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Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Immunity Case

Decision Helps Trump by Delaying a Trial

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to decide whether former President Donald J. Trump is immune from prosecution on charges of plotting to overturn the 2020 election, further delaying his criminal trial as it considers the matter.

The justices scheduled arguments for the week of April 22 and said proceedings in the trial court would remain frozen, handing at least an interim victory to Mr. Trump. His litigation strategy in all of the criminal prosecutions against him has consisted, in large part, of trying to slow things down.

The Supreme Court's response to Mr. Trump put the justices in the unusual position of deciding another aspect of the former president's fate: whether and how quickly Mr. Trump could go to trial. That, in turn, could affect his election prospects and, should he be re-elected, his ability to scuttle the prosecution.

The timing of the argument was a sort of compromise. Jack Smith, the special counsel overseeing the federal prosecutions of Mr. Trump, had asked the court to move more quickly, requesting that the justices hear the case in March.

Mr. Trump, by contrast, had asked the court to proceed at its usual deliberate pace and to consider the case only after he asked the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the decision of a unanimous three-judge panel, which had rejected his claim of absolute immunity.

In settling on the week of April 22, the court picked the last three scheduled argument sessions of its current term and seemed to indicate that its decision would follow before the end of its current term, in late June.

That does not mean the trial would start right away if Mr. Trump lost. Pretrial proceedings, currently paused, must first be completed. By some rough calculations, the trial could be delayed until late September or October, plunging the proceedings into the heart of the election.

Mr. Trump's emergency application asking the Supreme Court to intervene had been fully briefed since Feb. 15, and the court's delay in addressing it suggested that the justices differed about how to pro-

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BUMP STOCKS The court seemed split over whether the government should have been able to ban the gun accessory. **PAGE A14**

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Tired of Israeli Political Strife, These Soldiers Have a New Mission

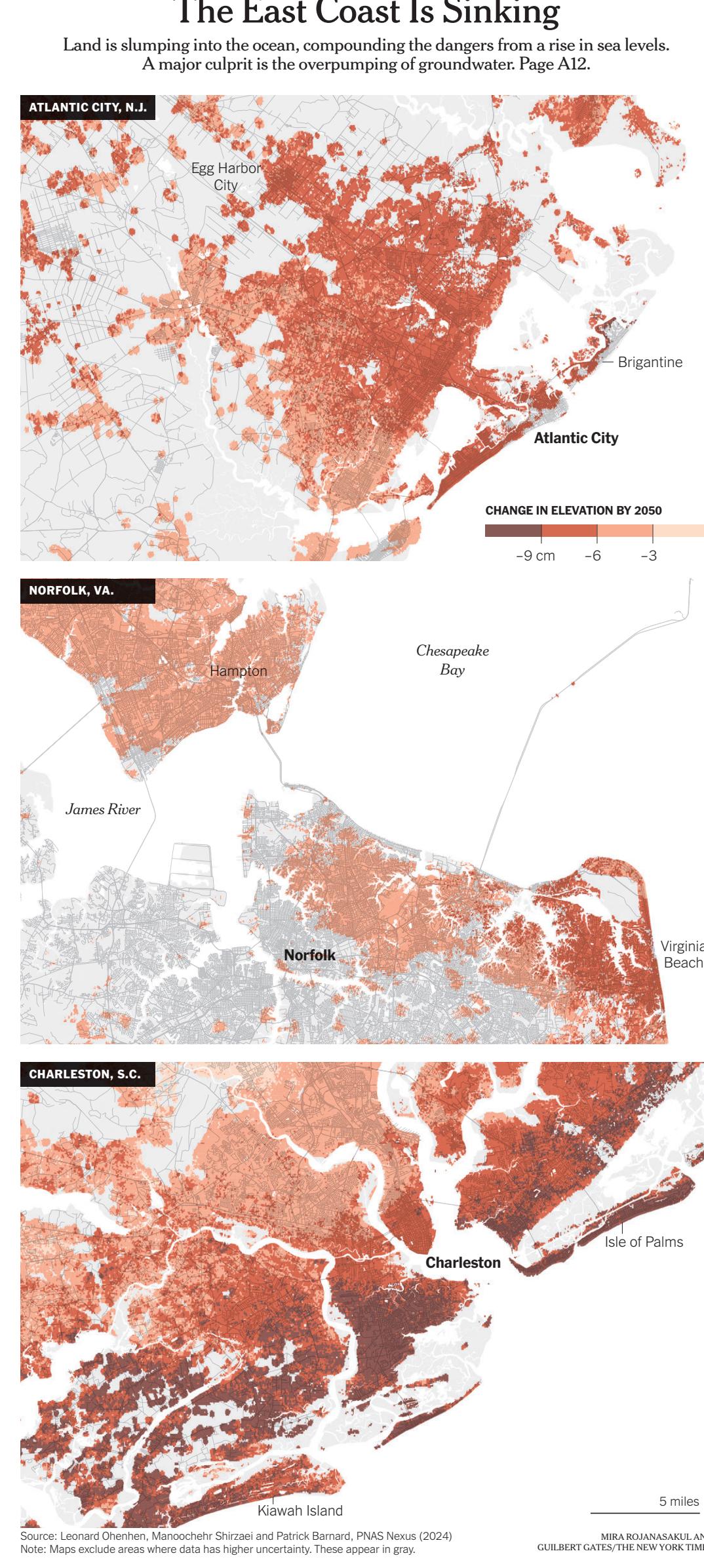
By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — Gathered this month around a campfire on the edge of a forest in central Israel, the soldiers planned their next mission: saving their deeply divided country from itself.

