

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

VOL. CLXXIII No. 60,178

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



At a D-Day event in Normandy this week, American soldiers ages 18 to 20 honored veterans who came ashore at about the same age. More coverage, Pages A6-8.

For Biden’s D-Day Speech, an Unlikely Template

By PETER BAKER

PARIS — The aging American president facing a re-election campaign came to the Normandy coast of France to pay tribute to the daring Army Rangers who scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, offer a paean to democracy for which they sacrificed and perhaps even wrap himself a little bit in their reflected glory.

That was 1984, and the president was Ronald Reagan, who delivered an ode to heroism and patriotism that would become one of the most iconic moments

WHITE HOUSE MEMO

of his presidency. Forty years later, another aging president facing re-election plans to return to the same spot Friday to honor the same heroes and effectively align himself with Mr. Reagan’s legacy of leadership against tyranny.

President Biden will not be the first president to try to walk in Mr. Reagan’s footsteps in Normandy, and it is a risky gamble. To many in both parties, Mr. Reagan’s speech remains the gold standard of presidential

oratory and none have matched it at Normandy since. But like Mr. Reagan, Mr. Biden wants to use the inspiring story of the Rangers at Pointe du Hoc to make a case for American alliances in the face of Russian aggression — and, implicitly, for himself.

If there is something audacious about Mr. Biden, a staunch Democrat who was no friend of Mr. Reagan’s in the 1980s, summoning the spirit of the Republican legend, it speaks to the up-is-down, black-is-white nature of politics in today’s America. When

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Bill May training with the U.S. team in 1998. He has lobbied to open Olympic competition to men.

At 45, He Wants to Become an Olympic First

By SARAH LYALL

LOS ANGELES — As you watch the U.S. Artistic Swimming team practice for the Olympics — their bodies upside down, their legs scissoring in the air in perfect time, like frenzied offshore wind turbines — you will notice two things.

First, the sport is much harder, and possibly even more insane, than you thought. Second, in a discipline whose enthusiasm for homogeneity is reflected in its pre-2017 name, synchronized

Vying With Women in Artistic Swimming

swimming, one of the athletes in the pool is very much not like the others.

His name is Bill May, and he is the only man on the team. A rule change in 2022 cleared the way for men to compete in the sport at this summer’s Paris Games. That means that this is May’s first and, realistically, last chance ever to

fulfill his lifelong dream of competing in the Olympics. He is 45 years old.

There are 12 people on the team, but only eight, plus an alternate, will get to travel to Paris — a painful reality for such a close-knit group of people. On Saturday, the team will announce who made the final cut.

May is a towering figure in the sport, a breaker of barriers for more than three decades and a leader in the decades-long effort to open Olympic competition to

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Witness Talks Of Drug’s Hold On Biden’s Son

This article is by Glenn Thrush, Eileen Sullivan and Zach Montague.

WILMINGTON, Del. — Hallie Biden walked briskly to the witness box, past her brother-in-law and ex-boyfriend Hunter Biden, to chronicle a star-crossed relationship that ended in anguish, her own addiction and, eventually, his criminal prosecution.

Ms. Biden, 50, is by far the most important witness for the government. She is one of the few able to offer a detailed, and intimate, accounting of Mr. Biden’s all-consuming addiction to crack cocaine. He is on trial on charges of lying about his drug use on a form to buy a gun in October 2018, and of illegally possessing the weapon.

Moments after she sat down, prosecutors homed in on what they see as the heaviest blow to Mr. Biden’s defense, in a series of texts showing that he bought and smoked crack in the 48 hours after he purchased a gun in Delaware.

The testimony was intended to nail down a clear prosecutorial timeline, which Mr. Biden’s lawyers later undermined. But it also had the effect of forcing, Ms. Biden, a recovering addict, to revisit days of desperation and shame, so traumatic that it seemed to dim her memory. She was clearly shaken, repeatedly scanning the gallery for her new husband’s face among the crowd of gawking reporters.

“It was a terrible experience that I went through,” said Ms. Biden, a former school counselor.

“I’m embarrassed and ashamed and I regret that part of my life.”

The defendant nodded in affirmation, almost imperceptibly, as she spoke.

Ms. Biden — speaking in nervous, clipped bursts — admitted she had smoked crack after President Biden’s youngest son had introduced her to the drug in the summer of 2018, before quitting a few months later. At the time, the

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Behind Lines Where Israel Takes Gazans

By PATRICK KINGSLEY and BILAL SHBAIR

SDE TEIMAN, Israel — The men sat in rows, handcuffed and blindfolded, unable to see the Israeli soldiers who stood watch over them from the other side of a mesh fence.

They were barred from talking more loudly than a murmur, and forbidden to stand or sleep except when authorized.

