

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, mostly cloudy, humid, a few showers, high 75. Tonight, mainly cloudy, some showers, low 64. Tomorrow, partly sunny, less humid, high 75. Weather map, Page B12.

VOL. CLXXIV . . . No. 60,289      © 2024 The New York Times Company      THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024      Prices in Canada may be higher      \$4.00

## Power Figure Who Elevated Harris Profile

### Alliance Puts Spotlight on Tech Billionaire

By THEODORE SCHLEIFER

After Vice President Joe Biden swore in Kamala Harris as a United States senator in January 2017, they posed for a customary photo in the Capitol with her family. Then she asked her future boss for a favor: Would he indulge in one more photo?

“Come on, everybody,” Ms. Harris said, waving in a dozen others. “My extended family is here.”

The first member of Ms. Harris’s entourage to approach Mr. Biden just happened to be one of the richest people in the world: Laurene Powell Jobs.

Ms. Powell Jobs, the philanthropist who controls a fortune worth over \$11 billion, stood just behind Mr. Biden’s right shoulder, joining Ms. Harris’s best friend from kindergarten and others in her inner circle. As the photo was snapped and the group broke up, Mr. Biden grabbed a coveted 60 seconds with Ms. Powell Jobs — asking about her son and talking about his ambitions for cancer research.

Few figures have cultivated a more consequential friendship with Ms. Harris, now the Democratic nominee for president, than Ms. Powell Jobs, who for decades was married to one of America’s most famous entrepreneurs, Steve Jobs.

Over the past 20 years, she has become one of Ms. Harris’s most essential confidantes, providing counsel and money, and helping to expand Ms. Harris’s public profile. Now, in this year’s presidential race, the wealthiest woman in Silicon Valley has emerged as a powerful player behind the scenes. She has quietly contributed millions of dollars to an organization backing Ms. Harris, according to three people briefed on the gifts.

She played a hidden but key role in helping usher Mr. Biden out of the race, which cleared the way for a Harris run.

And Ms. Powell Jobs, who is so close to the vice president that her staff refers to her simply as “L.P.J.,” is positioned to have extraordinary influence, or at least

*Continued on Page A17*



Refugees from Sudan at a camp in Adré, Chad. Famine was officially declared in Sudan last month after nearly 18 months of war.

## Sneaking Weapons Under Humanitarian Cloak

By DECLAN WALSH and CHRISTOPH KOETTL

ABÉCHÉ, Chad — The drones soar over the vast deserts along the Sudanese border, guiding weapons convoys that smuggle illicit arms to fighters accused of widespread atrocities and ethnic cleansing.

They hover over a besieged city at the center of Sudan’s terrible famine, supporting a ruthless paramilitary force that has bombed hospitals, looted food shipments and burned thousands of homes, aid groups say.

Yet the drones are flying out of a base where the United Arab Emirates says it is running a humanitarian effort for the Sudanese people — part of what it calls its “urgent priority” to save innocent lives and stave off starvation in Africa’s largest war.

The Emirates is playing a deadly double game in Sudan, a country shredded by one of the world’s most catastrophic civil

### U.A.E. Expands Effort to Back a Winner in Sudan’s Civil War

wars.

Eager to cement its role as a regional kingmaker, the wealthy Persian Gulf petrostate is expanding its covert campaign to back a winner in Sudan, funneling money, weapons and, now, powerful drones to fighters rampaging across the country, according to officials, internal diplomatic memos and satellite images analyzed by The New York Times.

All the while, the Emirates is presenting itself as a champion of peace, diplomacy and international aid. It is even using one of the world’s most famous relief symbols — the Red Crescent, the counterpart of the Red Cross — as a cover for its secret operation to fly drones into Sudan and smuggle weapons to fighters, satellite images show and American officials say.

The war in Sudan, a sprawling gold-rich nation with nearly 500 miles of Red Sea coastline, has been fueled by a plethora of foreign nations, like Iran and Russia. They are supplying arms to the warring sides, hoping to tilt the scales for profit or their own strategic gain — while the people of Sudan are caught in the crossfire.

But the Emirates is playing the largest and most consequential role of all, officials say, publicly pledging to ease Sudan’s suffering even as it secretly inflames it.

Starvation haunts Sudan. Famine was officially declared last month after nearly 18 months of fighting, which has killed tens of thousands and scattered at least 10 million people in the world’s worst displacement crisis, the United Nations says. Aid groups call it a calamity of “historic proportions.”

*Continued on Page A8*

## Kushner Fund: Fees In, a Lot. Profits Out, \$0.

By ERIC LIPTON

WASHINGTON — The private equity firm run by Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of former President Donald J. Trump, has been paid at least \$112 million in fees since 2021 by Saudi Arabia and other foreign investors, even though as of July it had not yet returned any profits to the governments largely bankrolling the firm.

Those are among the findings of a Senate Finance Committee inquiry into the operations of Affinity Partners, the Miami-based firm Mr. Kushner set up.

The committee opened an investigation this spring in response to reporting in The New York Times examining the firm’s first three years of work.

Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, the committee’s chairman, said the new information had only deepened his concerns that Mr. Kushner’s firm creates conflicts of interest, particularly with his father-in-law running for re-election.

Mr. Wyden asked why Affinity Partners had not “distributed a penny of earnings back to clients,” and suggested that perhaps it was set up primarily as a way for foreign entities to pay the Kushners rather than a typical fund in which partners reap the returns of deployed capital.

“Affinity’s investors may not be motivated by commercial considerations but rather the opportunity to funnel foreign government

*Continued on Page A16*

## TEL AVIV TARGET OF MISSILE SHOT FROM LEBANON

### ISRAELI MOBILIZATION

#### Starmer Warns Security Council, ‘The Region Is on the Brink’

This article is by Liam Stack, Aaron Boxerman, Farnaz Fassihi and Michael Levenson.