Like many of the thousands of Israeli reservists called to fight in Gaza, the soldiers left for war amid a sudden surge of national unity after the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attacks on Israel.

But as the military has withdrawn soldiers from Gaza in recent weeks and the troops have returned home, they have found their country less like it was after Oct. 7 and more like it was before: torn by divisive politics and cultural clashes.

Now, as these bitter divisions re-emerge, disillusioned reserv-



ists are at the vanguard of movements demanding a political reset, seeking unity and repudiating what many view as extreme polarization.

"I first came out in December and was shocked to see that nothing had changed," said David Sherez, a special forces commander and start-up entrepreneur, on leaving his base near Gaza.

Mr. Sherez, one of the soldiers who gathered around the campfire in the woods, is a founding member of Tikun 2024, a new nonpartisan organization led by reservists intent on preserving the spirit of cooperation brought on by the war.

"You put on the news and look at social media, and it's as if Oct. 7 didn't happen," Mr. Sherez said. "Everyone needs to do some soul-searching."

Members of the small but rapidly growing movement cited contentious government moves that have divided the country, including a proposed overhaul of the judiciary, talk of resettling Gaza, criticism of the families of hos-

tages who have called for a ceasefire and a proposed budget that benefits the far-right and ultra-Orthodox fringes at the expense of the national economy.

Israel's military, in which serv-

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SERGEY PONOMAREV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
Members of Tikun 2024, a movement of Israeli reservists.

SPORTS B7-10

Learning and Making History

A candidate for enshrinement himself, Ichiro Suzuki has made several trips to the Baseball Hall of Fame. **PAGE B10**

New on Netflix: Rafael Nadal

He will return from injury on hard-courts, first in an exhibition, instead of clay as many had expected. **PAGE B8**



INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Macron Rattles NATO Allies

The French leader's remarks on sending troops into Ukraine were aimed at Russia, but alarmed the West. **PAGE A6**

BUSINESS B1-6

Levi's for the Whole Wardrobe

Under a new chief executive, the brand, known for jeans, is aiming to be a full outfitter. **PAGE B1**

OBITUARIES B11-12

Leading Man of Antiques

Bruce Newman helped stage Broadway and Hollywood. He was 94. **PAGE B12**

NATIONAL A10-21

I.V.F. Protection Bill Blocked

A Republican senator blocked quick passage of a measure that would establish federal protections for I.V.F. and other fertility treatments. **PAGE A16**

President's Son Testifies

Hunter Biden used his opening statement to condemn Republicans' efforts to impeach his father, saying their inquiry was fueled by lies. **PAGE A15**

Court Rejects Trump's Bond

The former president, who is appealing the penalty in his civil fraud case, had offered a bond of only \$100 million to pause the judgment. **PAGE A18**

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Gutsy Fashion Choices

At the first stop on Olivia Rodrigo's world tour, fans added punk accents to feminine butterflies and bows. **PAGE D1**

Adjusting the Look

In Milan, Gucci, Marni and Bottega Veneta are signaling a shift in fashion. Below, from Marni, fall 2024. **PAGE D2**



ARTS C1-6

Putting Diversity on Display

Asian artists are receiving more recognition from museums and galleries in California and beyond. **PAGE C1**

Catching Abe Lincoln's Ear

A play featuring Mary Todd Lincoln as a frustrated cabaret singer may seem like a real stretch. But maybe not. **PAGE C4**

OPINION A22-23

Pamela Paul

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THE WEATHER

Today, mostly sunny, windy, cooler, high 41. Tonight, clear skies, less windy, low 30. Tomorrow, more sunshine than clouds, light wind, high 49. Weather map is on Page A20.

