# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER** 

**Today,** humid, a thunderstorm, high 86. **Tonight,** humid, a spotty thunderstorm early, low 74. **Tomorrow,** sunny to partly cloudy, humid, high

VOL. CLXXIII .... No. 60,232

© 2024 The New York Times Company

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



# Glittering Redemption

The U.S. women's gymnastics team returned to the top Tuesday in Paris, led by Simone Biles, who won her fifth gold medal. Page B8.

# Post-Election Protests Turn Deadly in Venezuela

#### By FRANCES ROBLES and ISAYEN HERRERA

CARACAS, Venezuela - At least 16 people — including one soldier — have died and about 750 more have been arrested as a result of protests in Venezuela, following the highly contentious presidential election over the weekend, according to rights groups, government officials and relatives of the victims.

Election officials declared the nation's autocratic leader, President Nicolás Maduro, the winner of another six-year term early Monday, saying he handily beat a diplomat, former Edmundo González. But the government has not released the full results, and many countries, including the United States, have said that the

## At Least 16 Are Killed in Street Clashes Over Contested Result

vote was marred by widespread irregularities.

Both sides of the country's political divide called on followers to take to the streets, which resulted in deadly clashes on Monday. The demonstrations continued on Tuesday, signaling that the crisis was far from over.

Hundreds of people gathered early Tuesday outside the United Nations office in Caracas, the capital, denouncing the official results.

"We are totally united," said Robert Castellanos, 46, a chef who

was an election monitor in his district, where he said Mr. González had received three times as many votes as the president. "This has been the biggest fraud in the history of Latin America." Jorge Rodríguez, the president

of the National Assembly and the head of Mr. Maduro's campaign, also called for marches on Tuesday from traditional government strongholds to Miraflores, the presidential palace.

"We are going to Miraflores to defend our right to life, our right to freedom, and, above all, our right to choose and to defend the result of the election," he said.

In the end, however, it appeared that the turnout for the pro-government demonstration on a rainy afternoon was relatively modest.

Continued on Page A10



An opposition supporter with a list of recorded votes during a rally Tuesday in Caracas, Venezuela.

# Audits Missed the Abuses in India's Sugar Fields

# By MEGHA RAJAGOPALAN

KOLHAPUR, India — Bags of sugar that leave the Dalmia Bharat Sugar mill in the western Indian city of Kolhapur come with an industry guarantee: It was harvested humanely, in fields free of child labor, debt bondage and

None of that is true.

The mill is certified by a group called Bonsucro, which sets the industry standard for sugar produc-

### Reviews Were Rushed, and Kept Secret

tion. Brands including Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Unilever and General Mills use the Bonsucro name to reassure customers that their supply chains demonstrate "respect for human rights," even in places where abuses are widespread, like the region around the

Dalmia mill.

But a New York Times investigation found that Bonsucro's inspections were all but guaranteed not to find problems. Internal documents and interviews with sugar mill executives, experts and Bonsucro contractors show that mills retain tremendous control over what auditors see and whom they can talk to. The audits are carried out hurriedly — from the mill to the farms in a matter of days

Continued on Page A11

# Senate Passes Bill to Protect Youth Online

By MAYA C. MILLER

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday passed bipartisan legislation to impose sweeping safety and privacy requirements for children and teens on social media and other technology platforms, voting overwhelmingly to send the measure to the House, where its fate was uncertain.

Passage of the measure, which has been the subject of a dogged advocacy campaign by parents who say their children lost their lives because of something they found or saw on social media, marked a rare bipartisan achievement at a time of deep polarization in Congress.

Despite the lopsided support mong Republicans and Democrats, the package faces a fierce lobbying effort by technology companies that are resisting new regulation, and deep skepticism among free speech advocates who argue that it would chill individual expression and potentially harm some of those whom the bill aims to protect.

The vote was 91 to 3 to approve the measure, sending it to the House, which is in a summer recess until September. The legislation is the product of years of work by lawmakers and parents to overhaul digital privacy and safety laws as social networking sites, digital gaming and other online platforms increasingly dominate children's and teens' lives.

"I used to run marathons, and I feel like I used to feel halfway through: 'Wow, I got this far, and I'm feeling good,'" Senator Richard Blumenthal, Democrat of Connecticut and one of the chief sponsors of the legislation, said in an interview on Tuesday. "The second half can be the toughest in some ways, but also the easiest psychologically because you see the end in sight."

The centerpiece of the legislation would create a "duty of care" for social networking platforms that mandates they protect minors against mental health disorders and from abuse, sexual exploitation and other harms. Companies could be held liable for failing to filter out content or limit features that could lead to those

Continued on Page A15

TEEN FEARS The bill faces an uphill battle in the House because of censorship concerns. PAGE B1

# Israel Jets Hit Lebanon, Aiming for Commander Blamed in Golan Attack

# Heightening Fears of a Full-Blown War

This article is by Ronen Bergman, Adam Rasgon, Euan Ward, Farnaz Fassihi and Hwaida Saad.

TEL AVIV — Israel launched a deadly strike in a densely populated Beirut suburb on Tuesday in retaliation for a rocket attack in Israeli-controlled Golan Heights that it blamed Hezbollah for and that killed 12 children and teenagers on a soccer field.