TEL AVIV — The Lebanese militia Hezbollah on Wednesday fired a missile deep into Israel, targeting Tel Aviv for the first time, as the Israeli military called up two brigades of reserve soldiers and sent them north toward the border with Lebanon.

The mobilization came as the military’s chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, suggested that Israel was preparing for the possibility of a ground invasion in Lebanon as part of its stepped-up campaign to stop Hezbollah from firing missiles and drones at Israel.

“You hear the jets overhead — we have been striking all day,” General Halevi told soldiers who were conducting military exercises along the Israeli-Lebanese border. “This is both to prepare the ground for your possible entry and to continue degrading Hezbollah.”

Praising the soldiers as more experienced and skilled than Hezbollah’s fighters, he said: “You go in, destroy the enemy there and decisively destroy their infrastructure.”

It was not clear whether General Halevi was trying to unnerve Hezbollah or hinting at an actual battle plan being weighed by Israeli leaders.

Israel’s air defenses shot down the missile Hezbollah had aimed at Tel Aviv before it could cause any injuries.

With no end in sight to Israel’s clashes with Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon, world leaders gathered in New York for the United Nations General Assembly have been calling for the fighting to stop. The United States and France are working on a proposal for a temporary 21-day cease-fire, a pause that they hope will allow for further negotiations, France’s foreign minister said on Wednesday.

*Continued on Page A6*



People fleeing Lebanon arriving in Syria on Wednesday.

## A Beloved Poet and Rock Star, And Now a Ukrainian Soldier

By CARLOTTA GALL and OLEKSANDR CHUBKO

KHARKIV, Ukraine — When the Ukrainian army hit a crisis of recruitment earlier this year amid rising losses on the battlefield, one of the most popular cultural personalities in the country stepped up and enlisted.

“At some point it became uncomfortable not to join up,” Serhiy Zhadan said in an interview at a military base in July.

A beloved poet, novelist, lyricist and rock star in Ukraine, Mr. Zhadan, 50, joined a local National Guard brigade in his home city of Kharkiv in May and started a two-month stint in boot camp. By summer he was serving in an engineering unit on the second line of defense.

Many of his friends were already fighting, he said of his decision to enlist. “This feeling that someone is fighting for you, instead of you, while you are also able to join, was also important.”

Although he said he did not intend to set an example, Mr. Zhadan’s decision to join the army resonated with many, across generations and with lovers of both his words and music.

He can fill a sports hall or a Kyiv theater for poetry readings, as he



DAVID GUTTENFELDER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



BRENDAN HOFFMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Serhiy Zhadan, 50, top, at a military base in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in July, and performing with his band, above, in Ukraine last year.

## Some Worry No One Will Catch Mistakes by Doctor’s A.I. Helper

By TEDDY ROSENBLUTH

Every day, patients send hundreds of thousands of messages to their doctors through MyChart, a communications platform that is nearly ubiquitous in U.S. hospitals.

They describe their pain and divulge their symptoms — the texture of their rashes, the color of their stool — trusting the doctor on the other end to advise them.

But increasingly, the responses to those messages are not written by the doctor — at least, not entirely. About 15,000 doctors and assistants at more than 150 health

systems are using a new artificial intelligence feature in MyChart to draft replies to such messages.

Many patients receiving those replies have no idea that they were written with the help of artificial intelligence. In interviews, officials at several health systems using MyChart’s tool acknowledged that they do not disclose that the messages contain A.I.-generated content.

The trend troubles some experts who worry that doctors may

*Continued on Page A21*

#### INTERNATIONAL A4-13

##### What’s in a Name?

In Japan, candidates for prime minister are debating a law that requires spouses to share a surname. PAGE A12

##### Courage in the Spotlight

Giséle Pelicot waived anonymity to make public the rape trial of her former husband and 50 co-defendants. PAGE A4



#### NATIONAL A14-23

##### Shutdown Is Averted, for Now

Congress gave final approval to keep federal funding flowing through Dec. 20, but punted a bigger spending fight to the end of the year. PAGE A18

##### Tracing Ex-N.Y.P.D. Boss’s Ties

Investigators are said to seek communications showing rewards were offered for favors to night spots. PAGE A23

#### OBITUARIES B11

##### Labor Lawyer to M.L.B. Stars

Dick Moss, who was crucial to toppling a decades-old system that bound players to teams year after year, was 93.

#### BUSINESS B1-5

##### ‘The Yellowstone Effect’

Lands in cities and towns that were once shipping points for livestock have become hotbeds for new developments cashing in on cowboy culture. PAGE B1

##### Skeptic Rings Alarm on A.I.

A researcher warns that building too much of what the world doesn’t need “typically ends badly.” PAGE B1

#### SPORTS B6-9

##### Endangered Rivalries

Upheaval among the major college football conferences is threatening some cherished matchups. PAGE B6

#### THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

##### Strangely Fashionable

Standout presentations from Bally and Bottega Veneta brought the latest Milan Fashion Week to a close. PAGE D6

##### The Hippo Is a Hit

Moo Deng, a baby pygmy hippo from Thailand who likes to chew on her keepers, has won fans worldwide. PAGE D4



#### ARTS C1-6

##### Composer for the King

Errollyn Wallen, named master of music by King Charles, discusses music as an escape and seaside living. PAGE C1

##### Building a Video Game Giant

Long after Shigeru Miyamoto invented Mario and Zelda, he explains what makes Nintendo special. PAGE C1

#### OPINION A24-25

##### Thomas L. Friedman

PAGE A24