Hope for Biden And a Warning From Michigan

Primary Test Is Passed; Gaza Is Still a Thorn

This article is by Reid J. Epstein, Jonathan Weisman and Nicholas Nehamas.

WASHINGTON — President Biden and his allies had reasons for both hope and concern after a Michigan primary election that revealed the party's painful divisions over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and confronted him with his largest measure of Democratic opposition to date.

He avoided his anxious supporters' darkest predictions by winning the Tuesday primary, 81 percent to 13 percent, over an "uncommitted" movement that sprang up to protest his backing of Israel. Yet more than 100,000 voters registered their disapproval of him, signaling serious discontent among Arab Americans, young voters and progressives as he tries to stitch back together his winning 2020 coalition.

Democratic unease with Mr. Biden's handling of the Mideast war will not go away as the presidential primary calendar moves on to more than a dozen Super Tuesday states next week, but his allies are optimistic that Michigan will serve as the high-water mark for resistance to the president within his party.

Though many states have the option for Democrats to cast protest votes against Mr. Biden, they are not nearly as likely as Michigan was to become a national litmus test for his popularity or his handling of the war in Gaza.

No other place will have the combination of a large and politically active Arab American community, a battleground-state spotlight with heightened stakes for November, and a weeks-long runway in which Michigan hosted the country's only Democratic primary action.

But if Mr. Biden's immediate electoral worries have receded after Michigan, the political pressure over his position on Israel threatens to linger through the summer and fall barring a major shift in policy or progress to end the bloodshed in Gaza.

Opposition to American political, military and financial support for Israel has dogged Mr. Biden and other prominent Democrats at public events around the country, with frustration spreading beyond Arab American and Muslim communities to college campuses and other progressive areas.

An apparent desire to avoid confrontations with antiwar demonstrators has led Mr. Biden's campaign to encase him and Vice President Kamala Harris in political Bubble Wrap, taking unusual steps to maintain a focus on more politically friendly topics. When Ms. Harris visited Michigan last

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McCONNELL TELLS SENATE IT'S TIME HE STEPPED ASIDE

GIVING UP LEADER POST

Says His Views Have Left Him Out of Sync With Trump-Led G.O.P.

By CARL HULSE

WASHINGTON — Senator Mitch McConnell, the longtime top Senate Republican, said on Wednesday that he would give up his spot as the party's leader following the November elections, acknowledging that his Reaganite national security views had put him out of step with a party now headed by former President Donald J. Trump.

"Believe me, I know the politics within my party at this particular time," Mr. McConnell, who turned 82 last week, said in a speech on the Senate floor announcing his intentions. "I have many faults. Misunderstanding politics is not one of them."

His decision, reported earlier by The Associated Press, was not



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES
Senator Mitch McConnell said he will cede his role in the fall.

a surprise. Mr. McConnell suffered a serious fall last year and experienced some episodes where he momentarily froze in front of the media. He has also faced rising resistance within his ranks for his push to provide continued military assistance to Ukraine as well as his close-to-the-vest leadership style. And his toxic relationship with Mr. Trump, whom he blamed for the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol — after orchestrating his acquittal in an impeachment trial on charges of inciting an insurrection — put him profoundly at odds with the rest of his party.

Mr. McConnell had said that he would serve out his full Senate term ending in 2027, but had been more opaque about whether he would try to remain leader after November.

His announcement placed an end date on an extraordinary run for a congressional leader known for his legislative prowess and talent for obstructing major Democratic legislation.

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He Rescued 1.5 Million Books In Yiddish. That's Chutzpah!

By JOSEPH BERGER

Aaron Lansky was a young graduate student in Montreal in the late 1970s when he had an epiphany that changed the course of his life.

He had been taking courses in Yiddish literature at McGill University, but was finding it hard to find the books he needed. At times, he relied on older neighbors in Montreal's vibrant Jewish community who would welcome the opportunity to chat with a young visitor over a cup of tea or a plate of noodle kugel before surrendering their books.

He came to realize that such home libraries were endangered resources: The generations of Yiddish-speaking immigrants

who flocked to the United States and Canada beginning in the 1880s to escape pogroms and poverty were dying out, and most of their assimilated children and grandchildren did not speak or read Yiddish well. As a result, whole libraries filled with works of writers like Sholem Aleichem, I.L. Peretz and Sholem Asch — as well as science and history texts, translations of classics like Shakespeare and Guy de Maupassant, even cookbooks and sex manuals — were being consigned to dumpsters, attics and cellars.

That wintry day, Mr. Lansky, then 24 years old, decided on a seemingly quixotic quest: "To

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