

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, morning rain, cloudy, light wind, high 47. **Tonight**, decreasing clouds, colder than prior nights, low 31. **Tomorrow**, partly sunny, breezy, high 36. Weather map, Page B12.

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FATIMA SHBAIR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Heavy Bombardment in Gaza

Flattened homes in Rafah. A round of strikes killed nearly 100 across the strip as Israel set a deadline for its ground offensive. Page A6.

## I.V.F. Ruling Spurs Worry In Alabama

**By EDUARDO MEDINA**

Natalie Brumfield, 41, cried as she read about the Alabama Supreme Court’s ruling that embryos in test tubes should be considered children. A mother of seven, including two babies conceived through in vitro fertilization, Ms. Brumfield felt that one of her cherished beliefs as a Christian had been affirmed: Life, she said, begins when embryos form.

Emily Capilouto, 36, also cried because of the ruling, but her tears were prompted by despair. She had struggled for years to have a child. Now she was nearing the end of an I.V.F. cycle, when one of the embryos she and her husband had produced would be transferred to her uterus. But on Wednesday, she learned that her clinic at the University of Alabama at Birmingham health system was halting I.V.F. treatments in response to the ruling.

“I don’t know what this means now,” Ms. Capilouto said on Wednesday, minutes after learning that her dream of having a child would be indefinitely suspended.

Questions like hers are echoing across the country after the court’s ruling, which was handed down Feb. 16. The potential national implications remain unclear, but many women in Alabama are wondering how this new classification for embryos — one rooted in a religious belief — will affect their own journeys toward motherhood, a process that for many who seek I.V.F. is already filled with emotional and physical pain.

In interviews on Wednesday, a number of women in Alabama who recently underwent in vitro fertilization, or were in the middle of treatment, said that they felt abruptly stuck in limbo.

Some who recently had children through I.V.F. said that they were afraid to do anything with their extra embryos from the process, which are stored frozen in facilities across the state.

Others wondered whether they would now have to pay a significant amount of money to keep their embryos in permanent storage.

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**‘PERSONHOOD’** Clinics are routinely sued by patients for errors that destroy embryos. PAGE A18

## U.S. Craft Touches Down Once Again on Moon

**By KENNETH CHANG**

For the first time in a half-century, an American-built spacecraft has landed on the moon.

The robotic lander was the first U.S. vehicle on the moon since Apollo 17 in 1972, which had been the closing chapter in humanity’s astonishing achievement of sending people to the moon and bringing them all back alive. That is a feat that has not been repeated or even tried since.

The lander, named Odysseus and a bit bigger than a telephone booth, arrived in the south polar region of the moon at 6:23 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday.

### Crewless Mission Raises Hopes for a New Era in Space Travel

The landing time came and went in silence as flight controllers waited to hear confirmation of success. A brief communication pause was expected, but minutes passed.

Then Tim Crain, the chief technology officer of Intuitive Machines, the Houston-based company that built Odysseus, reported that a faint signal from the

spacecraft had been detected.

“It’s faint, but it’s there,” he said. “So stand by, folks. We’ll see what’s happening here.”

A short while later, he announced, “What we can confirm, without a doubt, is our equipment is on the surface of the moon and we are transmitting. So congratulations.”

Later, he added, “Houston, Odysseus has found its new home.”

But with the spacecraft’s ability to properly communicate still unclear, the celebration of clapping and high-fives in the mission control center was muted.

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LUIS TATO/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

## A Farewell Too Soon

Mourning Kelvin Kiptum, a Kenyan world-record-holding marathoner who died this month at 24.

## Instagram Grows as a News Source, Reluctantly

**By SAPNA MAHESHWARI and MIKE ISAAC**

On a recent Wednesday in Brooklyn’s Dumbo neighborhood, Mosheh Oinounou, a former producer for CBS, Bloomberg News and Fox News, swiped through Instagram. He had started his morning reading major newspapers and more than a dozen newsletters. Then he spent much of the day turning many of

### Influencers See Desire for Information

the articles into posts on his Instagram account, under the handle Mo News.

A Wall Street Journal story on aging Americans was relayed through a picture of a cake declaring, “Record Number of Ameri-

cans Will Turn 65 This Year: Wealthy, Active, And Single.” At times, Mr. Oinounou, an affable 41-year-old, has also appeared on camera with the co-host of his daily podcast to explain the significance of how G.O.P. presidential candidates were polling and why President Biden was a write-in candidate in New Hampshire.

The content has earned Mo News 436,000 Instagram following.

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## Leaked Data Files Expose China’s Hackers for Hire

### Rare Look at Beijing’s Secret Effort to Spy on Targets Overseas and at Home

This article is by **Paul Mozur, Keith Bradsher, John Liu and Aaron Krolnik**.

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The hackers offered a menu of services, at a variety of prices.

A local government in southwest China paid less than \$15,000 for access to the private website of traffic police in Vietnam. Software that helped run disinformation campaigns and hack accounts on X cost \$100,000. For \$278,000, Chinese customers could get a trove of personal information behind social media accounts on platforms like Telegram and Facebook.

The offerings, detailed in leaked documents, were a portion of the hacking tools and data caches sold by a Chinese security firm called I-Soon, one of the hundreds of enterprising companies that support China’s aggressive state-sponsored hacking efforts. The work is part of a campaign to break into the websites of foreign governments and telecommunications firms.

The materials, which were posted to a public website last week, revealed an eight-year effort to target databases and tap communications in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India and elsewhere in Asia. The files also showed a campaign to closely monitor the activities of ethnic minorities in China and on-line gambling companies.

