



A satellite image shows Hurricane Beryl east of Jamaica on Tuesday. The storm's early and intense formation has broken several records, many of which were last set in 2005, a year of unprecedented hurricane frequency and devastating storms such as Hurricane Katrina.

## A sign of stronger storms to come

BY SCOTT DANCE

When Hurricane Beryl strengthened into the Atlantic Ocean's earliest Category 5 storm on record, it did so some two months ahead of the heart of hurricane season.

More storms typically form and intensify by August and September because that's when Atlantic waters are warmest, loaded with storm-fueling energy from a summer of sunshine. But Beryl strengthened in Caribbean waters that were as hot as they normally are in mid-September, just as the calendar turned to July.

Its record-shattering intensification, occurring earlier in the

Beryl's early formation shows conditions ripe for hurricane-heavy year

year than any storm before it, is an early sign of the historically stormy year scientists have been warning about. Off-the-charts warmth that has dominated Atlantic waters for more than a year was a key factor in early seasonal forecasts — and was integral to Beryl's extraordinary development.

In the United States, officials closely watching the forecast said

the storm stirred a sense of urgency. And in the Caribbean, the storm prompted immediate calls for action on climate change. Human burning of fossil fuels has warmed the planet about 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) over the past 150 years, and along with a recent episode of the planet-warming El Niño climate pattern, has pushed the world's oceans to dramatic and sustained warmth since early 2023.

Beryl is "clear and overwhelming evidence of the fact that we are constantly facing an existential threat to our way of life," said Dickon Mitchell, the prime minister of Grenada. He called on other nations to "move past the

talking" and help island dwellers weather the "ever-present threat that they have created."

Not all storms will become behemoths like Beryl over the next few months, meteorologists said, stressing that short-lived meteorological conditions can dampen storm activity, or instigate it. But the hurricane has underscored the ways the stage is set for other storms to undergo similarly explosive development.

Another warning of what may come: Many of the records Beryl is breaking were set in 2005, a

SEE BERYL ON A7

**In its path:** A slightly weaker Beryl is expected to hit Jamaica today. **A7**

## Momentous term saw justices move boldly to the right

### TRUMP DOMINATED SUPREME COURT DOCKET

Rulings reshape power of presidents, federal agencies

BY ANN E. MARIMOW

The Supreme Court's conservative supermajority boldly flexed its power this term, tossing aside a 40-year-old precedent to rein in the regulatory authority of federal agencies and expanding presidential power in a decision that upended Donald Trump's federal Jan. 6 case and will almost certainly delay the trial until after the November election.

The momentous 2023-2024 term will probably be most remembered for its rulings involving the former president and presumptive Republican nominee, including the unanimous decision in March to keep him on the ballot.

But other cases will also result in major shifts in a number of

areas. The court told the Securities and Exchange Commission it could no longer judge those accused of securities fraud, limited prosecutorial power in a case involving accused rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and blocked an ambitious initiative by the Environmental Protection Agency targeting interstate air pollution.

The court managed to reach consensus in some closely watched rulings, but there were fresh signs of a fractured conservative coalition that reflects a court not always breaking into predictable liberal or conservative camps. Even in cases in which nearly all the justices

SEE COURT ON A4

**Concerns:** Experts worry immunity ruling puts democracy at risk. **A4**

## Trump's sentencing in N.Y. case delayed until Sept. 18

BY SHAYNA JACOBS AND DEVLIN BARRETT

NEW YORK — Donald Trump's sentencing in his New York hush money case on Tuesday was pushed back to September, as his lawyers seek to persuade the trial judge that his conviction should be tossed out after a Supreme Court ruling that presidents have immunity for official acts.

The much-anticipated sentencing of the former president and presumptive GOP nominee for president in the November election was set to take place next week, following his May conviction on 34 counts of falsifying business records. That sentencing

is now tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18, and the judge said other proceedings could take place that day instead, if necessary.

New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan granted requests by the parties to allow time for legal filings. Merchan said he would rule on those motions Sept. 6.

The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 along ideological lines on Monday that a president is immune from prosecution for official acts but can face trial for private conduct. The delayed sentencing is the first

SEE TRUMP ON A6

**DOJ:** Department plans to pursue Trump cases past Election Day. **A6**

### ELECTION 2024

## Biden aims to reassure party, public as debate angst grows

BY TYLER PAGER AND MATT VISER

A growing number of Democrats on Tuesday began publicly questioning President Biden's performance in last week's debate, calling on him to withdraw from the race, and contemplating possible successors, as the fallout spread from what increasingly appears to be a pivotal moment in the 2024 campaign.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas became the first sitting Democratic

member of Congress to ask Biden to step aside, warning of the potential consequences if the president pushes ahead with his reelection effort. "He must not deliver us to Trump in 2024," Doggett said.

