

All the News
That's Fit to Print

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, breezy, less humid, clouds and sun, high 83. Tonight, clear, not as breezy, low 63. Tomorrow, partly sunny, a couple of showers, high 77. Weather map appears on Page A20.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Israel Showing No Hint of Shift On Rafah Push

Global Anger at Strike That Burned Camp

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — With international condemnation mounting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said on Monday that the killing of dozens of people a day earlier at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah was “a tragic accident,” but gave no sign of curbing the Israeli offensive in the southern Gaza city.

The deadly fire that tore through the encampment on Sunday after an airstrike came at a particularly delicate time for Israel, just days after the International Court of Justice appeared to order the country’s military to halt its offensive in Rafah and as diplomats were aiming to restart negotiations for a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas.

The Israel military said that the target of the strike in Rafah on Sunday was a Hamas compound, and that “precise munitions” had been used to target a commander and another senior militant official there.

But at least 45 people, including children, were killed by the blast and by the fires it set off, according to the Gaza health ministry. The ministry said that 249 people were wounded.

In a speech to the Israeli Parliament on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu said the military had sought to protect noncombatants, by issuing evacuation orders, adding that about a million civilians had left Rafah ahead of, or during, the offensive. “Despite our supreme effort not to harm uninvolved civilians,” he said, “a tragic accident occurred to our regret last night.”

He accused Hamas of hiding among the general population, and said: “For us, every uninvolved civilian who is hurt is a tragedy. For Hamas, it’s a strategy. That’s the whole difference.”

As images of the dead and maimed reached screens around the world, the condemnation was instant. The latest opprobrium appeared likely to make it still harder for Israel to continue its campaign against Hamas in Rafah, the southern city to which about a million

Continued on Page A10



Replacing a cross for a man killed by a train in Houston last year. Remote-control trains have killed three rail inspectors since 2015.

160-Car Locomotives With No One in the Cab

This article is by Frances Robles, Sergio Olmos, Mark Walker and Nicholas Bogel-Burroughs.

One evening last June, as Esther Iradukunda set the table for dinner at her home in Buffalo, she heard a high-pitched cry through the kitchen window. She rushed outside and followed the screams to the train tracks that ran about 100 feet away from her house.

She found her young brother Aron lying on the tracks, run over when he chased a ball between the cars of a train that had suddenly begun to move. Now it was stopped again, but one of the boy’s legs was lodged underneath, the bone jutting through the skin, and he had grave wounds to his abdomen.

Ms. Iradukunda desperately pulled her brother clear just as the train began moving again, rolling slowly toward the CSX train yards about a quarter-mile away. Aron, now 10, survived but lost his right

Concerns Raised About Deaths From Trains Run Remotely

leg.

No one from the railroad had heard the boy’s screams or noticed him trapped on the tracks. The train had no conductor or engineer onboard; instead, its movement was being controlled by a remote operator who was not aboard the train and, under railroad protocols, could have been more than a half-mile away.

While trains have long presented a deadly risk to pedestrians, a recent rash of accidents involving remote-control locomotives like the one in Buffalo has prompted a new federal review of the technology long billed by the railroad industry as safer than conventional trains. Railroad un-

ions have also lodged demands to step up safety measures as the trains increasingly operate on open tracks outside the confines of a rail yard.

Only a few months after Aron was hit, the body of a woman who lived nearby was found in pieces along the same tracks, in a remarkably similar accident.

A railroad inspector in Ohio was killed in September when he stepped into the path of a remote-controlled locomotive. He was the third rail inspector since 2015 to die after being struck by a remote locomotive.

In Houston last year, an intoxicated man was found dead, with his leg severed, in an area where remote locomotives were in use. Two years earlier, a woman in the same part of Houston lost both her legs after trying to cross between cars of a remote train that began moving.

Railroads are significantly ex-

Continued on Page A18

A Bellicose Ally Eyes a Top Job If Trump Wins

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

WASHINGTON — Richard Grenell’s quest to be secretary of state in a second Trump administration began late on Election Day in 2020, when the defeated president dispatched loyalists to run shambolic “stop the steal” operations in battleground states.

President Donald J. Trump tapped Mr. Grenell — his combative former ambassador to Germany, acting national intelligence chief and special envoy to the Balkans — to fly by private plane to Nevada, where Mr. Grenell ensconced himself, his dog Lola, lawyers and a crew of activists in a suite at the Venetian Resort, which served as the group’s war room in Las Vegas. In a dayslong spectacle, the Trump team filed a lawsuit and aired false accusations of fraud, including one wrongly implicating hundreds of members of the military.

It was all a sham. Mr. Grenell told the team in the war room, two G.O.P. operatives recalled, that the Nevada vote was not, in fact, stolen. The operatives, who asked

Continued on Page A14

BIDEN’S STRATEGY ON ELECTRIC CARS: KEEP CHINA’S OUT

TARIFFS ON CHEAP E.V.S

Weighing Labor Support and Climate Fears in an Election Year

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — President Biden wants more of America’s cars and trucks to run on electricity, not gas. His administration has pushed that goal on multiple fronts, including strict new regulations of auto emissions and lavish new subsidies to help American consumers take as much as \$7,500 off the cost of a new electric vehicle.

Mr. Biden’s aides agree that electric vehicles — which retail for more than \$53,000 on average in the United States — would sell even faster here if they were less expensive. As it happens, there is a wave of new electric vehicles significantly cheaper than the ones customers can currently buy in the United States. They are proving extremely popular in Europe.

