



Volodymyr Vakulenko, whose son, the Ukrainian writer of the same name, was arrested and killed by occupying forces in 2022.

ISRAEL BOMBARDS TARGETS IN YEMEN

Retaliating for a Houthi Drone in Tel Aviv

This article is by Aaron Boxerman, Ronen Bergman, Shuaib Al-mosawa and Eric Schmitt.

JERUSALEM — Israeli fighter jets bombed a port in Yemen controlled by the Iran-backed Houthi militia on Saturday in retaliation for the group's deadly drone attack in Tel Aviv a day earlier. It was the first time Israel has publicly struck the group after months of escalating Houthi attacks.

The airstrikes targeted a power station as well as gas and oil depots in the area of the Red Sea port of Hodeidah, according to a Houthi spokesman and two regional officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Israel said it had struck sites used for military purposes, although Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesman, said that Israel had attacked some "dual use" targets that have civilian and military functions.

Admiral Hagari said the operation was "one of the farthest and longest ever conducted by the Israeli air force." He called the port a major supply stop for Iran to funnel weapons to its Houthi allies in Yemen, who have fired more than 200 missiles and drones at Israel over the past several months.

But the Hodeidah port is also a crucial point for all goods, including desperately needed food and oil, to enter northwestern Yemen, much of which is controlled by the Houthis; at least two-thirds of the impoverished country's population lives under the group's rule.

The Ministry of Health in Houthi-controlled Sana, Yemen's capital, said at least 80 people were wounded in the attack, most of them with severe burns, according to The Associated Press.

Yahya Sarea, the Houthi spokesman, said that the strike on the port would not deter the militia from engaging in additional attacks against Israel. The group says it fires munitions at Israel as

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Safeguarding Ukrainian Literature, at All Costs

By ANDREW E. KRAMER
and MARIA VARENIKOVA

KHARKIV, Ukraine — After Russian forces took control of his village in 2022, Volodymyr Vakulenko, a well-known Ukrainian author, sensed he might soon be arrested. So he buried his new handwritten manuscript in his backyard, under a cherry tree.

Best known in Ukraine for his cheerful and lyrical children's books, Mr. Vakulenko was seething with anger at Moscow's occupying forces. As his village lost cellphone service and news from the outside world dried up, he filled his new work with reflective, sometimes morose, descriptions of life under Russian control:

Account of War Hidden From Russian Forces Under Cherry Tree

people neglecting their flower beds, cooking on campfires as utilities failed, and even fraternizing with the Russians.

Soon enough, Russian soldiers indeed arrested Mr. Vakulenko, and his body later turned up in a mass grave.

Six months later, a fellow Ukrainian author, Viktoria Amelina, learned of the buried book, dug it up, wrote a foreword and sent it to a publisher. But she too was killed, in a missile strike

on a pizza restaurant.

In May, in a final blow, Russian missiles blew up the printing plant in Kharkiv that had published the work. That strike killed seven employees, wounded 22 others and destroyed about a third of Ukraine's overall book-printing capacity.

Despite the anguish that accompanied it, the book, "I Transform: A Diary of Occupation and Selected Poems," ended up on shelves of Ukrainian bookstores and is on sale today. Rescued from the dirt, the book stands as a symbol of an enduring Ukrainian literary life even as Russian forces try to snuff it out.

The deaths of Mr. Vakulenko and Ms. Amelina, and the scene of

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Asha's Farm Sanctuary in Newfane, N.Y., was the center of a bitter fight over livestock and lifestyle.

Taking In Stray Cattle, and Infuriating a Town

By CHRISTOPHER MAAG

NEWFANE, N.Y. — One summer day, a cow and a steer walked away from their farm. The cow was black and was named Blackee. The steer was golden brown, with two stubby horns. He was named Hornee.

Nobody knows when the cows got out, or how. They crossed a field and a road and wandered

onto a neighbor's yard.

This type of thing sometimes happens in rural western New York, where pastures and farms stretch for miles. But Hornee and Blackee had crossed not into another farm but into an animal sanctuary whose owner saves livestock from slaughter and encourages visitors to become vegans.

The next morning, Tracy Mur-

phy, the sanctuary's owner, found the cows in her yard. She herded them into a pen, she said, and immediately notified the local animal control agency. Six days later, an investigator with the agency came to check in on the cows. He interviewed people around the area and learned that a neighbor, Scott Gregson, was missing a heifer and a steer. Clearly, the

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Trump's Team Privately Preps For Harris Run

Strategy of Attack Ads and Legal Wrangling

By MAGGIE HABERMAN
and JONATHAN SWAN

Donald J. Trump's campaign is preparing a major effort to attack Vice President Kamala Harris if President Biden steps aside as the Democratic nominee, including a wave of ads focusing on her record in her current office and in California, according to two people briefed on the matter.

The Trump team has already prepared opposition research books on Ms. Harris, and has similar dossiers on other Democrats who could become the nominee if Mr. Biden were to drop out of the race.

