

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, windy, cooler, afternoon flurries, partly sunny, high 38. **Tonight**, clear, mainly dry, low 29. **Tomorrow**, cool, generally dry, partly sunny, high 39. Weather map, Page B12.

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SCHNEIDER CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF ISRAEL, VIA REUTERS
Gal Goldstein Almog, 11, was among the Israeli hostages freed over the weekend. A deal calls for more exchanges, and more Gaza aid.

A.I. Firm’s Ties To China Rattle Top U.S. Spies

By MARK MAZZETTI and EDWARD WONG
WASHINGTON — When the secretive national security adviser of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed, visited the White House in June, his American counterpart, Jake Sullivan, raised a delicate issue: G42, an artificial intelligence firm controlled by the sheikh that American officials believe is hiding the extent of its work with China. In public, the company has announced its staggering growth with a steady cadence of news releases. They have included agreements with European pharmaceutical giants like AstraZeneca and a \$100 million deal with a Silicon Valley firm to build what the companies boast will be the “world’s largest supercomputer.” Last month, G42 announced a partnership with OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT. But in classified American intelligence channels, there have been more concerning reports about the company. The C.I.A. and other American spy agencies have issued warnings about G42’s work with large Chinese companies that U.S. officials consider security threats, including Huawei, the telecommunications giant that is under U.S. sanctions. U.S. officials fear G42 could be a conduit by which advanced American technology is siphoned to Chinese companies or the government. The intelligence reports have also warned that G42’s dealings with Chinese firms could be a pipeline to get the genetic data of millions of Americans and others into the hands of the Chinese government, according to two offi-

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Russians Protest Troops’ Indefinite Deployment

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR and MILANA MAZAEVA
The woman in the video, her face blurred, gave a blunt assessment of Russian military policy: Soldiers mobilized over a year ago to fight in Ukraine deserved to come home. Why weren’t they? “Our mobilized became the best army in the world, but that doesn’t mean that this army should stay there to the last man,” she said. “If he did something heroic, spilled blood for his country sincerely, then maybe it was time to return to his family, make way for someone else, but that’s not happening.”

Women Display Rare Public Displeasure With the War

The speaker was part of a new, grass-roots movement that has been gathering steam in Russia over the last several weeks. Women in various cities are seeking to stage public protests, challenging the official argument that mobilized troops are needed in combat indefinitely to secure their Russian homeland. Hand-lettered posters behind the speaker in the video echoed

that sentiment with slogans like “Do only the mobilized have a homeland?” A video of the speech, delivered at a rally in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk on Nov. 19, was released online. The nascent movement is a rare example of public displeasure with the war, the kind that the Kremlin has sought to suppress through draconian laws. The women and the government officials have been involved in a delicate dance, with the protesters trying not to trigger those laws while the authorities seek to avoid hauling the relatives of active-duty soldiers off to jail. The authorities have so far

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Protecting the Land That Protects Them

To keep squatters from gutting the rainforest, female rangers in Indonesia try dialogue first. Page A4.

As Trump Coasts, DeSantis and Haley Claw for Iowa’s Approval

By SHANE GOLDMACHER
Negative mailers are overstuffing Iowa mailboxes. Attack ads are cluttering the airwaves. And door knockers are fanning out from Des Moines to Dubuque and everywhere in between. The Iowa caucuses, the first contest in the Republican nominating calendar, are poised to play an especially consequential role in 2024. But with only 49 days to go,

Donald J. Trump’s top rivals are running out of time to catch him as Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley thrash each other in the final sprint to the starting line. Far ahead in national polls, Mr. Trump is aiming for an emphatic victory on Jan. 15 in Iowa that could serve as an early knockout punch. He leads in public surveys in the state by a margin twice as large as the most competitive contest in the last 50 years.

Placing Heavy Bets and Hopes on Closing Gap

Mr. DeSantis, the Florida governor, is betting on Iowa to pierce Mr. Trump’s growing aura of inevitability — and to reassert himself as the main rival to short-circuit Mr. Trump’s third run for president. Mr. DeSantis, who won the

backing of the state’s popular Republican governor, has been barnstorming across all of Iowa’s 99 counties, bolstered by an army of door knockers paid for by his related super PAC. On Saturday, Mr. DeSantis will visit his final county with an event in Newton held at the Thunderdome, a venue whose name appropriately captures the increasing acrimony and intensity of the

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ISRAEL AND HAMAS AGREE TO EXTEND PAUSE AND SWAPS

Challenge for Biden: What Comes Next

By PETER BAKER
WASHINGTON — After seven weeks of struggling with a crisis that defies easy solutions, President Biden could take solace in saving a single 4-year-old girl whose parents were killed in the Oct. 7 terrorist attack on Israel. But gratifying as it was to secure the release of Avigail Idan from her Hamas captors over the weekend, the challenge for Mr. Biden going forward is not only to free the rest of the Americans being held hostage but to use the success of recent days to alter the trajectory of the war consuming Gaza.

At the president’s urging, the two sides agreed on Monday to extend the temporary pause in the war between Israel and Hamas two more days to allow the release of an additional 20 hostages, according to Qatar, the Persian Gulf emirate that has been serving as intermediary. That gives all sides more breathing space but only postpones the most critical question by another 48 hours — namely what happens whenever the negotiated pause eventually expires.

