Ms. Greene told reporters on the House steps minutes after the vote that she would not seek an immediate vote on his removal, but had begun the process as a “warning” because his actions were a “betrayal.”

“This was our leverage,” Ms. Greene said of spending legislation. “This is our chance to secure the border, and he didn’t do it. And now this funding bill passed without the majority of the majority.”

Passage of the bill, just hours ahead of Saturday’s 12:01 a.m. shutdown deadline, sent it to the Senate to avert a lapse in funding. Senators were expected to pass the legislation and began debate on it on Friday afternoon, but it remained unclear whether they would vote on it and send it to

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## U.S. Resolution For Gaza Truce Runs Aground

### China and Russia Issue Veto at the U.N.

This article is by **Alan Yuhas, Michael Crowley and Thomas Fuller.**

A U.S. bid to have the U.N. Security Council call for “an immediate and sustained cease-fire” in the Gaza Strip failed on Friday, after Russia and China vetoed the American resolution that included some of Washington’s strongest language since the start of the war.

The resolution reflected the Biden administration’s growing frustration both with the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Israel’s conduct in a war that has killed about 30,000 people and reduced much of the enclave to ruins. The administration has been pressuring Israel not to attack Rafah, a city in southern Gaza where more than a million civilians have sought refuge, and to enable more aid to enter the territory.

But international friction, including over Washington’s previous use of its veto power in the Security Council and its refusal to call for a permanent cease-fire, doomed the resolution. Eleven members voted in favor of the resolution, but Russia and China — permanent members — voted against it, as did Algeria. Guyana abstained.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, who was traveling in Israel on Friday, expressed disappointment that the resolution had failed.

“I think we were trying to show the international community a sense of urgency about getting a cease-fire tied to the release of hostages, something that everyone, including the countries that vetoed the resolution, should have been able to get behind,” he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel reiterated his stance that despite growing international criticism, his country’s ground forces would launch an offensive into Rafah to root out Hamas, the group that led the Oct. 7 assault that precipitated Israel’s invasion of Gaza. The Biden administration has said repeatedly

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## DOZENS KILLED IN SIEGE NEAR MOSCOW



VASILY PRUDNIKOV/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

Smoke rising from Crocus City Hall in Krasnogorsk, where gunmen killed about 40 people on Friday, the Russian authorities said.

## A.C.L.U. Is Accused of Fighting Free Speech

By **JEREMY W. PETERS**

Kate Oh was no one’s idea of a get-along-to-go-along employee.

During her five years as a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, she was an unsparing critic of her superiors, known for sending long, blistering emails to human resources complaining about what she described as a hostile workplace.

She considered herself a whistle blower and advocate for other women in the office, drawing unflattering attention to an environment she said was rife with sexism, burdened by unmanageable workloads and stymied by a fear-based culture.

Then the tables turned, and Ms.

### Fired Employee Argues That Her Complaints Were Not Racist

Oh was the one slapped with an accusation of serious misconduct. The A.C.L.U. said her complaints about several superiors — all of whom were Black — used “racist stereotypes.” She was fired in May 2022.

The A.C.L.U. acknowledges that Ms. Oh, who is Korean American, never used any kind of racial slur. But the group says that her use of certain phrases and words demonstrated a pattern of willful anti-Black animus.

In one instance, according to court documents, she told a Black superior that she was “afraid” to talk with him. In another, she told a manager that their conversation was “chastising.” And in a meeting, she repeated a satirical phrase likening her bosses’ behavior to suffering “beatings.”

Did her language add up to racism? Or was she just speaking harshly about bosses who happened to be Black? That question is the subject of an unusual unfair-labor-practice case brought against the A.C.L.U. by the National Labor Relations Board, which has accused the organization of retaliating against Ms. Oh.

A trial in the case wrapped up this week in Washington, and a

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## ISIS CLAIMS ATTACK

### Fire and a Blast Occur as Gunmen Storm a Concert Hall

This article is by **Valerie Hopkins, Ivan Nechepurenko, Aric Toler and Anton Troianovski.**

Several camouflage-clad gunmen opened fire at a popular concert venue on the outskirts of Moscow on Friday night, killing about 40 people and wounding more than 100, the F.S.B., Russia’s top security agency, said. That death toll would make it the deadliest attack in the capital region in more than a decade.

As gunshots boomed through the building containing the concert hall, one of the largest and most popular music venues in the Moscow area, fire erupted in the upper floors of the structure, and the blaze intensified after an explosion, the news agency RIA Novosti reported.

