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Democracy Dies in Darkness

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Hostage rescued from Gaza tunnel

Israel says he was found alone by forces searching underground network

BY JENNIFER HASSAN, LIOR SOROKA AND LOVEDAY MORRIS

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it rescued hostage Farhan al-Qadi from a tunnel in the Gaza Strip, flying him to a hospital in Israel where he is in stable condition and has reunited with his family, according to his brother and local health officials.



Qadi, 52, had spent more than 10 months in captivity after he was abducted, along with about 250 others, during the Hamas attack on Oct. 7. He is one of just eight hostages the Israeli military has rescued alive.

Israeli forces discovered Qadi while searching a tunnel network in southern Gaza, military officials said. He was alone and unguarded when they found him, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity in line with military protocol.

His brother, Hatem al-Qadi, said in a phone interview that he felt “great joy” over his sibling’s release and that he was “in good

SEE HOSTAGE ON A11

Gaza pier: Biden approved doomed project over internal objections. **A7**

U.N. warning: Israeli order to evacuate city imperils aid. **A10**

Zelensky says he has a plan to end war

Operation in Russia is part of it, he says, but gives no details

BY LIZZIE JOHNSON AND SERHIY MORGUNOV

KYIV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday that this month’s lightning-fast incursion into Russia — where almost 600 Russian soldiers have been captured so far — is part of a larger plan to end the war in his country.

Speaking at a news conference of top officials, Zelensky said he had no intent to permanently annex the region and will present his plan to President Joe Biden — along with presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump — this fall.

“The main point ... is forcing Russia to end the war,” Zelensky said. “We really want justice for Ukraine. And if this plan is accepted — and, second, if it is executed — we believe that the main goal will be reached.”

He declined to provide details of his plan.

Part of Russia’s Kursk border region, including the town of Sudzha, was taken in a surprise attack on Aug. 6, raising spirits for many Ukrainians frustrated by their

SEE UKRAINE ON A11



PHOTOS BY JAH CHIKWENDU/THE WASHINGTON POST

In rural Arkansas, labor is rarely easy

Women in state’s southeast face a shortage of care facilities and a high maternal death rate

BY ANNIE GOWEN IN WARREN, ARK.

The pregnant teen had already picked out a name for her baby, already felt him kick, which made the sight of blood in her underwear all the more frightening as she was getting ready for bed that fall night.

Her mother, Ronica Lawson, called for an ambulance to take them to the hospital five minutes away. As the sirens blared and the EMTs tried to reassure 15-year-old Sa’Ryah Lincoln, bad news crackled out of the radio. Head to the next county, the EMTs were told. The local hospital no longer delivered babies.

In a state that touts itself as “the most pro-life state in the country,” where abortion is prohibited except to save the life of the mother, timber country in southeast Arkansas is an especially dangerous place to give birth.

Arkansas already has one of the nation’s worst maternal mortality rates, and mothers in this area die at a rate exceeding the state average. Ninety-two percent of recent maternal deaths were

SEE ARKANSAS ON A8



TOP: Hajime White, a doula, snuggles with her grandson after an event celebrating the mothers and babies she has helped in recent years. **ABOVE:** India Chilcote talks with health workers LaQeishia Franklin and Lisa Brown during a postpartum visit.

Chinese-backed hackers break into big U.S. internet providers

BY JOSEPH MENN

Chinese government-backed hackers have penetrated deep into U.S. internet service providers in recent months to spy on their users, according to people familiar with the ongoing American response and private security researchers.

The unusually aggressive and sophisticated attacks include access to at least two major U.S. providers with millions of customers as well as to several small-

Separate efforts in recent months seen as targeting undercover personnel

er providers, people familiar with the separate campaigns said.

“It is business as usual now for China, but that is dramatically stepped up from where it used to be. It is an order of magnitude worse,” said Brandon Wales, who

until earlier this month was executive director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA.

The hacks raise concern because their targets are believed to include government and military personnel working undercover and groups of strategic interest to China.

“This is privileged, high-level connectivity to interesting customers,” said Mike Horka, a former FBI agent and current researcher at Lumen Technologies,

which described one of the campaigns but didn’t identify the ISPs it targeted. It was notable, he added, that the groups considered the effort important enough to exploit previously undiscovered software flaws that could have been preserved for later use.

Though there is no evidence that the new inroads are aimed at anything other than gathering intelligence, some of the techniques and resources employed are associated with those used in the past year by a China-backed group

known as Volt Typhoon, two of the people said. U.S. intelligence officials said that group sought access to equipment at Pacific ports and other infrastructure to enable China to sow panic and disrupt America’s ability to move troops, weaponry and supplies to Taiwan if armed conflict breaks out.

The White House referred questions to CISA, inside the Department of Homeland Security, which agreed that the flaw found by Lumen was being exploited. It

SEE CHINA ON A16

As Paralympics get bigger, some athletes say cheating has become more prevalent

BY ROMAN STUBBS

As the starter’s blast echoed through the cobblestone streets of Maniago, Italy, in May, Charles Moreau and his fellow World Cup competitors in hand-cycling surged forward. Then, less than 100 feet into the race, Moreau and 50 other cyclists suddenly stopped to protest a system they say enables cheating at the Paralympic Games.

For two minutes, spectators chanted and applauded before the cyclists resumed the race.

Competitors say lying about level of disability to gain edge is on rise

The demonstration was the latest and most visible example of a sensitive topic that has moved steadily from insider whispers to public outcry: Athletes within the Paralympic movement suspect some competitors of faking the severity of their disabilities to gain an advantage.

The Paralympic Games, which

begin in Paris this week, have transformed from modest beginnings into the third-largest sports competition in the world, and the burgeoning global audience and economy around adapted and para-sports has provided additional rewards and incentives for cheating.

Amid such growth, athletes say the system that is intended to ensure equitable competition is easily manipulated and that the governing bodies charged with oversight are more concerned

SEE PARALYMPICS ON A12



OSCAR MUÑOZ BADILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Charles Moreau, who will compete in the Paris Paralympics in hand-cycling, has protested a system he says enables cheating.

IN THE NEWS

Cellphones at school Tight restrictions and outright bans on the devices are spreading in districts across the country, prompted by concerns about students’ mental health. **A6**

Dangerous driving In a new initiative, the District’s police department is dedicating five officers solely to street traffic enforcement. **B1**

THE NATION
In Pennsylvania, Indian Americans are divided on Kamala Harris’s origin story. **A3**
A judge froze an attempt to offer legal status to undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens. **A16**

THE WORLD
Italian prosecutors are investigating the captain in last week’s deadly yacht sinking. **A11**
Via a dating app, the U.S. military warned against taking up arms in the Middle East. **A14**

THE ECONOMY
Psychedelics pioneer Rick Doblin said he isn’t fazed by the Food and Drug Administration’s rejection of MDMA as a PTSD treatment and will continue his fight. **A15**
Lawmakers called for a crackdown on the sale of clones of Chinese-made drones. **A16**

THE REGION
A man who attacked staffers for Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) with a bat last year was found not guilty by reason of insanity and will be held for treatment. **B1**
The Arlington County Board voted to dismantle the locality’s Human Rights Commission. **B1**

STYLE
Sportswriter Ben Rothenberg detailed alleged abuse by tennis star Alexander Zverev. Then he was sued. **C1**

FOOD
Want to eat sustainably? Learn to cook something new, say farmers looking to improve crop diversity. **E1**

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