But the president and his team do not want Americans to buy these cheap cars, which retail elsewhere for as little as \$10,000, because they are made in China. That’s true even though a surge of low-cost imported electric vehicles might help drive down car prices overall, potentially helping Mr. Biden in his re-election campaign at a time when inflation remains voters’ top economic concern.

Instead, the president is taking steps to make Chinese electric vehicles prohibitively expensive, in large part to protect American automakers. Mr. Biden signed an executive action this month that quadruples tariffs on those cars to 100 percent.

Those tariffs will put many potential Chinese imports at a significant cost disadvantage to electric vehicles made in America. But some models, like the discount BYD Seagull, could still cost less than some American rivals even after tariffs, which is one reason Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio and some other Democrats have called on Mr. Biden to ban Chinese E.V. imports entirely.

The apparent clash between cli-

Continued on Page A15

OUTLOOK E.V. market could keep growing despite Donald Trump’s threats to thwart it. PAGE A15

Witches, Cossacks and History’s Echoes in a Kyiv Theater Hit

By MARIA VARENIKOVA

KYIV, Ukraine — The lines for the show snake down the block, with people waiting for up to seven hours to buy tickets at the theater in downtown Kyiv. Videos of the performance have drawn millions of views online.

The smash hit isn’t a popular Broadway musical or a series of concerts by a pop star — it’s a play based on a classic 19th-century Ukrainian novel, “The Witch of Konotop,” and the mood is anything but upbeat. Consider the opening line: “It is sad and gloomy.”

Mykhailo Matiukhin, an actor in the production, said that is what has struck a chord with Ukrainians because it shows “what we are living through now.”

“Tragedy comes and takes everything from you, your love and your home,” he said.

The play dramatizes the story of a Cossack leader in a Ukrainian community almost 400 years ago as he tries to root out witches that local townspeople believe are responsible for a drought. The action takes place against the backdrop of a military threat from czarist Russia — something that has resonated with Ukrainians today as they absorb daily, and often discouraging, news about the battlefield and brace for missile strikes from modern Russia on their cities at night.

Ivan Uryvsky, the director, said



Actors before a performance of “The Witch of Konotop,” which is selling out in Kyiv, Ukraine.

audiences were particularly captivated by the sense of impending tragedy in the play, which is performed at the Ivan Franko theater in Kyiv.

Rather than seeking escapism from the war, many Ukrainians have been flocking to the play to help make sense of their lives, he said.

“It is very hard to overplay the harsh reality Ukrainians are living in now, but theater should feel the mood of the time and the people,” said Mr. Uryvsky. “When it manages to do that, then the play will touch people’s hearts.”

The play’s success also underlines a renewed interest in Ukraine’s cultural heritage since

the full-scale invasion of the country by Russia in February 2022 that has manifested itself in theater, literature and art. This includes the culture of the Cossacks, the seminomadic people who populated the steppes of Ukraine and southern Russia.

“When the war started, the new

Continued on Page A8

A Tie-Dyed Basketball Titan Who Added Gab to His Gifts

By RICHARD SANDOMIR

Bill Walton, a center whose extraordinary passing and rebounding skills helped him win two national college championships with U.C.L.A. and one each with the Portland Trail Blazers and the Boston Celtics of the N.B.A., and who overcame a stutter to become a loquacious commentator, died on Monday at his home in San Diego. He was 71.

The N.B.A. said he died of colon cancer.

A redheaded hippie and devoted Grateful Dead fan, Walton was an acolyte of U.C.L.A. Coach John Wooden and the hub of the Bruins team that won N.C.A.A. championships in 1972 and 1973 and extended an 88-game winning streak that had begun in 1971. He was named the national player of the year three times.

Walton’s greatest game was the



Bill Walton won two titles in the N.B.A. and two in college.

1973 national championship against Memphis State, played in St. Louis. He got into foul trouble in the first half, but went on to score a record 44 points on 21-for-22 shooting and had 11 rebounds in U.C.L.A.’s 87-66 victory.

Continued on Page A21



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Discontent in South Africa

Many young voters say they plan to sit out this week’s pivotal election, a political rebuke to the A.N.C.

PAGE A6

Amateurs Dig Up Tudor Palace
English villagers found the remains of a long-vanished site, once home to Henry VIII’s grandmother.

PAGE A4

BUSINESS B1-4

Politics Overtake Hong Kong

A security law imposed by Beijing is casting a pall over Hong Kong, once a business-first city, as international companies back away.

PAGE B1

A.I.’s Diminishing Threat

With less than six months until the 2024 election, the political uses of A.I. are still mostly theoretical.

PAGE B1

SPORTS B5-8

Farewell, French Open?

Rafael Nadal lost to Alexander Zverev, but would not confirm that it was his final match on the red clay.

PAGE B8



NATIONAL A12-20

Biden Reflects on Sacrifice

At a Memorial Day observance, the president said that “freedom has never been guaranteed.”

PAGE A16

Adopting a Well to Close It

Students, nonprofit groups and others are fund-raising to plug oil and gas wells abandoned by industry.

PAGE A12

ARTS C1-6

Taking Comedy Seriously

“We Are Lady Parts,” the writer Nida Manzoor’s show about a Muslim female punk band, has won awards and challenged stereotypes. “Silliness is hugely important to me,” she says.

PAGE C1

Comfortable in Any Genre

“There are no limits for music,” the singer Carin León says. “There’s just good music and bad music.” He has been bringing the country and música Mexicana styles ever closer.

PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

Paul Krugman

PAGE A23



SCIENCE TIMES D1-8

The Resilient Tree Lobster

The Lord Howe Island stick insect vanished from its home, but an effort at zoos in San Diego and Melbourne is leading to its resurgence.

PAGE D1

