

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, partly to mostly cloudy, high 79. **Tonight**, heavy thunderstorms, low 71. **Tomorrow**, mostly cloudy and humid with thunderstorms, high 87. Weather map is on Page B8.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

TOP COURT SAYS U.S. OVERSTEPPED ON JAN. 6 CHARGE

CAPITOL RIOTER’S CASE

Could Affect Obstruction
Rulings for Others,
Including Trump

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled on Friday that federal prosecutors had improperly used an obstruction law to prosecute some members of the pro-Trump mob that stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The ruling could affect the prosecutions of hundreds of rioters out of the more than 1,400 who have been charged with an array of offenses for taking part in the effort to block certification of the 2020 election results.

It could also have an effect on part of the federal case against former President Donald J. Trump accusing him of plotting to overturn his 2020 loss at the polls. But the precise impact on those cases will not become clear until trial courts review them in light of the Supreme Court’s ruling.

Prosecutors had argued that the law applied to efforts to obstruct an “official proceeding” — the joint session of Congress that took place on Jan. 6, 2021, to certify the Electoral College results.

But Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for the majority, read the law narrowly, saying it applied only when the defendant’s actions impaired the integrity of physical evidence.

Lower courts will now apply that strict standard, and it may lead them to dismiss charges against some defendants, although most of those charged or convicted under the obstruction law also face other charges.

The vote was 6 to 3, but it featured unusual alliances. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, a liberal, voted with the majority and filed a concurring opinion. Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative, wrote the dissent.

None of the opinions in the case discussed the charges against Mr. Trump, which rely only in part on the obstruction law.

Justice Jackson said the Jan. 6 attack was an assault on democracy. But that was not, she wrote, the question before the court.

“On Jan. 6, 2021, an angry mob stormed the United States Capitol
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HOMELESSNESS The justices uphold an Oregon city’s ban on sleeping outdoors. **PAGE A18**



TOM BRENNER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHESAPEAKE, VA. Former President Donald J. Trump on the campaign trail a day after the debate.



HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

RALEIGH, N.C. “I know I’m not a young man, to state the obvious,” President Biden said on Friday.

Justices Curb Federal Agencies’ Regulatory Clout

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday reduced the power of executive agencies by sweeping aside a longstanding legal precedent, endangering countless regulations and transferring power from the executive branch to Congress and the courts.

The precedent, *Chevron v. National Resources Defense Council*, one of the most cited in American law, requires courts to defer to agencies’ reasonable interpreta-

Decision Endangers an Array of Protections

tions of ambiguous statutes. There have been 70 Supreme Court decisions relying on *Chevron*, along with 17,000 in the lower courts.

The decision is all but certain to prompt challenges to the actions of an array of federal agencies, including those regulating the environment, health care and con-

sumer safety.

The vote was 6 to 3, dividing along ideological lines.

“*Chevron* is overruled,” Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority. “Courts must exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority.”

In dissent, Justice Elena Kagan said the ruling amounted to a judicial power grab. “A rule of judicial humility,” she wrote, “gives way to a rule of judicial hubris.”

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Biden’s Unsteady Debate Kindles Anxiety in Party

With Silenced Mics,
President’s Lapses
Are Deafening

With the plans for the 2024 presidential debates, President Biden’s campaign appeared to get much of what it wanted. It got its preferred timeline, with Thursday night’s debate in Atlanta far earlier on the calendar than usual. It got the live audience removed. It got, above all, an agreement to mute the microphone on the candidate who wasn’t speaking, to avoid the cross-talk that made his first 2020 debate with Donald J. Trump a cacophonous mess.

After Thursday night, Mr. Biden — and his party — might have wanted the cross-talk back.

The changes that CNN instituted staved off the shouting matches and the competitive cheering that have marked past debates. But they could not prevent Mr. Biden from starting his rushed opening remarks in a papery rasp that, before the debate was over, his campaign was stressing to reporters was the result of a cold. It did not keep him from getting lost in the corn maze of his sentences, answer after answer.

And it did not keep him from finishing an argument on tax reform and health care with a spiral that was surely saved instantly to the hard drives of Republican campaign operatives: “Making sure that we’re able to make every single solitary person eligible for what I’ve been able to do with, the, uh, with the Covid, excuse me, with, um, dealing with, everything we had to do with, uh . . . look . . . if — we finally beat Medicare.”

There was no interruption. Mr. Biden came across loud and unclear.

You can at least credit Mr. Biden for one accomplishment: For perhaps the first time since Mr. Trump announced for president nine years ago, he managed to hold a debate in which Mr. Trump’s performance was not the biggest news afterward.

The former president and challenger had his own issues. He blustered, dodged, made false statements and repeated his denials of his 2020 election loss. He cited his golf game as proof of his acidity and uttered the line, “I didn’t have sex with a porn star.” But Mr. Trump, kept to glowering between answers by the mute button, was outrageous and
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Democrats Consider
Options, Including
Replacement

This article is by Katie Glueck, Jennifer Medina, Lisa Lerer and Annie Karni.

