"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, windy, very cold, a mix of clouds and sun, blowing snow, high 24. **Tonight,** cloudy, frigid, low 18. **Tomorrow**, sunny, breezy, not as cold, high 31. Weather map, Page B10.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Voters Gloomy Over Prospect Of a Rematch

Biden vs. Trump Elicits Denial and Disbelief

> By REID J. EPSTEIN and KEN BENSINGER

MANCHESTER, N.H. - President Biden is cruising to the Democratic nomination. Former President Donald J. Trump could begin to wrap up his party's nod within

America's response: This can't

Even as both men stroll toward likely summer coronations and a fall rematch, an undercurrent of disbelief is coursing through the country. Many Republicans view Mr. Biden as so politically and physically weak that they think his party will replace him. Many Democrats can't fathom that Mr. Trump could win another nomination while he is facing 91 felony counts and four criminal trials.

This incredulity ranging from casual doubtfulness to conspiratorial denial - has lurked beneath a year of polling showing a deeply gloomy public mood, and has emerged in dozens of interviews over the last two weeks as well as recent declarations from candidates and political commen-

"They'll pull a switcheroo at the last minute," David Lage, a Republican missionary from Spring Hill, Iowa, said of Democrats. "They've tried about every other dirty trick.'

Paige Leary of Exeter, N.H., an independent who voted for Mr. Biden in 2020 and for Democrats in previous presidential elections, also questioned whether Mr. Trump would be the Republican nominee.

"The jury's out," she said. "We don't know what will happen legally with Trump."

Such contrasting views reflect how the doubts about Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump have different origins in each party.

For Republicans, waning trust in the political system is the dominant theme. The party is nearly a decade into the Trump era, and misinformation and conspiratorial thinking about Mr. Biden's health and Democratic plotting to replace him are rampant in the

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SHIFTING GEARS Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida has begun casting his eyes toward 2028. PAGE A15

Mass Layoffs Bring Turmoil To Sports Bible

By KEVIN DRAPER and BENJAMIN MULLIN

Sports Illustrated, the venerable bible of sports journalism, has been in decline for years, as the internet annihilated print magazines and cost-cutting turned the weekly publication into a monthly and whittled its staff. But on Friday, the magazine received perhaps its toughest blow yet.

The company that publishes Sports Illustrated said in an email to employees that it was laying off many of them, leaving in doubt what lies ahead for the publica-

The move came after the Arena Group, which publishes the magazine and website under a complicated management structure, had its license to operate the publication revoked.

Reporters and editors for

Sports Illustrated were asked on

Friday to attend a Zoom call at 2 p.m. Eastern. It lasted just seven minutes. On the call, Jay Frankl, the Arena Group's newly hired chief business transformation of-Continued on Page A19



Capt. Amit Busi, 23, of the Israel Defense Forces, right, commands a company of 83 soldiers, and their respect. Nearly half are men.

Anti-Gay Rules In Uganda Risk H.I.V. Progress

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI and ESTHER RUTH MBABAZI

For decades, Uganda's campaign against H.I.V. was exemplary, slashing the country's death rate by nearly 90 percent from 1990 to 2019. Now a sweeping law enacted last year, the Anti-Homosexuality Act, threatens to renew the epidemic as L.G.B.T.Q. citizens are denied, or are too afraid to seek out, necessary medical

The law criminalizes consensual sex between same-sex adults. It also requires all citizens to report anyone suspected of such activity, a mandate that makes no exceptions for health care providers tending to patients.

Under the law, merely having same-sex relationships while living with H.I.V. can incur a charge "aggravated homosexuality," which is punishable by death.

Anyone who "knowingly promotes homosexuality" - by hiring or housing an L.G.B.T.Q. person, or by not reporting one to the police - faces up to 20 years in jail. Scores of Ugandans have been evicted from homes and fired from jobs, according to interviews with lawyers and activists.

Entrapment and blackmail sometimes by the police - are rampant in person, on social media and on dating apps, according to interviews with dozens of peo-

L.G.B.T.Q. people, and the advocates and health care workers helping them, have been subject to threats and violence.

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Mulindwa Benda, 24, a transgender man and educator.

Israeli Women Fight on the Front Lines, a First

By ISABEL KERSHNER

GAZA STRIP — When Capt. Amit Busi gets a chance to sleep, she does so with her boots on and in a shared tent in an improvised Israeli military post in northern Gaza

There she commands a company of 83 soldiers, nearly half of them men. It is one of several mixed-gender units fighting in Gaza, where female combat soldiers and officers are serving on the front line for the first time since the war surrounding the establishment of Israel in 1948.

Captain Busi is responsible not just for the lives of her subordinates — search-and-rescue engineers whose specialized training and tools help infantry troops enter damaged and booby-trapped buildings at risk of collapse — but also for the wounded soldiers they She and her soldiers also help scour the area for fighters, weapons and rocket launchers and are responsible for guarding the

The Military's Needs in Gaza Propel Rapid Societal Change

It can be easy to forget Captain Busi is only 23, given the respect she has clearly earned from her subordinates among them Jews, Druse and Bedouin Muslim

borders have been blurred," Captain Busi said of the decades-long limits on the roles of female combat troops in Israel. The military, she said, "needs us, so we are here."

Since Israeli ground forces entered Gaza in late October, women have been there fighting. Their inclusion has helped bolster the image of the army domestically after the intelligence and military failures of Oct. 7, and amid global scrutiny of the campaign's high civilian death toll. More than 24,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, have been killed

since the start of the war, according to Gaza health officials. The integration of women into

the military's combat units has been the subject of a lengthy debate in Israel, home to one of the world's few armies that conscript women at 18 for mandatory service. For years, the question of women serving at the front pitted ultraconservative rabbis and reliobservant against feminists, secularists and critics of the country's traditionally macho culture.