But the bulk of the preparations so far have been focused on Ms. Harris, including a recently concluded poll testing her vulnerabilities in a general election contest, according to the two people. The Trump team's attention on Ms. Harris is based on its assumption that if Democrats were to bypass the first Black woman to serve as vice president, it would drive even deeper divisions in the party and risk alienating their base of Black voters.

Trump allies have also begun examining the records of Democratic governors who are considered potential running mates for Ms. Harris. Advisers to the former president are paying especially close attention to Gov. Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania — the state the Trump campaign is most focused on winning to block the Democrats' path to the White House.

A Trump campaign spokesman did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Brian Fallon, a campaign spokesman for Ms. Harris, said in a statement: "After tanking the bipartisan border deal, Donald Trump has resorted to lying about the vice president's record. As a former district attorney and attorney general, she has stood up to fraudsters and felons like Trump her entire career. Trump's lies won't stop her from continuing to prosecute the case against him on the biggest issues in this race."

Since Mr. Biden's disastrous de-

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ILL AND ISOLATED, BIDEN IS STEWING AT CALLS TO EXIT

'THE DAM HAS BROKEN'

Stung by Obama's Silence as Allies Make Their Unease Public

This article is by Peter Baker, Michael D. Shear and Katie Rogers.

WASHINGTON — Sick with Covid and abandoned by allies, President Biden has been fuming at his Delaware beach house, increasingly resentful about what he sees as an orchestrated campaign to drive him out of the race and bitter toward some of those he once considered close, including his onetime running mate Barack Obama.

Mr. Biden has been around politics long enough to assume that the leaks appearing in the media in recent days are being coordinated to raise the pressure on him to step aside, according to people close to him. He considers Representative Nancy Pelosi, the former House speaker, the main instigator, but is irritated at Mr. Obama as well, seeing him as a puppet master behind the scenes.

The friction between the sitting president and leaders of his party so close to an election is unlike anything seen in Washington in generations — especially because the Democrats now working to ease him out were some of the allies most critical to his success. It was Mr. Obama who elevated Mr. Biden from a presidential also-ran to the vice presidency, setting him up to win the White House in 2020, and it was Ms. Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, who pushed through his landmark legislative achievements.

But several people close to Mr. Biden, who insisted on anonymity to discuss internal matters, described an under-the-weather president coughing and hacking over a hundred miles from the corridors of power as his presidency meets its most perilous moment.

He has watched with rising exasperation as a succession of news stories appeared reporting that Mr. Schumer, Ms. Pelosi, Mr.

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Detailing the Life of a Gunman, Though the 'Why' Is Still Elusive

This article is by Emily Cochrane, Steve Eder, William K. Rashbaum, Amy Julia Harris, Jack Healy and Glenn Thrush.

BETHEL PARK, Pa. — For Thomas Crooks, the suburban Pittsburgh nursing home where he served meals and washed dishes for \$16 an hour was another solitary corner of a nearly invisible life. He was polite but distant, a former co-worker said, ate lunch alone in the break room and rarely spoke with anyone.

But as western Pennsylvania geared up last week for the boisterous spectacle of hosting a rally for former President Donald J. Trump, Mr. Crooks approached his bosses with a request, law enforcement officials said: He wanted to take Saturday off.

He told them he had something important to do.

It was one of the few hints to emerge so far that the 20-year-old engineering sciences graduate was planning to become a political assassin. A week after Mr. Crooks opened fire at the rally and was



Officials are seeking a motive in the Trump rally shooting.

killed by the Secret Service, his ideology and motives remain a vexing question for investigators and the people who crossed paths with him.

In dozens of interviews, former classmates, teachers and neighbors said they still could not square their memories of Mr. Crooks — an awkward, intelligent teenager who liked to tinker with computers and spent his week-ends playing video games — with the image of the stringy-haired gunman at the rally, armed with his father's AR-15-style rifle as he

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Kenya Serial Killings Case

After at least 10 sacks with body parts were found in a dump opposite a police station, a suspect was said to have confessed to killing 42 women. PAGE 10

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A Voice of Progressive Causes

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat from the Houston area, sought racial justice during three decades in Congress. She was 74. PAGE 25

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Getting in the Game

A boutique investment firm is changing the way wealthy professional athletes view, and put their money into, the private equity market. PAGE 6

ARTS & LEISURE

Film Heroes, Real-Life Friends

Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman, who play Deadpool and Wolverine in the latest Marvel movie, on the perks and pitfalls of the superhero life. PAGE 8

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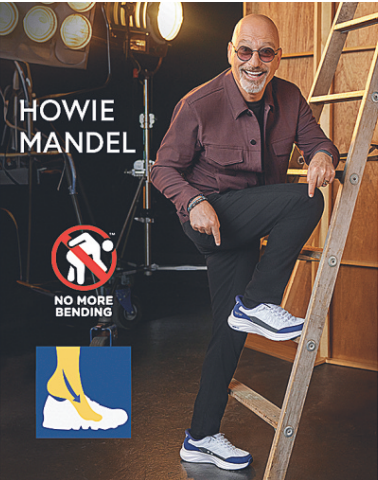


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