The data included records of apparent correspondence between

employees, lists of targets and material showing off cyberattack tools. Three cybersecurity experts interviewed by The New York Times said the documents appeared to be authentic.

Taken together, the files offered a rare look inside the secretive world of China’s state-backed hackers for hire. They illustrated how Chinese law enforcement and its premier spy agency, the Ministry of State Security, have reached beyond their own ranks to tap private-sector talent in a hacking campaign that United States officials say has targeted American companies and government agencies.

“We have every reason to believe this is the authentic data of a contractor supporting global and domestic cyberespionage operations out of China,” said John Hultquist, the chief analyst at Google’s Mandiant Intelligence.

Mr. Hultquist said the leak revealed that I-Soon was working for a range of Chinese government entities that sponsor hacking, including the Ministry of State Security, the People’s Liberation Army and China’s national police. At times the firm’s employees focused on overseas targets. In other cases they helped China’s feared Ministry of Public Security surveil Chinese citizens domestically and overseas.

“They are part of an ecosystem of contractors that has links to the

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## Navalny’s Body Held Hostage, Mother Alleges

**By ANTON TROIANOVSKI and IVAN NECHEPURENKO**

Russian authorities have declared that the opposition leader Aleksei A. Navalny died of natural causes but are refusing to release his remains until his family agrees to a “secret funeral,” Mr. Navalny’s mother and his spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Lyudmila Navalnaya, Mr. Navalny’s mother, said she had been secretly taken to a morgue Wednesday night, “where they showed me Aleksei.” She was shown a medical report on Mr. Navalny’s death that said he died of natural causes, according to the Navalny team’s spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh.

But Ms. Navalnaya, 69, said she now was locked in a grim battle with local authorities in the northern Russian city of Salekhard who, taking orders from Moscow, were not releasing custody of the remains. She said the authorities warned that if she did not “agree to a secret funeral,” then “they will do something with my son’s body.”

“They’re blackmailing me,” Ms. Navalnaya said in a video posted on her son’s YouTube channel. “They are setting me conditions on where, when and how Aleksei should be buried.”

The back-and-forth over Mr. Navalny’s remains reflects how pivotal a figure he is in Russian politics and worldwide — even in death. Proving that, President Biden met with Mr. Navalny’s widow, Yulia Navalnaya, and his daughter, Daria, on Thursday in California, where Daria, who goes by Dasha, is a student at Stanford.

The president expressed his admiration for Mr. Navalny’s “extraordinary courage and his legacy of fighting against corruption and for a free and democratic Russia in which the rule of law applies equally to everyone,” according to a White House statement. The

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ALEJANDRO CEGARRA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mexico’s president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

## In Mexico, U.S. Eyed Company A Leader Kept

**By ALAN FEUER and NATALIE KITROEFF**

American law enforcement officials spent years looking into allegations that allies of Mexico’s president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, met with and took millions of dollars from drug cartels after he took office, according to U.S. records and three people familiar with the matter.

The inquiry, which has not been previously reported, uncovered information pointing to potential links between powerful cartel operatives and Mexican advisers and officials close to the president while he governed the country.

But the United States never opened a formal investigation into Mr. López Obrador, and the officials involved ultimately shelved the inquiry. They concluded that the U.S. government had little appetite to pursue allegations against the leader of one of America’s top allies, said the three people familiar with the case, who were not authorized to speak publicly.

Mr. López Obrador called the allegations “completely false,” responding to questions from The New York Times on Thursday. He said the news of the inquiry would not “in any way” affect Mexico’s

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**INTERNATIONAL A4-11**

**Paris’s ‘Jewel’ Shut for 4th Day**

Unions for striking workers say mismanagement by the Eiffel Tower’s operators risks needed repairs. PAGE A9

**Bosnia’s Pipeline Plans Stalled**

Feuding among ethnic groups has impeded efforts to bring gas to Bosnia and cut supplies from Russia. PAGE A11

**NATIONAL A12-19**

**Teaching Gender Isn’t Popular**

Americans are unsure whether schools should teach about gender identity, two polls found. There was broader support for teaching about race. PAGE A14

**Yale to Require Exam Scores**

The shift to test-optional policies might have harmed applicants from lower-income families, officials said. PAGE A14

**OBITUARIES B10-11**

**Champion of Animal Rights**

Steven Wise, a lawyer who gave voice to clients unable to testify on their own behalf, was 73. PAGE B10



**BUSINESS B1-5**

**Promise and Fear**

Electric vehicles are a contested piece of Michigan’s economic future — a job-killer or a job-creator. PAGE B1

**Widespread AT&T Outage**

Three-quarters of the cellular network was restored after a morning that saw hours of interrupted service. PAGE B4

**SPORTS B6-9, 12**

**‘We Have to Go and Take It’**

In an exclusive interview with The Athletic, Giannis Antetokounmpo reflected on the chaos in the Milwaukee Bucks, and what they need to do to reach their goals. PAGE B6

**‘Old School Thinking’**

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge has badgered Aaron Boone to bat third for six years. Why? “Some of the guys I watched growing up, the best hitters were hitting third.” PAGE B8

**OPINION A20-21**

**Paul Krugman** PAGE A21



**WEEKEND ARTS C1-14**

**Celebrating Blackness**

A founder of the Kamoinge Workshop, Ray Francis took photos that document members of the African diaspora. Above, untitled, circa 1970s. PAGE C13

