



Mostly cloudy 87/74 • Tomorrow: T-storms 83/69 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024 • \$3

## Showdown ratchets up for Brazil, Musk’s X

Judge orders suspension of platform over lack of a local representative

BY **TERRENCE MCCOY,**  
**TRISHA THADANI**  
AND **MARINA DIAS**

RIO DE JANEIRO — A Brazilian Supreme Court justice on Friday ordered the suspension of X in Latin America’s largest country, a dramatic escalation in a months-long dispute with platform owner Elon Musk over the limits of free speech in an era gripped by polarization and disinformation.

The order by Justice Alexandre de Moraes, which did not immediately take the site down, could affect more than 20 million X users in Brazil and deprive the platform of one of its largest and most active markets. The closely watched dispute has made Brazil — X’s fourth-largest market — a key venue in the global debate between free speech and disinformation, and has become central to Musk’s mission of making X a “free speech public square.”

It was the second time this week that a foreign government has clamped down on a social media platform. On Monday, French authorities said they had arrested Telegram founder and chief executive Pavel Durov in an investigation of illegal child abuse activity on the messaging app. Musk, among others, condemned Durov’s arrest as an attack on free speech; the future, he suggested, could include “being executed for liking a meme.”

The ruling on his own platform came after he declined to comply with a request by Moraes to reestablish a physical presence in Brazil. Moraes, one of the world’s most aggressive prosecutors of disinformation, says X needs a representative in this country of 215 million people to respond to government requests to suspend accounts found to be spreading fake news.

Musk refused, saying anyone he appointed would be exposed to the possibility of arrest. Moraes responded by freezing the bank accounts of Starlink, a satellite

SEE **X** ON **A6**



HAITHAM IMAD/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Displaced Palestinians gather near their tent camp in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip this week. Israel’s frequent evacuation orders have reduced the size of the Strip’s only humanitarian zone, which includes parts of Khan Younis, by about a third since May.

## Parents oppose restrictions amid deadly mosquito virus

Some chafe at taking away activities from kids who endured lockdowns

BY **JOANNA SLATER**

OXFORD, MASS. — When Phil Davis learned earlier this month that a person in his hometown had contracted Eastern equine encephalitis, or EEE, it wasn’t long before he decided to act.

Davis knew about the rare but deadly mosquito-borne illness from a prior outbreak in the state that started in 2019. The town was placed on alert and Davis, the president of Oxford Little League, remembered canceling weekday practices and rescheduling games.

This time, though, Davis was fed up. He was done with being told what to do without being heard, done with taking anything

else away from children who had lived through the forced closures of the coronavirus pandemic.

“I don’t believe anybody came out of covid saying that it was the best thing for their kids to lock them in the house,” said Davis, 50. “We all felt like living scared isn’t the right way to live.”

Hundreds of parents have since signed a petition urging town officials not to restrict playing times for youth sports including baseball, football, cheerleading and soccer. So many attended a recent meeting of the local health board that the deputy fire chief began turning people away.

In Oxford, one of four towns in central Massachusetts deemed at “critical” risk for EEE, residents are responding with a mixture of defiance, caution and fatalism, all informed by their own experiences during the pandemic.

Parents are saying they are the right people to assess the risks to their own children, while town

SEE **PARENTS** ON **A6**

## Trump sends mixed signals in his messaging on abortion

Recent statements rile Christian conservatives; Democrats see hypocrisy

BY **CAROLINE KITCHENER**  
AND **HANNAH KNOWLES**

Donald Trump announced Friday that he would be voting against a ballot measure in his home state of Florida that would make abortion legal until a fetus becomes viable.

But just a day earlier he appeared poised to do the opposite. When asked if he would vote for the measure — the only clear path to restoring abortion access in Florida, where abortion is banned after six weeks of pregnancy — he said, “I am going to be voting that we need more than six weeks.”

With two months to go until the election, Trump, who has taken

credit for the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, is sending contradictory messages as he grapples with how to handle an issue many Democrats believe will help lead them to victory in November — trying to appear more moderate on abortion than much of his party without alienating his evangelical base.

In addition to his comments on Florida’s six-week ban, Trump also announced this week that he would make in vitro fertilization treatments free if reelected and declared that his administration would be “great for women and their reproductive rights.”

His running mate, Sen. JD Vance (Ohio), pledged that Trump would veto a national abortion ban, even though Vance and many of Trump’s allies have previously backed such a measure.

Trump’s mixed signals were on display during his brief comments Friday about the Florida ballot measure, telling a Fox News re-

SEE **TRUMP** ON **A5**

 **ELECTION 2024**

## Where ‘vanity is a virtue’

On Rio’s beaches, not all six-packs are a product of hard work. Credit the plastic surgeon.

