

BASEBALL 2024

Nationals hope their rebuilding effort is complete **SPECIAL SECTION**



WINTER ALL-MET

The top high school athletes from across the DMV **SPECIAL SECTION**



STYLE

The hero: When the war on terror comes home **EXPANDED SECTION**



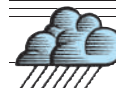
THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

Get totally prepared for April's celestial show **SPECIAL SECTION**

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4



Showers 53/47 • Tomorrow: Rain 58/41 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 • \$5

Justices wary of bid to restrict pill access

Suggest narrow ruling in case over FDA loosening abortion drug regulations

BY ANN E. MARIMOW AND CAROLINE KITCHENER

The Supreme Court on Tuesday seemed unlikely to limit access to mifepristone, a key medication that is used in more than 60 percent of U.S. abortions and has emerged as the next front in the battle over how and whether women can terminate their pregnancies.

During nearly two hours of oral argument, a majority of justices from across the ideological spectrum expressed skepticism that the antiabortion doctors challenging the Food and Drug Administration's loosening of regulations for the long-approved medication have suffered the type of direct harm that would give them sufficient legal grounds to bring the lawsuit.

The Biden administration and the drug's manufacturer urged the justices to reverse a lower-court ruling that would make it more difficult to access mifepristone, in a case that centers on the role of government agencies in regulating medicine and returns the issue of abortion to the high court less than two years after the conservative majority overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

Several justices, including Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Neil M. Gorsuch and Ketanji Brown Jackson, seemed interested in a narrow ruling that would not address the underlying regulatory or safety questions in the case, but would retain existing levels of access that allow patients to use mifepristone later into pregnancy and obtain the medication directly by mail.

Gorsuch, a nominee of President Donald Trump, joined Jackson, a nominee of President Biden, in emphasizing that the Supreme Court often says its rulings should address the alleged harm at issue and go no further.

"This case seems a prime example of the Court's role in the abortion pill case," said a Justice Department spokesman.

Candid exchanges: Court's female justices were strikingly specific. **A7**

Outside court: Hundreds on both sides of the issue demonstrate. **B1**

After losing power, huge cargo ship plows into Key Bridge in Baltimore

6 construction workers presumed dead; 2 others rescued from water

Collapse deals blow to economy, with shipping halted at crucial port

'The whole bridge just fell down'



Structure stood no chance against colossal freighter

BY MICHAEL LARIS, JENNIFER HASSAN AND JOEL ACHENBACH

To bridge experts, the collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge after being hit by a heavy cargo ship was as inevitable as it was devastating.

When a vessel as heavy as the Singapore-flagged Dali crashes with such force against one of the span's supercolumns, or piers, the result is the type of catastrophic, and heartbreaking, chain reaction that took place early Tuesday.

"If the column is destroyed, basically the structure will fall down," said Dan Frangopol, a bridge engineering and risk professor at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania who is president of the International Association for Bridge Maintenance and Safety. "It's not possible to redistribute

SEE BRIDGE ON A14



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN NEWTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Much of the 1.6-mile Francis Scott Key Bridge over the Patapsco River in Baltimore collapsed early Tuesday after the span was struck by the Dali, a Singapore-flagged cargo ship. The disaster severed an important portion of Baltimore's Beltway, a major East Coast artery.

'Is everyone on board safe?': Director of Baltimore ministry was in touch with the crew after the crash. **A16**

Impact on Baltimore: Residents worry about what the disaster will mean for the economy and commutes. **A16**

CREW'S 'MAYDAY' CALL SAVED LIVES

Traffic was shut down on span just before crash

This article is by Justin Jouvenal, Peter Hermann, Tim Craig, Ellen Francis and Danny Nguyen

As a cargo ship the size of a skyscraper drifted dangerously close to a major Baltimore bridge that carried more than 30,000 cars a day, the crew of the Dali issued an urgent "mayday," hoping to avert disaster Tuesday.

