

All the News  
That's Fit to Print

# The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, sun and clouds, stray afternoon shower, high 85. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 71. Tomorrow, partly sunny, warm, more humid, high 86. Weather map, Page B12.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

## Inside the Fight To Keep Biden Atop the Ticket

### A 12-Day Campaign Is Undercut by Fumbles

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — Nothing President Biden did seemed to work.

He delivered an angry, defensive rant on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." He showed foreign policy chops at a news conference. He wrote a long letter to "fellow Democrats" demanding an end to the calls for him to step aside. He confronted lawmakers on a Zoom call that devolved into a tense, heated exchange about his age and mental competency.

Twelve days ago, the president and his closest family members and advisers went on the offensive, determined to end what already had been nearly two weeks of hand-wringing over his listless performance at a debate on June 27. The result was a flurry of interviews, rallies, defiant meetings with his closest allies and impromptu campaign stops — all intended to rebut the premise that he was too old and frail to win a second term.

But almost every step was undercut by his own fumbles and the steady drumbeat of calls from his friends and allies for him to step aside, even from loyalists like the actor George Clooney. Together, it was evidence that nothing he was doing was having much impact. Mr. Biden was racing from place to place, but nothing was changing.

This story of the 12 days that Mr. Biden has spent trying to rescue his hopes for a second four years in the Oval Office is based on interviews with people close to him, including lawmakers, current and

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Airline passengers in Manila took to massage chairs to pass the time while waiting on Friday.



Check-in kiosks weren't working at La Guardia Airport, forcing passengers to seek human help.

## U.S. Journalist Given 16 Years In Russia Court

By IVAN NECHEPURENKO

A court in Russia on Friday sentenced Evan Gershkovich, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, to 16 years in a high-security penal colony, ending his espionage trial on what were widely viewed outside Russia as fabricated charges. The verdict opens the way for a potential prisoner swap between the United States and Russia.

The harsh sentence represented the first espionage conviction of a Western reporter in modern Russia. But the expedited nature of the case suggested that Moscow might be ready to trade Mr. Gershkovich. The proceedings were recently moved up by more than three weeks, and the court concluded the case, a process that usually takes months, in a matter of weeks, with only three hearings.

The court said in a statement that Mr. Gershkovich did not admit guilt, but said "the totality of the evidence presented to the court was sufficient to render a guilty verdict." Judge Andrei N. Mineev, who presided over the case, sentenced Mr. Gershkovich to two years less than prosecutors were asking.

At no time during the case, however, did prosecutors publicly provide any evidence to back up the charge, and the trial was held behind closed doors. The Russian judicial system for years has served as a tool of President Vladimir V. Putin's domestic repression, handing down convictions and long sentences in cases with clear political motivations.

In Russia, once a person is charged with a crime, it is virtually impossible to get an acquittal in

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## Musk Goes From Trump Skeptic to True Believer

By THEODORE SCHLEIFER and RYAN MAC

MILWAUKEE — A little over two months ago, Elon Musk found himself at Montsorrent, the palatial Palm Beach compound of Nelson Peltz, the famed activist investor. Mr. Musk knew the sprawling grounds well, having stayed in the guesthouse.

The conversation was a bit different than usual, though: Mr. Peltz had gathered a group of billionaire conservative financiers — including Steve Wynn, the Las Vegas casino magnate, and the hedge-funder John Paulson — to discuss whether Republicans could seize Senate control, as well

Billionaire Emerges as Central Character in Presidential Race

as the party's weak ground game, according to a person with direct knowledge of what transpired.

But Mr. Musk had a darker message that spring day. He told the group that this would be the last free election in America — because if President Biden won, millions of undocumented immigrants would be legalized and democracy would be finished, according to the person.

Mr. Trump had to win, Mr. Musk said. He dispensed some advice for the veteran financiers, who had decades more experience in Republican politics than he did: Their emphasis on political advertising was misplaced, he said. Tesla, his electric car company, barely advertises, he said, but had still built a cult following through word of mouth. Why couldn't Republicans do the same?

The most important thing that the financiers could do, Mr. Musk said, was ask two people to support Mr. Trump, and urge them to ask two more. Two people by two people — that's how the former president would win.

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### A Somber Procession

First responders at the funeral of a father of two killed in the attack on Donald J. Trump. Page A17.

## Software Update Goes Awry, Causing Chaos Throughout the World

### Error Shows Frailty of Tech Infrastructure

This article is by Adam Satariano, Paul Mozur, Kate Conger and Sheera Frenkel.

Airlines grounded flights. Operators of 911 lines could not respond to emergencies. Hospitals canceled surgeries. Retailers closed for the day. And the actions all traced back to a batch of bad computer code.

A flawed software update sent out by a little-known cybersecurity company caused chaos and disruption around the world on Friday. The company, CrowdStrike, based in Austin, Texas, makes software used by multinational corporations, government agencies and scores of other organizations to protect against hackers and online intruders.

But when CrowdStrike sent its update on Thursday to its customers that run Microsoft Windows software, computers began to crash.

