



Partly sunny 73/49 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 77/58 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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ELECTION 2024

Biden secures needed delegates

He clinches nomination with win in Georgia as Trump also nears victory

BY HANNAH KNOWLES AND TOLUSE OLORUNNIPA

President Biden secured the Democratic nomination for the presidency on Tuesday hours before Donald Trump was likely to do the same on the Republican side, formalizing a general-election rematch that many voters dread but that has appeared virtually inevitable for months.

Biden clinched the nomination with a win in Georgia, where the Associated Press also quickly projected a victory for Trump. Mississippi was called for both men not long after. Washington state also held its primaries Tuesday, while Hawaii was holding its GOP caucuses — a week after Super Tuesday, when 15 states voted at once. Biden needed to win 1,968 delegates to this summer's Democratic National Convention, while Trump needs to win 1,215 delegates to the Republican National Convention to lock down the nomination.

The general election is effectively well underway, with Trump and Biden sparring over immigration, the economy, abortion and each other's fitness for office. Biden's State of the Union speech last week resembled a campaign curtain-raiser as he sought to

SEE PRIMARIES ON A8

RNC shake-up: Trump takes charge with a wave of layoffs. **A7**

Death of ex-worker another jolt for Boeing

Whistleblower publicized safety concerns, long an issue for aircraft maker

BY IAN DUNCAN AND LORI ARATANI

The death of a former Boeing employee who had raised concerns about lapses at a South Carolina factory has renewed attention on the aerospace giant's long history of facing allegations, from inside the company and from regulators, of the kinds of quality control issues that came to light after a piece of an Alaska Airlines jet fell off midflight in January.

Almost a decade ago, the company entered into a wide-ranging settlement with the Federal Aviation Administration in part over potentially dangerous debris left on Boeing jets, such as metal shavings and tools. Fatal crashes in 2018 and 2019 triggered other whistleblowers to come forward to Congress to allege that relentless production schedules were causing safety and quality risks at Boeing plants.

And the Jan. 5 Alaska Airlines incident, which investigators said was caused by the faulty installation

SEE BOEING ON A4



JOHNSON SABIN/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Burned vehicles in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Saturday. Haiti's most powerful gang leader had threatened a civil war unless Prime Minister Ariel Henry stepped down, and before Henry did, said his coalition of gangs would oppose a new transitional panel, too.

Haiti races to bring in new leaders

After prime minister resigns, 24-hour deadline given to create council to govern until elections

BY WIDLORE MÉRANCOURT, SAMANTHA SCHMIDT, MICHAEL BIRNBAUM AND AMANDA COLETTA

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — Haitian leaders scrambled Tuesday to meet a 24-hour deadline to set up a panel that will lead the deteriorating country to new elections following the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

Kenyan officials, meanwhile, said they were putting the deployment of a U.N.-approved multinational security force to the beleaguered Caribbean nation on pause until a new government is in place, according to media reports. A senior U.S. State Department official said the transitional presidential council would select an interim prime minister and government in “the very near future” and the mission should “go forward without delay.”

Henry, under intense pressure from U.S. officials, the international community and the



ODELYN JOSEPH/AP

Women hide during a March 1 gun battle in the capital, where gang violence has terrorized residents in recent weeks.

gangs that control much of Haiti's capital, said late Monday that he would step down once the council appointed an interim replacement.

The hours that followed were marked by uncertainty about what would happen next — and how quickly. Perhaps the great-

est question: Would the gangs that helped push Henry allow the transition to a new authority?

Henry's resignation followed an hours-long meeting of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Haitian politi-

cians and others working to bring political stability to the country of more than 11 million that is consumed by its worst violence in decades.

The council will be empowered to perform the duties of the presidency, an office that has been vacant since the still-unsolved 2021 assassination of Jovenel Moïse. It will consist of seven voting members representing seven sectors of Haitian society, including Henry's political party, and nonvoting members from civil society and the interfaith community, Caricom said.

U.S. officials said the goal was to name an interim prime minister as quickly as possible, but it was unclear how soon the transitional government would be in place and whether it would be able to quell the violent armed gangs that control an estimated 80 percent of Port-au-Prince.