Former House speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who has long been a strong ally of Biden's, said it was legitimate to ask after his stumbles in the debate, "Is this an episode or is this a condition?" Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), whose endorsement was pivotal

SEE BIDEN ON A8

## Campaign's everything-is-fine emphasis at odds with reality

BY TYLER PAGER AND ASHLEY PARKER

Democrats were panicking. Donors were despondent. And some elected officials were privately wondering whether their leader should step aside.

### ANALYSIS

But in President Biden's cosseted bubble over the past several days, his 90-minute debate stage meltdown Thursday night against former president Donald Trump was merely a "bad night," with aides quickly retreating to what they

hoped was a fail-safe mantra: But Trump is worse!

Campaign officials touted their record fundraising on debate day. White House officials promised that Biden would bounce back at his upcoming North Carolina rally. And Jen O'Malley Dillon, the campaign chair, told nervous donors at the Ritz-Carlton in Atlanta on Friday that "nothing fundamentally changed in the race."

By Tuesday, however, the business-as-usual calm the Biden team sought to impose had backfired, with some Democrats

SEE CAMPAIGN ON A9

In stifling heat, a group that trusted local tour operators found horror on its Hajj pilgrimage

## They left Maryland for Mecca. Not all returned.

BY JASMINE HILTON, KATIE SHEPHERD, LATESHIA BEACHUM AND STEVE THOMPSON

Even before Nemata Kamara set foot on a plane bound for Saudi Arabia, she started to see a pattern of broken promises from the tour operators she trusted to get her from Maryland to Mecca.

The 40-year-old business owner said she paid \$11,000 for the operators to handle the paperwork and logistics necessary to access the holy city during the Hajj, the sacred annual pilgrimage many Muslims spend years dreaming about and saving up to afford. At a May orientation for the trip held in a Prince George's County mosque, Kamara and dozens of other travelers expected to receive their "Hajj package," complete with the visa required by the Saudi government to participate in the pilgrimage.

But that did not happen. They did not get their visas that day, and they did not get them after they boarded planes at Dulles International Airport, said Kamara. The visa she was given, and which she showed The Washington Post, instead said she was in the country for business.

"What are you giving me?" she recalled asking one of the tour operators. She said he told her not to worry, but for the rest of the flight she did. She thought



COURTESY OF FATOU SAMATEH SAWANEH

Fatou Samateh Sawaneh wound up in an emergency room during her trip after traveling from Maryland to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj.

about the jail time and fine she could face for not having the proper paperwork. "I was already scared. I was like, 'I can't do this. This is not what I signed up for.'"

Kamara describes what happened in the days that followed as "a nightmare." She and others had expected the trip of a lifetime. Instead, at least three members of the group did not make it home.

More than 1.8 million people participated in this year's Hajj, converging on Mecca over several days in June during a record heat wave that saw temperatures reach 125 degrees. More than 1,300 people from around the world died, Saudi officials say. Eleven were U.S. citizens, according to the U.S. State Department, which did not provide further information about those individuals.

The three who were part of Kamara's group were from Prince George's County and worshipped at the Jamil-ul-Jalil mosque, where that May orientation was held.

The Maryland deaths have left families and community members reeling and mourning and asking pointed questions of officials in the United States and Saudi Arabia. They have also acutely exposed the world of Hajj tour operations that work outside the restrictions enforced by

SEE HAJJ ON A11

### IN THE NEWS

**Deadly stampede** More than 100 people, mostly women and children, died at a crowded religious event in India amid sweltering heat. **A12**

**Millions owed** A federal court ordered hate groups to pay \$9.7 million for their role in a deadly 2017 rally in Charlottesville. **B1**

**THE NATION** **Rudy Giuliani**, a former Trump attorney, was disbarred in N.Y. for false 2020 claims. **A2** **The FDA** approved a closely watched Alzheimer's drug after months of delay. **A3**

**THE WORLD** **New Zealand**, once held aloft by U.S. liberals, is now led by a conservative coalition. **A10** **Russia's** massive bombs retrofitted from the Soviet era have been falling on its own turf. **A12**

**THE ECONOMY** **A court** blocked the Biden administration's pause on approving new facilities that export liquefied natural gas. **A14** **Boeing** can plead guilty in connection with two fatal crashes or the Justice Department will take the case to trial, the agency said. **A16**

**THE REGION** **D.C. is facing** a \$4.4 million fine from federal agriculture officials for errors in processing food assistance benefits. **B1** **Two people** were killed and another person was hurt after a police pursuit in Maryland ended in a fiery crash in D.C. **B1**

**STYLE** **Plans** to celebrate America's 250th are well underway, but will we be in the mood to party in two years? **C1**

**FOOD** **Hot dogs** are synonymous with summertime. Here's our highly subjective guide to the greatest regional styles.

**BUSINESS NEWS**.....A14  
**COMICS**.....C5  
**OBITUARIES**.....B4  
**OPINION PAGES**.....A17  
**TELEVISION**.....C3  
**WORLD NEWS**.....A10

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