The fallout, which was immediate and inescapable, highlighted the brittleness of global technology infrastructure. The world has become reliant on Microsoft and a handful of cybersecurity firms like CrowdStrike. So when a single flawed piece of software is released over the internet, it can almost instantly damage countless companies and organizations that depend on the technology as part of everyday business.

"This is a very, very uncomfortable illustration of the fragility of the world's core internet infrastructure," said Ciaran Martin, the former chief executive of Britain's National Cyber Security Center and a professor at the Blavatnik

School of Government at Oxford University.

A cyberattack did not cause the widespread outage, but the effects on Friday showed how devastating the damage can be when a main artery of the global technology system is disrupted. It raised broader questions about CrowdStrike's testing processes and what repercussions such software firms should face when flaws in their code cause major disruptions.

While outages are common, often caused by technical errors or cyberattacks, the scale of what unfolded on Friday was unparalleled.

"This is historic," said Mikko Hypponen, the chief research officer at WithSecure, a cybersecurity company. "We haven't had an incident like this."

George Kurtz, CrowdStrike's chief executive, said that the company took responsibility for the mistake and that a software fix had been released. He warned that it could be some time before tech systems returned to normal.

"We're deeply sorry for the impact that we've caused to customers, to travelers, to anyone affected by this," he said in an interview on Friday on NBC's "Today" show.

Satya Nadella, Microsoft's chief executive, blamed CrowdStrike for the disruption and said the

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AVIATION It will take airlines a while to get stranded passengers to their destinations. PAGE B1

## A Houthi Drone Slips Into Israel, Striking Tel Aviv

This article is by Gabby Sobelman, Aaron Boxerman, Ronen Bergman, Lara Jakes and Erin Mendell.

REHOVOT, Israel — In a rare breach of Israel's multilayered air-defense system, a drone fired by the Houthi militia in Yemen slammed into an apartment building near the United States Embassy branch office in Tel Aviv early Friday, killing at least one person and wounding eight others.

Pentagon officials expressed doubt that the drone had specifically targeted the U.S. building, an attack that analysts assessed had possibly been an attempt by the Houthis to strike anywhere they could in Tel Aviv. The Houthis, an Iranian-backed militia that has been attacking ships in the Red Sea, claimed responsibility for the strike on the city of 450,000 people.

The Israeli military's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the country's defense systems had apparently picked up the presence of the drone but had failed to register it as a threat. No air-raid sirens warned residents before the drone crashed into the building, causing an explosion that jolted people from their sleep, shattered windows and left shrapnel scattered on the streets.

"We are investigating why we did not identify it, attack it and intercept it," Admiral Hagari said on Friday.

Another Israeli military official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, said there was a possibility that human error had allowed the drone to penetrate Israeli airspace.

Israeli officials did not an-

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## A Cable Pioneer Who Embraced Trump's Ascent

By ALEX WILLIAMS and MICHAEL LEVENSON

Lou Dobbs, the conservative television and radio host who loomed large over the cable news landscape for decades at CNN and Fox Business, and who later used his platform to promote baseless conspiracy theories and to lend unwavering support to former President Donald J. Trump, has died. He was 78.

His death was confirmed on Thursday on Mr. Dobbs's website and social media accounts after Mr. Trump announced it on the Truth Social platform. No cause of death was given, and where or when he died was not immediately clear. Mr. Dobbs had been absent from "The Great America Show," his podcast on the iHeartRadio network, for several weeks.

With his boyish face and authoritative demeanor, Mr. Dobbs had an on-air presence that could swing from folksy and avuncular

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**Housing Policy Renews Debate**  
A White House proposal to tie landlords' tax breaks with rent limits has drawn industry pushback. PAGE B1

**Attracting China's Interest**  
Kazakhstan's bounty of minerals has drawn entrepreneurs seeking to fight climate change. PAGE B1

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The largest population of the endangered Siamese crocodiles this century hatched in Cambodia, a big moment for the species. PAGE A4

**Congo's Other Deadly Conflict**  
Overshadowed by fighting in the east, a dispute in the west has resulted in thousands of civilians killed. PAGE A10

**Spain's Swaths of Purple**  
The annual lavender harvest has helped to revitalize the medieval town of Brihuega. PAGE C7

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In his speech on Thursday night, Donald J. Trump couldn't resist the rambling, unscripted diatribe that has long been his signature style. PAGE A13

**Vice President's Delicate Dance**  
Even as she has remained loyal to President Biden, Kamala Harris has sought to avoid having her own political strengths denigrated. PAGE A15

**Rebuilding a Life Torn Apart**  
After a tornado killed the grandmother who raised him, Jaden Grayson went to live with his uncle, leaving behind everything he had known. PAGE A18

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Though the categories are confounding, this year's nominations also included some strong picks. PAGE C1

**A Big Year for a Jazz Man**  
The pianist Luther S. Allison won a Grammy for his work with Samara Joy. He's releasing his debut album. PAGE C1

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FIFA put off a decision on a Palestinian bid to suspend Israel, whose path to the Paris Olympics was cleared. PAGE B10

**All-Stars and Olympians**  
The W.N.B.A. All-Star Game is a battle between the U.S. national team and the best of who's left in the league. PAGE B11

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