The Islamic State, through an affiliated news agency, claimed responsibility. U.S. security officials, including a senior counterterrorism official, said they believed the attack was carried out by the Islamic State in Khorasan, a branch of the terrorist group that is active in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Multiple videos posted on social media and verified by The New York Times show several people entering Crocus City Hall, a sprawling shopping and entertainment complex in suburban Krasnogorsk, northwest of Moscow, and firing rifles. Other videos show people running past bloodied victims lying on the floor or

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## Princess of Wales Has Cancer, Further Shaking Royal Family

By **MARK LANDLER**

LONDON — Catherine, Princess of Wales, has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun chemotherapy, she announced on Friday, putting a grim coda on months of rumors about her condition and plunging Britain’s royal family into deep uncertainty as two of its most senior figures grapple with grave health concerns.

Her diagnosis follows that of King Charles III, who announced his own cancer diagnosis and treatment in early February. Like the king, Catherine, 42, did not specify what type of cancer she had, nor what her prognosis was.

Speaking in a prerecorded video released on Friday evening, Catherine said, “It has been an incredibly tough couple of months

for our entire family” as she described having major abdominal surgery in January and then learning through subsequent tests that she had a form of cancer.

Looking fatigued but determined to express hope about her recovery, Catherine said she and her husband, Prince William, were helping their three children, George, Charlotte and Louis, cope with having a sick mother.

“This of course came as a huge shock,” Catherine said, “and William and I have been doing everything we can to process and manage this privately for the sake of our young family. As you can imagine, this has taken time.”

“We hope that you will understand that, as a family, we now need some time, space and privacy while I complete my treatment,” said Catherine, who wore a simple striped sweater and sat on a bench against a backdrop of early spring flowers, in the video, which was recorded by BBC Studios on Wednesday.

Catherine’s announcement landed with a thunderclap in a country where popular members of the royal family — and Catherine is assuredly one — are still sometimes treated like members of every British family. It drew an outpouring of sympathy from

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BBC STUDIOS/HANDOUT, VIA REUTERS

Princess Catherine

## Afghanistan’s Long, Punishing Drought

In a nation especially exposed to climate change, millions of children are going hungry. Page A6.

## Careful Strategy to Trump Inquiry Left Garland Racing the Clock

By **GLENN THRUSH and ADAM GOLDMAN**

WASHINGTON — After being sworn in as attorney general in March 2021, Merrick B. Garland gathered his closest aides to discuss a topic too sensitive to broach in bigger groups: the possibility

that evidence from the far-ranging Jan. 6 investigation could quickly lead to former President Donald J. Trump and his inner circle.

At the time, some in the Justice Department were pushing for the chance to look at ties between pro-Trump rioters who assaulted the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, his allies

who had camped out at the Willard Hotel, and possibly Mr. Trump himself.

Mr. Garland said he would place no restrictions on their work, even if the “evidence leads to Trump,” according to people with knowledge of several conversations held over his first months in office.

“Follow the connective tissue

upward,” said Mr. Garland, adding a directive that would eventually lead to a dead end: “Follow the money.”

With that, he set the course of a determined and methodical, if at times dysfunctional and maddeningly slow, investigation that would yield the indictment of Mr.

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### Hitting Ukraine’s Power Grid

Power plants and a hydroelectric dam were damaged in what officials said was one of the war’s largest assaults on energy infrastructure. PAGE A9

### A Singer Breaking Barriers

Kim Insoon is a star in South Korea, which looks down on biracial children. The Saturday Profile. PAGE A10

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### Met Hires Provenance Chief

Lucian Simmons is leaving Sotheby’s to lead the museum’s increased efforts to review its collection. PAGE C1



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### Unlikely N.C.A.A. Hero

The 3-pointers kept falling for Jack Gohlke, a Division II transfer, in Oakland’s upset of Kentucky. PAGE B9

### Women’s Sports on the Rise

Iowa’s Caitlin Clark set a scoring record for the ages, but her lasting effect on basketball might be economic. PAGE B7

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### Trump’s Merger Deal Closes

With the move by his social media company, the former president could find ways to raise cash against the value of his stake. PAGE A16

### Obama’s Health Law Quest

A set of oral histories documents the behind-the-scenes drama of the former president’s drive to pass the Affordable Care Act. PAGE A14

### No Charges in School Fight

An Oklahoma district attorney said an episode that involved a nonbinary student who died by suicide the next day was “mutual combat.” PAGE A15



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### Under the Banyan Trees

Spend 36 hours in Sarasota, a laid-back city on the Gulf Coast of Florida that seems content to keep its white-sand beaches out of the spotlight. PAGE C8

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### Michelle Cottle

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BUSINESS B1-5

### China Gains in A.I. Talent

Beijing, producing a huge number of top engineers in recent years, has by some measures already eclipsed the United States, according to new research. PAGE B1

### Hope Amid Media Gloom

A handful of digital start-ups have been finding success — so far, at least — by learning lessons from their troubled predecessors. PAGE B1



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