The target of the Israeli strike in a southern suburb of Lebanon's capital was Fuad Shukr, a senior official who serves as a close adviser to Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, according to three Israeli security officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive de-

The Israel Defense Forces later said in a statement that its fighter jets had "eliminated" Mr. Shukr, but there was no confirmation from Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed group, and the claim could not be independently veri-

Hezbollah has denied carrying out the attack in the Golan Heights on Saturday. The latest strikes were likely to fuel concerns that Israel's long-running conflict with the group could escalate into a full-blown war even as Israel wages a military offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip after that group led a deadly assault in Israel on Oct. 7.

The attack on Tuesday is believed to be the first time since the war with Hamas began that Israel has targeted Hezbollah in Beirut. In January, an Israeli airstrike in a Beirut suburb killed Saleh al-Arouri, a senior leader of Hamas, which is also backed by Iran.

The strike on Tuesday killed at least three other people — a woman and two children — and wounded at least 74 others, five critically, according to Lebanon's Ministry of Health. Officials were

still searching the rubble for other victims, the ministry said.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned the strike, which he said had hit close to one of the country's largest hospitals. Lebanon's foreign minister, Abdallah Bou Habib, said the government would lodge a complaint against Israel at the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday.

The attack hit close to Hezbollah's Shura Council, a central decision-making authority, Lebanon's state-run news agency reported. Videos and photographs on social media showed smoke rising above buildings as darkness fell over Beirut, home to about 2.4 million people.

Crowds filled the streets after the strike in the neighborhood of Haret Hreik, which is the headquarters of Hezbollah and which was largely destroyed by Israeli airstrikes in 2006 during the last war between the two sides.

Mohamed Awada, 52, a taxi driver who lives in Beirut's southern suburbs, said he had been opening the door to his house when he "heard something like thunder and then a big explosion."

"Everybody in the street was yelling and screaming," he added. "It feels like we are already in a

Hezbollah began firing into northern Israel in what it called a show of solidarity with Hamas after the assault on southern Israel in October. Since then, Israel and Hezbollah have traded thousands of strikes across the Israeli-Lebanese border, wrecking towns, killing hundreds and forcing more than 150,000 people in both countries to flee their homes.

The rocket attack on Saturday hit the Arab Druse village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights. The Israeli military said that

Continued on Page A6



Lt. William L. Calley Jr., center, was the only American soldier convicted in the 1968 killing of hundreds of Vietnamese civilians.

WILLIAM L. CALLEY JR., 1943-2024

# Face of U.S. Army's Massacre In My Lai That Horrified World

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

William L. Calley Jr., who as a young Army lieutenant during the Vietnam War was the only American convicted in the murder of hundreds of unarmed, unresisting Vietnamese civilians in the atrocity known as the My Lai massacre, died on April 28 in Gainesville, Fla. He was 80.

His death, at a hospice, was confirmed on Monday night by Social Security Administration records. The cause was not publicly disclosed. Family members did not immediately respond to requests for more information.

Mr. Calley's death was first re-

ported by The Washington Post. More than 56 years after the killings of as many as 500 women, children and older men by Americans who attacked with automatic weapons, grenades and bayonets; raped girls and women; mutilated bodies; killed livestock, and burned the village, My Lai (pronounced mee LYE) still reverberates as one of the worst outrages of a brutal and divisive war.

On the morning of March 16, 1968, Second Lieutenant Calley, a 24-year-old platoon leader who had been in Vietnam just three

Continued on Page A19



NATIONAL A12-18

# How a Blaze Grew So Fast

The Park fire, now the fifth largest in California history, spread on land dried by a month of extreme heat. PAGE A12

# 'You Won't Have to Vote'

Former President Donald J. Trump, in a Fox News interview, refused to walk PAGE A13 back his comments.

**INTERNATIONAL A4-11** 

# Ukraine Loses Pair of Villages

"It was like a fight between two packs of dogs," said an army major, describing the struggle for one of the areas, Urozhaine. PAGE A9

### **BUSINESS B1-5**

#### A Scam Took His Retirement A retired lawyer fell victim to criminals

on the internet, who are increasingly going after older Americans.

# Harris Faces an Uglier Internet

Kamala Harris is being attacked on more platforms, with new technologies and bigger audiences. PAGE B1



### ARTS C1-6

Best Seat in the House

The Path of Art and Soul in Tuscany features beautiful benches and, near its end, "Guardian of the Valley." PAGE C1

# Never Too Old to Be Funny

Comedies like "The Fabulous Four" and "80 for Brady" are relying on actresses in their 70s to lead the way.

# SPORTS B6-11

# China Clears Elite Swimmers

Two athletes, one of whom was named to the Olympic team in Paris, tested positive in 2022 for a banned steroid. China blamed tainted food.

**OBITUARIES A22** 

# Creator of 'Sweet Valley High'

Francine Pascal conjured up a literary universe that featured the cheerleaders and jocks of suburban Los Angeles. She was 92.

OPINION A20-21 **Bret Stephens** 

PAGE A21



# FOOD D1-8

# Weeknight Tomato Dishes

We offer five easy-to-make recipes for dinners that make the most of summer's crown jewel, leveraging its distinct sweetness and acidic ping.