The Democratic Party faced a brewing crisis on Friday as a wide range of lawmakers, party officials and activists began to actively consider what had previously been a pipe dream for pundits and worried voters: the prospect of replacing President Biden on the ticket roughly four months before Election Day.

For two years, leading Democrats limited their concerns about Mr. Biden’s performance and age to private meetings and off-the-record conversations, leery of undermining an incumbent president in a rematch against former President Donald J. Trump.

But with Mr. Biden’s debate performance on Thursday — uneven and at times incoherent, halting even on politically advantageous subjects like abortion rights — that conversation has exploded into the public domain.

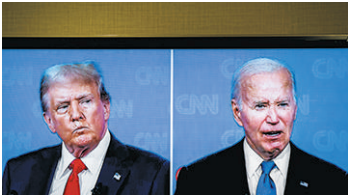
“Biden did not rise to the occasion and is going to cause a serious reassessment among his party: Are they going to say, Is he just having a bad night, or is he prepared to go forward?” the Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights leader who has had a warm relationship with Mr. Biden for years, said in an interview hours after the debate.

Asked for his own assessment, Mr. Sharpton replied that he hoped that it had been merely a “bad night.”

“But to not be able to rise to the occasion,” he added, “is not going to be easily forgotten.”

On Capitol Hill, some Democratic lawmakers openly acknowledged that Mr. Biden’s performance was a disaster, while other leaders offered only terse signs of
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MORE ON THE DEBATE



HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

FACT-CHECK Scrutinizing claims made about abortion, immigration and other key issues. **PAGE A14**

WORRIES ABROAD Donald J. Trump’s unwillingness to commit to NATO stokes unease. **PAGE A13**



JASON GULLEY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Islands That Were Supposed to Vanish

Low-lying islands, like many in the Maldives, were expected to be victims of rising seas. But research tells a surprising story. **Page A6.**

U.S. Presses to Avert Wider War Between Israel and Hezbollah

This article is by Michael Crowley, Julian E. Barnes and Aaron Boxerman.

WASHINGTON — The United States is in the midst of an intense diplomatic push to prevent full-on war between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, as the risks rise that either side could initiate a broader regional fight.

In recent days, U.S. officials have pressed their Israeli counterparts and passed messages to Hezbollah’s leaders with the goal of averting a wider regional conflict that they fear could draw in both Iran and the United States.

Israel’s defense minister, Yoav Gallant, met with several Biden administration officials in Washington this week, in large measure to discuss the escalating tensions along Israel’s northern border with Lebanon. That visit followed one last week by Israel’s national

With Tehran, a 4-Way ‘Game of Chicken’

security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, and its minister of strategic affairs, Ron Dermer.

Also last week, a senior White House official, Amos Hochstein, who has assumed an informal diplomatic role mediating between the two sides, visited Israel and Lebanon. Mr. Hochstein warned Hezbollah, which is supported by Iran, that the United States would not be able to restrain Israel should it commit to an all-out war with the militia group.

Archrivals for decades, Israel and Hezbollah have frequently exchanged fire along Israel’s northern border. After the Hamas-led attacks on Oct. 7 ignited a blister-

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NATIONAL A11-20

The Prosecution Rests

After seven weeks of trial, lawyers for Senator Robert Menendez are expected to begin calling witnesses on Monday to rebut the government’s case. **PAGE A19**

Sunday Library Hours Added

Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Council reached a \$112 billion budget deal that restored some unpopular cuts to key programs. **PAGE A19**

Gender Ruling in Texas

The state’s all-Republican Supreme Court voted 8 to 1 to leave in effect a law enacted last year banning gender transition care for minors. **PAGE A20**

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Slurs in British Election

Backlash over racist comments by members of Reform U.K., could hurt the party leader Nigel Farage. **PAGE A10**

Iran’s Presidential Candidates

Voters on Friday chose from three conservatives and one moderate vying to succeed Ebrahim Raisi. **PAGE A4**



BUSINESS B1-5

All Is Not Calm on Wall Street

The S&P 500 has climbed sharply this year, with few big swings. But below the surface, there is turmoil. **PAGE B1**

Reining In Facial Recognition

Detroit police arrested three people after bad matches, so changes were made in how the technology is used. **PAGE B1**

TRAVEL C7-9

36 Hours in Portland

Maine’s largest city, long known nationally as a major food destination, offers a dynamic juxtaposition of New England’s past and present. **PAGE C9**

ARTS C1-6

Museums Feeling the Strain

In New York City, several small museums have recently shuttered, or intend to. Nationwide, a quarter of all cultural institutions are struggling. **PAGE C1**

Leaving His Country Behind

Fifty years ago, Mikhail Baryshnikov defected from the Soviet Union and became the pre-eminent male dancer of his era. At 76, he looks back. **PAGE C1**



SPORTS B6-9

Picking Biles’s Teammates

Two Olympic medalists have one of the toughest jobs in gymnastics: building a roster around a superstar. **PAGE B6**

Early Test for Swiatek

In her first match at Wimbledon, the world No. 1 will face Sofia Kenin, the 2020 Australian Open winner. **PAGE B8**

OPINION A22-23

Elamin Abdelmahmoud **PAGE A23**