First responders sprang into action, shutting down most traffic on the four-lane Francis Scott Key Bridge just before the 95,000 gross-ton vessel plowed into a bridge piling at about 1:30 a.m., causing multiple sections of the span to bow and snap in a harrowing scene captured on video.

"C13 dispatch, the whole bridge just fell down!" someone shouted on an emergency channel.

SEE COLLAPSE ON A15

Qatari royal put \$50 million into Newsmax

BY DAVID KENNER, SARAH ELLISON AND JONATHAN O'CONNELL

A member of the Qatari royal family invested roughly \$50 million in Newsmax, according to documents and representatives for the media company and the royal, in a moment of acute Middle East tensions during the Trump administration. The investment bolstered a key conservative media outlet at a time when Qatar was facing intense diplomatic pressure from its neighbors and seeking allies in the United States.

Money for pro-Trump network came as emirate sought allies in U.S.

At the time the investment was made, a coalition of countries led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had established a diplomatic and economic blockade against Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorist groups across the Middle East. Qatar had counted on its relationship with the United

States for protection, but President Donald Trump initially sided with its regional rivals, praising their move in 2017 and criticizing Qatar for funding terrorism.

In 2019 and 2020, Sheikh Sultan bin Jassim Al Thani, a former Qatari government official and the owner of a London-based investment fund, Heritage Advisors, invested in Newsmax. The investment has not been previously reported.

Newsmax had been looking for outside investors to better compete with its much larger

SEE NEWSMAX ON A13

Americans spending big on eclipse tourism

BY ABHA BHATTARAI

For those hoping to catch a glimpse of the total solar eclipse in April, there's no shortage of options. Six Flags Over Texas is hosting a "Solar Coaster" viewing party. Holland America has a 22-day Solar Eclipse Cruise. And after filling up one path-of-totality flight, Delta Air Lines has added a second, promising unadulterated views from "extra-large" windows.

But almost everything is sold out.

The total solar eclipse, which will be visible from more than a

Influx of visitors could bring sizable economic boost to regions in path

dozen states, is fueling a small spending boom across the nation. Hotels are booked, campgrounds are full and rental cars are nowhere to be found around the April 8 event. States including Arkansas and Indiana are expecting record-breaking travel and spending.

"This is likely going to be the single biggest tourism event we've ever had," said Michael Pak-

ko, an economist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, who is projecting a statewide windfall of \$105 million. "Obviously, it's going to be a short duration — a long weekend — but for that concentrated period of time, it's going to be a very big deal."

It's also rare. A total solar eclipse — in which the moon completely covers the sun for a few minutes, creating a pitch-black "path of totality" — is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many. It's been 99 years since New York had one, and 218 years for Ohio. This time around, the path of totality

SEE ECLIPSE ON A22

IN THE NEWS

Gag order The judge overseeing Donald Trump's upcoming hush money trial barred him from discussing witnesses and certain other people involved in the case. **A7**

Sean Combs raids Searches of the hip-hop mogul's homes in L.A. and Miami are said to be part of a sex-trafficking investigation. **A8**

THE NATION **NBC reversed** its decision to hire Ronna McDaniel after backlash from its on-air talent. **A2**
Donald Trump's mother-in-law immigrated through a process he has derided. **A4**

THE WORLD **Graphics help** visualize death, hunger and displacement in Gaza on a personal scale. **A10**
A British court delayed the extradition of Julian Assange to the United States. **A12**

THE ECONOMY **As their trust** in companies dwindles, members of Gen Z are turning to side hustles to make extra money and build their skills. **A17**
Shares of Donald Trump's social media start-up soared in their first day of public trading Tuesday. **A22**

THE REGION **Prince George's** County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks's predecessor endorsed her U.S. Senate campaign. **B1**
Jeffrey Clark, a former Trump Justice Department official, attempted a "coup" after the 2020 election, an attorney for the D.C. Bar argued. **B1**

SPORTS **New owners** for the Orioles and Commanders are reason for a bit of optimism, Thomas Boswell writes. **D1**
FOOD **Mise en place** is the prep work that helps restaurant kitchens run smoothly, but is it a must for home cooks? **E1**

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