

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, humid, a couple of showers, high 81. **Tonight**, mostly cloudy, humid, evening showers, low 68. **Tomorrow**, breezy, less humid, high 84. Weather map appears on Page A22.

VOL. CLXXIII . . . No. 60,177 © 2024 The New York Times Company THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00



Marcel Bergamasco, 99, in his garden in Ploërmel, France. He is the last living Saint-Marcel fighter able to recount his experience.

ISRAEL, IN SECRET, TRIED TO SWAY U.S.

Effort to Shape Opinion on the War in Gaza

By SHEERA FRENKEL
TEL AVIV — Israel organized and paid for an influence campaign last year targeting U.S. lawmakers and the American public with pro-Israel messaging, as it aimed to foster support for its actions in the war with Gaza, according to officials involved in the effort and documents related to the operation.

The covert campaign was commissioned by Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, a government body that connects Jews around the world with the state of Israel, four Israeli officials said. The ministry allocated about \$2 million to the operation and hired Stoic, a political marketing firm in Tel Aviv, to carry it out, according to the officials and the documents.

The campaign began in October and remains active on the platform X. At its peak, it used hundreds of fake accounts that posed as real Americans on X, Facebook and Instagram to post pro-Israel comments. The accounts focused on U.S. lawmakers, particularly ones who are Black and Democrats, such as Representative Hakeem Jeffries, the House minority leader from New York, and Senator Raphael Warnock of Georgia, with posts urging them to continue funding Israel's military.

ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence-powered chatbot, was used to generate many of the posts. The campaign also created three fake English-language news sites featuring pro-Israel articles.

The Israeli government's connection to the influence operation, which The New York Times verified with four current and former members of the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and documents about the campaign, has not previously been reported. FakeReporter, an Israeli misinformation watchdog, identified the effort in March. Last week, Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, and OpenAI, which makes ChatGPT, said they had also found and disrupted the operation.

The secretive campaign signals the lengths Israel was willing to go to sway American opinion on

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D-Day Battle France Chose to Forget, Until Now

By CATHERINE PORTER and SÉGOLÈNE LE STRADIC
BRITTANY, France — Some 170 miles southwest of the celebrated landing beaches in Normandy, the remains of a D-Day site few visit peek out from behind trees in rural Brittany.

Overgrown with moss and ivy, the stone farm buildings were the former headquarters of the Saint-Marcel Maquis — thousands of local French resistance fighters who had gathered in response to coded Allied calls over BBC radio to prepare for an invasion. Among them were French army commandos parachuted in to block the Nazis from sending reinforcements to the beaches.

But before the operation could be put into full swing, the camp

Far From Normandy, a Rear-Guard Action Met a Tragic End

was discovered by the Nazis and destroyed. Dozens of fighters were hunted down and killed. In retribution, most buildings in the surrounding area were burned and hundreds of locals were executed.

It's a wound of tragic heroism that few in France know about, let alone commemorate.

President Emmanuel Macron of France aimed to change that when he presided over a ceremony on Wednesday in Plumelec, the nearby village where French commandos landed early in the morn-

ing of D-Day as the first Allied planes and gliders were arriving in Normandy. One of the members of that elite French unit, Émile Bouétard, was shot dead by soldiers with the German army. He is considered among the first Allied casualties of D-Day.

"The bravery and determination of these united fighters played a major role in the liberation of our country," Mr. Macron said before the crowd gathered, braving intermittent rain spells typical of the region. "Their heroic actions leave an indelible mark on our history."

The president's visit — and accompanying history lesson — was the latest in a year of events planned to celebrate the country's release from the Nazis' grip 80 years ago. Unlike many of his

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G.O.P. Pushes For Avenging Trump Verdict

Calling for Prosecutors to Pursue Democrats

This article is by **Jonathan Swan, Maggie Haberman and Charlie Savage.**

Republican allies of Donald J. Trump are calling for revenge prosecutions and other retaliatory measures against Democrats in response to his felony conviction in New York.

Within hours of a jury finding Mr. Trump guilty last week, the anger congealed into demands for action. Since then, prominent G.O.P. leaders in and out of government have demanded that elected Republicans use every available instrument of power against Democrats, including targeted investigations and prosecutions.

The intensity of anger and open desire for using the criminal justice system against Democrats after the verdict surpasses anything seen before in Mr. Trump's tumultuous years in national politics. What is different now is the range of Republicans who are saying retaliation is necessary and who are no longer cloaking their intent with euphemisms.

Stephen Miller, a former senior adviser to Mr. Trump who still helps guide his thinking on policy, blared out a directive on Fox News after a jury found Mr. Trump guilty of falsifying financial records to cover up a 2016 campaign hush-money payment to a porn actress. Mr. Miller posed a series of questions to Republicans at every level, including local district attorneys.

"Is every House committee controlled by Republicans using its subpoena power in every way it needs to right now?" he demanded. "Is every Republican D.A. starting every investigation they need to right now?"

"Every facet of Republican Party politics and power has to be used right now to go toe to toe with Marxism and beat these Communists," Mr. Miller said, using the catchall slurs Trump allies routinely use against Democrats.