Israel has vowed to resume its withering assault on Hamas once the hostage releases end, and Mr. Biden has said repeatedly that the country has a right to defend itself after a terrorist attack that killed an estimated 1,200 people. At the same time, the president hopes to influence any fresh military action, ensuring that it is more targeted and does more to avoid civilian casualties. The White House has already warned Israel against moving into southern Gaza, where many Palestinians living in the coastal enclave have fled, without a concrete plan to protect civilians.

“Biden’s in a bind,” said Aaron David Miller, a longtime Middle East negotiator now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. “He’s tethered himself to Israel’s war aims: eradicating Hamas. But in view of the rising humanitarian catastrophe and the exponential rise in Palestinian deaths, he’s looking for ways to de-escalate and eventually for an exit ramp.” “Freeing hostages is one way to try and extend the truce, get aid into Gaza and hostages out,” Mr. Miller added. “But there’s a moment of decision coming when Israel seeks to resume its ground campaign. Will he press Israel to

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This article is by Talya Minsberg, Yara Bayoumy and Vivian Yee.

TEL AVIV — Israel and Hamas agreed on Monday to extend by two days a cease-fire that has brought a measure of calm to the Gaza Strip after seven weeks of intense warfare, the Qatari government said. The two sides struck a deal to exchange more hostages and prisoners and allow more aid into the beleaguered territory. On the final evening of the initial four-day truce agreement, Hamas released 11 Israelis, including 3-year-old twins and their mother, and Israel provided to Hamas a list of 33 Palestinian prisoners it planned to set free later Monday night, keeping to the three-to-one ratio they have observed so far.

The lengthened respite in fighting raised hopes in Washington that the trajectory of the conflict could bend toward the release of additional captives as well as more humanitarian aid for Gaza, where thousands of civilians have been killed and conditions are desperate for the living.

John F. Kirby, a White House spokesman for the National Security Council, welcomed the lengthened pause in fighting and said the United States would like to see it “extended further until all the hostages are released.”

António Guterres, the secretary general of the United Nations, told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that the extension was “a glimpse of hope and humanity in the middle of the darkness of war.”

The deal came after an Israeli offer to continue the cease-fire by one day for every additional 10 hostages released, who would be exchanged for 30 Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

The Israeli hostages released on Monday were three women

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OMAR EL-QATTAA/A.F.P. — GETTY IMAGES
In Gaza City on Monday, the fourth day of the cease-fire.

Even Biden Voters Are Gloomy About Economy, Despite Data

By LYDIA DePILLIS
Presidents seeking a second term have often found the public’s perception of the economy a pivotal issue. It was a boon to Ronald Reagan; it helped usher Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush out of the White House. Now, as President Biden looks toward a re-election campaign, there are warning signals on that front: With overall consumer sentiment at a low ebb despite solid economic data, even Democrats who supported Mr. Biden in 2020 say they’re not impressed with the economy. In a recent New York Times/Siena College poll of voters in six battleground states, 62 percent of those voters think the economy is only “fair” or “poor” (compared with 97 percent for those who voted for Donald J. Trump). The demographics of Mr. Bi-

den’s 2020 supporters may explain part of his challenge now: They were on balance younger, had lower incomes and were more racially diverse than Mr. Trump’s. Those groups tend to be hit hardest by inflation, which has yet to return to 2020 levels, and high interest rates, which have frustrated first-time home buyers and drained the finances of those dependent on credit. But if the election were held today, and the options were Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump, it’s not clear whether voter perceptions of the economy would tip the balance. “The last midterm was an abortion election,” said Joshua Doss, an analyst at the public opinion research firm HIT Strategies, referring to the 2022 voting that followed the Supreme Court’s deci-

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A Home in New York City

Five new migrants told us how they have found shelter, earned money and sought legal ways to stay. PAGES A14-15

The Dark Side of Solar Power

Solar energy is booming in Georgia, but the industry now worries that it could be too much and too fast. PAGE A12

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Tunnel Disaster Setbacks

After 15 days, 41 construction workers in a tunnel in India remain trapped, with rescuers turning to drilling vertically through a mountain. PAGE A9

New Zealand’s Focus on Crime

As the incoming government promises more policing, strategies of Maori wardens stand in sharp contrast. PAGE A11

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Pioneering Historian of Everest

Audrey Salkeld trawled 56 boxes of forgotten archives, illuminating figures from early expeditions. She was 87.



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Freakishly Smart Falcons

The success of wild striated caracaras in a test suggests that intellects of many birds may be underestimated. PAGE D8

Taking Bugs to Mars

If humans are ever going to live on the red planet, they’re going to need some insects to share the landscape. PAGE D1

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A Mystery to Solve

Emma Corrin, who played a young Princess Diana in “The Crown,” portrays an amateur sleuth in “A Murder at the End of the World.” PAGE C1

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Reality of an N.B.A. Trade

The lives of Mike Conley and his family were uprooted by a deal that sent them from Utah to Minnesota. But the star has embraced his new role. PAGE B7

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Paul Krugman

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Downsizing a Big Problem

The dream of reviving nuclear power in the U.S. rests on a new generation of smaller reactors meant to be easier to build. But obstacles loom. PAGE B1



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