A few knelt in prayer. One was being inspected by a paramedic. Another was briefly allowed to remove his handcuffs to wash himself. The hundreds of other Gazan detainees sat in silence. They were all cut off from the outside world, prevented for weeks from contacting lawyers or relatives.

This was the scene one afternoon in late May at a military hangar inside Sde Teiman, an army base in southern Israel that has become synonymous with the detention of Gazan Palestinians. Most Gazans captured since the start of the war on Oct. 7 have been brought to the site for initial interrogation, according to the Israeli military.

The military, which has not previously granted access to the media, allowed The New York Times to briefly see part of the detention

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THE WEATHER
Today, less humid, clouds and sun, high 84. Tonight, an evening shower, partly cloudy, low 64. Tomorrow, mix of clouds and sun, low humidity, high 79. Weather map, Page B12.

ISRAELIS ATTACK CIVILIAN SHELTER AND KILL DOZENS

SAID IT HID MILITANTS

Officials in Gaza Count Women and Children Among the Dead

This article is by Aaron Boxerman, Abu Bakr Bashir, Erika Solomon and Thomas Fuller.

An Israeli airstrike on Thursday hit a United Nations school complex in central Gaza that had become a shelter for thousands of displaced Palestinians and, Israel said, Hamas militants. Gazan health officials said dozens of people were killed, including women and children.

The strike was the latest in a deadly surge of fighting in central Gaza, where Israeli forces have announced an offensive against what they describe as a renewed insurgency by Hamas.

The strike hit a compound that had been operated by UNRWA, the main U.N. body that aids Palestinians in Gaza. About 6,000 displaced Palestinians were sheltering in the complex, in the central Gaza area of Nuseirat, when it was struck, said Juliette Touma, an UNRWA spokeswoman.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets had targeted three classrooms in the school building that held 20 to 30 Palestinian militants affiliated with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a smaller militia that, like Hamas, is backed by Iran. Israeli forces had twice postponed the strike to reduce civilian casualties, the military said.

The precise toll could not be verified. The Gaza Health Ministry said that of the roughly 40 people killed in the attack, 14 were children and nine were women. Later, The Associated Press reported different numbers, saying at least 33 people died, including three women and nine children, citing the hospital morgue.

Crowds gathered at Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Hospital in Deir al Balah, a city in central Gaza, to weep and pray over the dead. A local Palestinian videographer posted footage showing a young woman with the body of her small son.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli military spokesman, said he was “not aware of any civilian casualties” resulting from the strike. “We conducted a precise strike against the terrorists where they were,” he said. He said the militants had used the compound to plan attacks on Israeli forces, although he did not provide specific examples.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, another Israeli military spokesman, said Israeli forces had followed the militants for three days before opening fire.

“They pinpointed the three classrooms, waited three days and then killed,” he added.

Israeli security agencies have so far verified the identities of nine militants killed in the strike, “some” of whom participated in the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks, Ad-

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A woman held the hand of a dead boy in central Gaza Thursday.

BUSINESS B1-5
How an A.I. Device Flopped
Humane’s Ai Pin was supposed to free us from smartphones, but reviews have been critical and sales slow. [PAGE B1](#)

A.I. Firms and Antitrust
Regulatory scrutiny of the technology is escalating as three major players face federal investigation. [PAGE B1](#)

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A City of Fear in Ukraine
Residents in Sumy, in the nation’s northeast, repelled Russian forces in 2022, but the Kremlin is believed to be preparing a new offensive. [PAGE A4](#)

Where Presidents Get One Try
Mexico’s Constitution has a strict, and relatively rare, one-term limit for its leader, a restriction that comes with its share of pros and cons. [PAGE A9](#)

‘Greenlash’ in Europe
After years of political consensus in Europe on the transition to cleaner energy, right-wing candidates are gaining ground. [PAGE A10](#)

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Free Speech Champ Says Shhh
Carol Christ, retiring chancellor at U.C. Berkeley, advises: “Just because you have the right to say something doesn’t mean it’s right to say.” [PAGE A14](#)

Behind a Tolling Plan Reversal
Gov. Kathy Hochul is more of a New York City outsider than most of her predecessors. Did that influence a congestion pricing call? [PAGE A21](#)

Key Testimony on Menendez
Gurbir S. Grewal, a former New Jersey attorney general, took the stand in the bribery trial of Senator Robert Menendez, a fellow Democrat. [PAGE A22](#)

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Widening His Gaze
In new collages at the Queens Museum, the photographer Lyle Ashton Harris has moved from brush to chill. [PAGE C1](#)

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Two years after a steroid suspension, the Padres’ Fernando Tatis Jr. has regained some lost confidence. [PAGE B6](#)

Not Exactly ‘Canada’s Team’
The Oilers have reached the Stanley Cup finals, but that doesn’t mean all of Canada will be rooting for them. [PAGE B7](#)

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