Stephen K. Bannon, the former chief strategist to Mr. Trump, said

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HOCHUL SUSPENDS CONGESTION TOLL IN LATE REVERSAL

CITES ECONOMIC STRAIN

Halt to Vehicle Entry Fee in Part of Manhattan Stuns Legislators

By GRACE ASHFORD

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York announced on Wednesday that she was shelving the long-awaited tolling plan known as congestion pricing, just weeks before it was to go into effect.

"After careful consideration I have come to the difficult decision that implementing the planned congestion pricing system risks too many unintended consequences," Ms. Hochul said, adding, "I have directed the M.T.A. to indefinitely pause the program."

The move angered environmentalists, transit advocates and economists, with some accusing the governor of abandoning a plan that was decades in the making for political reasons in a critical election year.

The decision, Ms. Hochul acknowledged, was not an easy one, but she said it was nonetheless crucial in light of the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic on working families and New York City's economy.

The congestion pricing plan, the first of its kind in the nation, was slated to start June 30. Drivers using E-ZPass would have paid as much as \$15 to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street.

The governor said she feared that instituting a toll to drive into the borough would "create another obstacle to our economic recovery."

"Let's be real: A \$15 charge may not seem like a lot to someone who has the means, but it can break the budget of a hard-working middle-class household," Ms. Hochul said.

In the days before her announcement, the governor notified the White House and the top House Democrat, Hakeem Jeffries, of her plans, according to two people familiar with the con-

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Migrants Shift West, and San Diego Bears Brunt

By JONATHAN WOLFE

SAN DIEGO — From sunrise to sunset, the U.S. Border Patrol buses arrived every hour at a sun-baked parking lot in San Diego.

Dozens of migrants stepped outside each time, many seeming to be confused about what was happening at this trolley hub on a recent weekend. There were no local officials to answer questions. No services. And few ways to reach their next destination in the United States.

For the first time in 25 years, the San Diego region has become a top destination for migrants along the southern United States border, surpassing the number of illegal crossings at areas in Arizona and Texas for several weeks this year, according to data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.



MARK ABRAMSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

San Diego is a top entry point for the first time in 25 years.

It has been a surprising turn for a border spot that was the focal point of the bitter national debate over immigration decades ago, before falling out of the spotlight as migrant flows shifted east-

ward.

The recent surge in San Diego has been overwhelming enough that a government-funded welcome center exhausted its budget and had to close in February. Since then, the United States Border Patrol has bused migrants to a trolley center and sent them on their way.

Many have been turned away from crowded migrant shelters nearby. Dozens have ended up at the San Diego International Airport, where they have camped out at baggage claim for days at a time as they waited for flights to other destinations.

Nonprofit organizations have tried to fill the void by providing aid and transportation advice to migrants. But volunteers described a predicament for which

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Allies Warn China Is Recruiting Western Pilots

By JULIAN E. BARNES and HELENE COOPER

WASHINGTON — For years, U.S. officials have accused China of stealing American technology to design and build fighter planes. But while China learned how to build advanced fighters, its pilots could not fly them so well.

That may be starting to change, according to American officials.

Skilled Trainers to Help Build Up Air Force

U.S. and allied intelligence officials warned on Wednesday that Beijing was intensifying a campaign to entice former fighter pilots from Western nations to train Chinese pilots.

The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — an intelligence-sharing partnership known as the Five Eyes — said in a bulletin that China's People's Liberation Army was trying to tap the "skills and expertise of these individuals" to improve its own air operations.

"To overcome their shortcomings, China's People's Liberation

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'Hardship' Withdrawal Limits

After a lawyer was sentenced for falsely claiming hardship to use retirement funds, a look at the rules. PAGE B1

Canada Taps U.S. Energy

Lower-than-normal rain and snow have reduced Canada's hydropower production, causing concerns. PAGE B1



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Rahul Gandhi guided the opposition Congress party to a surprisingly strong election result, nearly doubling its seats in Parliament. PAGE A8

Dreading Winter Already

Rolling power outages in Ukraine have raised alarm about what will happen when cold weather arrives. PAGE A4

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Auto Racing Champion

Parnelli Jones was one of the greatest drivers of the 1960s and '70s, winning six Indy 500 races. He was 90. PAGE B11

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In a neighborhood of St. Petersburg, Fla., rising water has become a constant worry. Many cannot afford to elevate their homes or move. PAGE A12

Trump Election Case Delay

A court effectively froze the prosecution of Donald J. Trump in Georgia, at least through the election. PAGE A15

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Ahead of his first N.B.A. finals, Kristaps Porzingis discussed his plan to help the Celtics more by shooting less. PAGE B7

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Very Classic Luther Vandross

Two of the singer's early recordings are receiving new attention ahead of the 20th anniversary of his death. PAGE C6

Songs of Unity in Ukraine

More than two years into Russia's invasion, folk music has grown more popular in the war-torn nation. PAGE C1



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Diane von Furstenberg talks about a documentary that explores her glamorous and sometimes wild life. PAGE D5

The Tales of a Tabloid Editor

For Barry Levine, formerly with The National Enquirer, the Trump trial was its own kind of tear-jerker. PAGE D1

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Garrett M. Graff

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