Now, that debate is effectively

There is no point continuing such arguments, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, the military's chief of staff, said after female soldiers raced to confront Hamas attackers on Oct. 7, because their "action and fighting" speaks louder than words.

Like other fundamentals of Israeli life, many of the preconceptions about women in combat were upended on Oct. 7, when hundreds of Hamas-led gunmen surged across the border from

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AMONG ISRAELIS, **DIVISIONS WIDEN** OVER WAR IN GAZA

TENSIONS IN COALITION

Growing Frustration at Failure to Resolve the Hostage Crisis

This article is by Roni Caryn Rabin, Aaron Boxerman, Anushka Patil and Thomas Fuller.

After nearly 15 weeks of war, sharp divisions within Israel over the path forward in the Gaza Strip are increasingly coming into the A member of Israel's war cab-

inet, a general who lost a son in the conflict, urged in a television interview broadcast late Thursday that the country pursue an extended cease-fire with Hamas to free the remaining hostages, a rebuke of the "total victory" being pursued by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

And in a sign of the growing exasperation among parts of the Israeli public over the government's failure to free the hostages, relatives and supporters of the captives partially blocked traffic on a major highway in Tel Aviv before dawn on Friday, prompting the police to briefly detain seven for having "participated in disorderly conduct and unlawful behavior."

Israel's emergency governing coalition is under intense and competing pressures as the war drags on. Right-wing politicians are urging the military to act more aggressively in Gaza, even while Israel is contending with outrage across the globe over the carnage and decimation of so much of the territory. At the same time, the families of hostages are urging concessions to secure their re-

Divisions between Israel and its closest ally, the United States, are also increasingly on display. Mr. Netanyahu on Thursday appeared to rule out a long-stated goal of U.S. foreign policy: a postwar peace process that would lead to the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state.

"Israel must have security control over all the territory west of the Jordan," Mr. Netanyahu said at a news conference on Thursday, referring to an area including occupied territory that Palestinians hope will one day become their in-

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After 7 Decades of Television Stardom, She's Ready for 1 More

By MOTOKO RICH

TOKYO — Pushing a walker through a television studio in central Tokyo earlier this week, Tetsuko Kuroyanagi slowly climbed three steps onto a sound stage with the help of an assistant who settled her into a creamy beige Empire armchair.

A stylist removed the custommade sturdy boots on her feet and slipped on a pair of highheeled mules. A makeup artist brushed her cheeks and touched up her blazing red lipstick. A hairdresser tamed a few stray wisps from her trademark onionshaped hairstyle as another assistant ran a lint roller over her embroidered black jacket. With that, Ms. Kuroyanagi, 90, was ready to record the 12,193rd episode of her show.

As one of Japan's best-known entertainers for seven decades, Ms. Kuroyanagi has interviewed guests on her talk show, "Tetsuko's Room," since 1976, earning a Guinness World Record last fall for most episodes hosted by the same presenter. Generations of Japanese celebrities across film, television, music, theater and sports have visited Ms. Kurovanagi's couch, along with American stars like Meryl Streep and



ORIKO HAYASHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, 90, on the set in Tokyo of "Tetsuko's Room," which she has hosted since 1976.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

Lady Gaga; Prince Philip of England; and Mikhail Gorbachev, the former leader of the Soviet Union. Ms. Kuroyanagi said Gorbachev remains one of her favorite guests.

Ms. Kuroyanagi, who jokes

that she wants to keep going until she turns 100, is known for her rapid-fire chatter and knack for drawing out guests on topics like dating, divorce and, now, increasingly, death. Even as she works to woo a younger generation — the Korean-Canadian actor and singer Ahn Hyo-seop,

28, appeared on the show this month — many of her guests these days speak about the ailments of aging and the demise of their industry peers.

Having survived World War II. she broke out as an early actor on Japanese television and then

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INTERNATIONAL A4-11

A Victory Lap in Sudan

Lt. Gen. Mohamed Hamdan, using arms from the United Arab Emirates, basked in his triumphs in a civil war. PAGE A4

Families Head to Guantánamo

Relatives of people killed in a terror attack on the Indonesian island of Bali PAGE A10 will testify about their loss.



NATIONAL A12-19

Baldwin Charged Again

A grand jury in New Mexico indicted the actor in a film-set shooting death months after the original case against him was dismissed. PAGE A19

California River Went Dry

Farms drained part of the Merced River for months, raising questions about the ability of state regulators to manage water during droughts.

A New Anti-Abortion Front

A year after celebrating the reversal of Roe v. Wade, the annual March for Life gathered in a very different political

BUSINESS B1-5

Stock Market Hits a High

The S&P 500 closed above its January 2022 peak after weeks of wavering as investors homed in on signals that the Fed's campaign of raising interest rates was nearing its end.

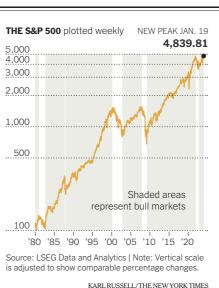
New Tech, Quieter Sales Pitch

The Vision Pro augmented reality device went on sale on Friday, at a price of \$3,500. Apple, however, did not host a splashy event to promote it, unlike with the Apple Watch. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

Michelle Goldberg

PAGE A23



Jackson has won accolades and a huge contract, but not what he's been consumed with since he was drafted: a Super Bowl championship.

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar

Chasing His Biggest Goal

SPORTS B6-9

The Difference a Year Makes

By 2010, Adrián Beltré was a good baseball player, but not necessarily great. But his career shifted, and he may make the Hall of Fame. PAGE B7