BY **TERRENCE MCCOY**  
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

In the spring of 2022, Junior Carvalho’s life came apart. His wife of 29 years asked him for a divorce. He moved into a spartan one-bedroom apartment and saw less of his kids. He was eating too much, drinking too much, watching TV too much.

At 52, he already felt old. He didn’t want to die alone. But who would want him like this? He walked on the beach every day for hours, bereft and anxious.

As he walked, he started to lose weight. Then he lost more. He began visiting the gym. Found a personal trainer. Took supplements and testosterone. He grew stronger and more muscular, but came no closer to his goal. He wanted to look like all those impossibly fit men he saw strutting down the beach, six-

packs gleaming in the Brazilian sun.

Searching online, he found his answer: ultra high-definition liposuction. The treatment promises washboard abs for men who find them difficult to develop otherwise. Its surging popularity here is helping to remake the face of plastic surgery in a country that has produced many of the industry’s most renowned surgeons and each year notches some of the world’s highest plastic-surgery rates.

Now, it’s not just women who are being wheeled into the operating room by the thousands. Six years ago, men accounted for just 5 percent of plastic surgery patients, according to the Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgery. By last year, their share had risen to nearly one-third. Over a similar time frame, surveys show, the

SEE **BRAZIL** ON **A10**



MARINA CALDERON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Thiago Matos Pinto, 40, after having ultra high-definition liposuction, a procedure developed in Rio de Janeiro.

## Reduced to a number on a grave, they now have names

Historian toiled 25 years to identify ‘disposable’ Black patients in Md.

BY **JOE HEIM**

In a shaded Maryland cemetery 30 miles east of Washington, there are rows and rows and rows of small stone slabs lying flat on the ground, each marked with a number.

869. 870. 871.  
No names. Just numbers.  
1252. 1253. 1254.

The digits etched in stone are the only legacy of the more than 1,700 men, women and children who died at the Crownsville Hospital Center between 1912 and 1965 and are buried here. The hospital, once Maryland’s only mental asylum for Black patients, was a place many people were brought to be forgotten. And many of them were.

Annapolis historian Janice Hayes-Williams remembers visiting this graveyard with her uncle,

George Phelps Jr., in 2001. As they wandered through it that day, he kept muttering to himself. “Jesus. . . . Jesus. . . . Jesus.”

“It was overwhelming to my uncle and me,” Hayes-Williams, 67, recalled on a hot July morning as she walked past the numbered markers. “The word that came to mind was ‘disposable.’”

“We both kept saying, ‘A cemetery of patients and no names? No names?’ It was more than unbelievable,” she said. “This is not how you treat human beings.”

Hayes-Williams had grown up in a family that honored the dead. Her grandmother took her as a child to a neighborhood cemetery where they tidied headstones and pulled weeds. In the 1980s, her uncle raised \$95,000 for the restoration and upkeep of Brewer Hill Cemetery in Annapolis, the city’s oldest Black cemetery with the first burial recorded in 1797.

From the first day she saw the Crownsville cemetery, Hayes-Williams wanted to find out whose lives belonged to those numbered stones. And she wanted a memorial displaying those names. A

SEE **CROWNSVILLE** ON **A7**

### IN THE NEWS

**Moore’s ‘honest mistake’** The Maryland governor went into damage-control mode, acknowledging revelations that he falsely claimed being awarded the Bronze Star. **B1**

**NHL star dies** Johnny Gaudreau, 31, of the Columbus Blue Jackets was killed after being struck by a car while riding a bike. **D1**

**THE NATION**  
**Special counsel** Jack Smith launches a final pre-election volley vs. Donald Trump. **A3**  
**Donald Trump’s** mixed record on vaccines is in the spotlight after RFK Jr.’s endorsement. **A4**

**THE WORLD**  
**Germany’s AfD party** could emerge a winner in regional elections Sunday, amounting to a major new crack in the nation’s post-World War II firewall against the far right. **A8**

**THE ECONOMY**  
**Eli Lilly seeks** to end an FDA designation that has allowed imitations of its blockbuster weight-loss drugs to flourish. **A12**  
**Yelp sued** longtime foe Google, alleging anti-competitive conduct in how it prioritizes search results. **A12**

**THE REGION**  
**D.C.** is reviewing violence-intervention contracts and grants after council member Trayon White Sr.’s bribery allegations. **B1**  
**Police mourn** a 25-year D.C. force veteran as a \$50,000 reward is offered in his killing. Two men are sought. **B1**

**STYLE**  
**With photos** and annotation, the book “Fashion First” lays out how Diane Keaton refined Hollywood’s star look. **C1**

**SPORTS**  
**College football** opens in earnest this weekend, and SEC boss Greg Sankey wields an uncommon amount of power. **D1**

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