Over the past week, the gangs have ramped up their reign of terror in the capital, attacking

SEE HAITI ON A15

TV-smashing Taliban now fostering YouTubers

In far cry from its 1990s rule, the group is using video tech in a radical push to remake Afghanistan

BY RICK NOACK

KABUL — The Taliban-run government is fostering a thriving community of YouTube influencers and video bloggers in Afghanistan, seeking to shape a positive narrative about the country by rewarding those who have welcome viewpoints with access to stories that can draw millions of views online.

The Taliban, which smashed televisions and burned films in the 1990s during its first stint in power, is now using modern video technology in its radical campaign to remake Afghanistan. The regime grants influencers coveted broadcasting licenses that put them on an equal footing with TV networks and radio stations, and threatens to withdraw the licenses of those who break official rules. Influencers whose work is seen as benefiting the regime have been allowed to embed with government ministries and showcase their achievements.

Meanwhile, videos that are critical of the Taliban have largely

SEE TALIBAN ON A14



ELISE BLANCHARD FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Two videographers for “Kabul Lovers,” one of the nation's most successful YouTube channels, work on a piece about heavy snow in the Afghan capital. To prosper, channels must observe strict Taliban rules.

THE ECONOMY
For voters living in Arizona mobile-home parks, spikes in rent are influential ahead of the election. **A19**
Consumer prices rose 3.2 percent in February, adding to uncertainty about interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve later this year. **A20**

THE WORLD
War-weary Gazans described a joyless Ramadan in an enclave on the brink of famine. **A13**
Ukrainian drones hit Russian cities and oil facilities as anti-Kremlin units attacked. **A18**

THE NATION
Federal officials told UnitedHealth Group to do more to address a national payment crisis. **A3**
Federal court leaders strengthened a policy in the hopes of deterring “judge shopping.” **A9**

IN THE NEWS

Ukraine aid The Biden administration will send \$300 million in security assistance as a request for billions stalls in Congress. **A12**

Casa Ruby case The founder of a D.C. nonprofit serving LGBTQ youths was released to home confinement as she fights federal fraud and money-laundering charges. **B1**

Hur stands ground on Hill

DEFENDS REPORT ON BIDEN DOCUMENTS

Ex-special counsel takes fire from both parties

BY PERRY STEIN AND DEVLIN BARRETT

Republicans and Democrats squeezed former special counsel Robert K. Hur for more than four hours Tuesday, trying to get him to either condemn President Biden as a crook, say former president Donald Trump's treatment of classified documents was worse or admit his own purported failings in an investigation into whether the sitting president broke the law in handling classified papers.

None of it worked. Under aggressive questioning by the House Judiciary Committee, Hur defended the 345-page report he issued last month, which found some evidence that Biden willfully retained classified government materials after he left the vice presidency in 2017 but concluded that there was not enough proof to justify criminal charges.

At the outset of the hearing, SEE TESTIMONY ON A11

Biden's interview: Full transcript shows nuance of Hur sessions. **A10**

The Fix: Some GOP claims about Biden undercut by testimony. **A12**

House bill to reignite fight over TikTok

Potential ban poised to pass chamber, but future in Senate remains murky

BY DREW HARWELL, CRISTIANO LIMA-STRONG, ELLEN NAKASHIMA AND JACOB BOGAGE

The House on Tuesday was speeding toward a vote on a bill that could lead to the forced sale or nationwide ban of TikTok, reigniting the battle over a massively popular video app that has come to epitomize Washington anxieties over the growing power of social media and China's influence.

The legislation is widely expected to pass the House, but it lacks a companion measure in the Senate and faces an uncertain path there, with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) pledging in an interview to block any measure that he felt violated the Constitution. Paul's opposition squelched a similar legislative effort a year ago.

Americans “choose to use TikTok to express themselves,” Paul said Tuesday. “I don't think Con-

SEE TIKTOK ON A6

Trump: How the former president switched his stance on TikTok. **A6**

BUSINESS NEWS.....	A19
COMICS.....	C6
OPINION PAGES.....	A21
OBITUARIES.....	B4
TELEVISION.....	C3
WORLD NEWS.....	A13

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