

Trump Resists More Funding For Post Office

Dangling Vote by Mail as a Bargaining Chip

By EMILY COCHRANE and HAILEY FUCHS

WASHINGTON — President Trump stirred new questions on Thursday about whether he would seek to hold up new money to the Postal Service to impede mail-in voting this fall in the middle of the pandemic.

Repeating the unfounded claim that the election could be riddled with fraud if mail ballots were widely used, he made clear that he opposed Democratic demands for additional funding for both the post office and election security measures because of his opposition to mail-in voting. Still, he left open the possibility that he could come to a deal as part of a larger negotiation over a new round of economic stimulus.

“We have to have an honest election,” the president said when pressed on mail voting at a news conference in the White House Briefing Room. “And if it’s not going to be an honest election, I guess people have to sit down and think really long and hard about it.”

His statements added to growing alarm among Democrats and voting rights proponents that Mr. Trump is intent on undercutting mail balloting and sowing discord and confusion over the result of the election. They came amid growing scrutiny of the postmaster general, a Republican megadonor.

Mr. Trump stressed the issue across the day in a series of inconsistent remarks in which he veered between a hard line against mail-in balloting and signals of some openness to an accommodation.

“They need that money in order to have the post office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots,” Mr. Trump said Thursday morning in an interview on Fox Business, referring to Democratic demands. “If they don’t get those two items, that means you can’t have univer-

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FAKE THEORY REVIVED President Trump questioned Kamala Harris’s eligibility for office. PAGE A21

Yale Is Accused Of Racial Bias In Admissions

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

The Justice Department on Thursday accused Yale University of violating federal civil rights law by discriminating against Asian-American and white applicants, an escalation of the Trump administration’s moves against race-based admissions policies at elite universities.

The charge, coming after a two-year investigation, is the administration’s second confrontation with an Ivy League school; two years ago, it publicly backed Asian-American students who accused Harvard in a lawsuit of systematically discriminating against them.

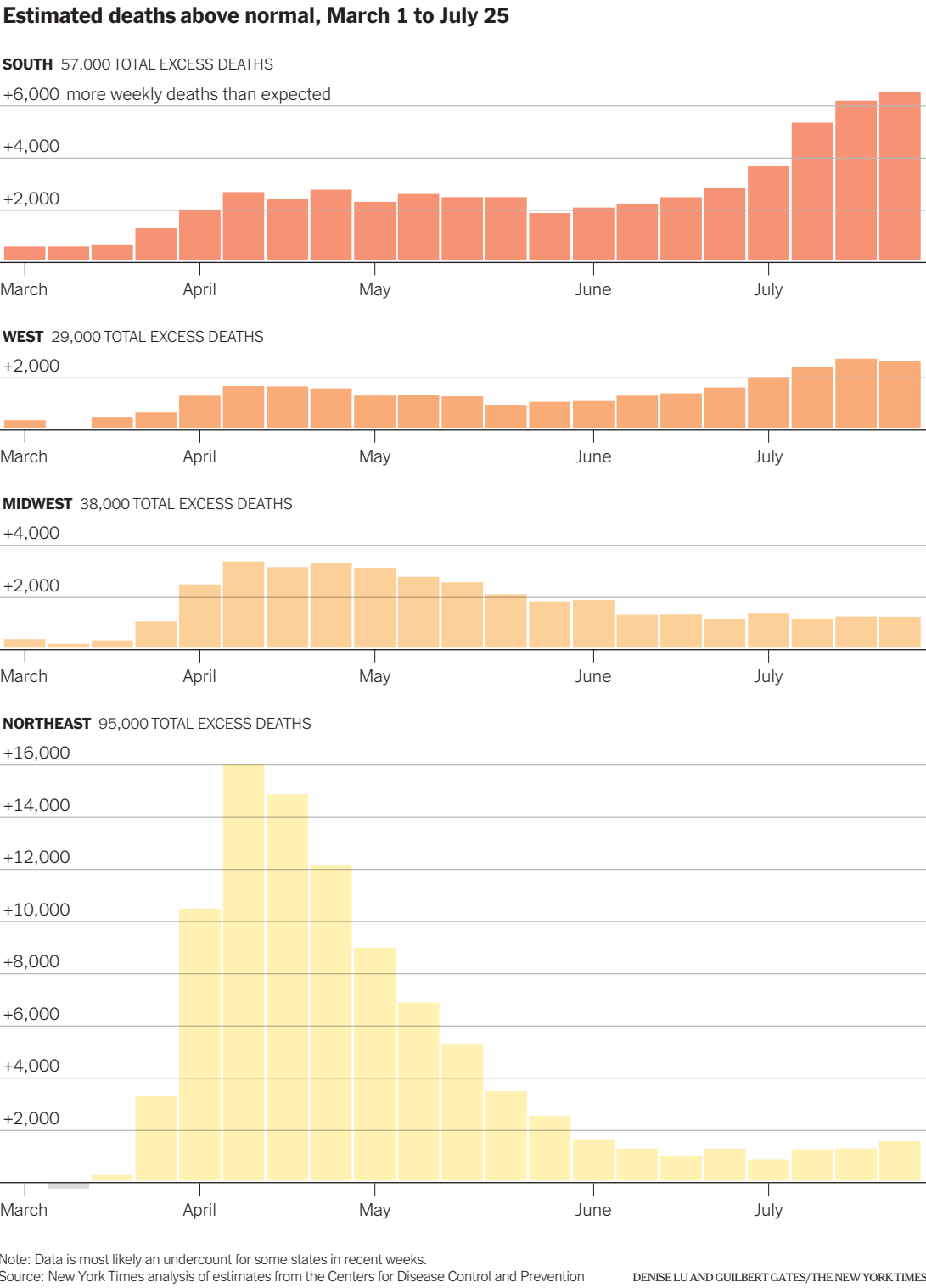
The department’s finding could have far-reaching consequences for the ongoing legal challenges to affirmative action, which are expected to eventually reach the Supreme Court. Some conservative groups have long opposed affirmative action, a tool born in the civil rights era, and a handful of states have banned such policies at public universities.

“There is no such thing as a nice form of race discrimination,” Eric S. Dreiband, the assistant attorney-

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True Coronavirus Death Toll in the U.S. Surpasses 200,000

Across the United States, at least 200,000 more people have died than usual since March. This is about 60,000 higher than the number of deaths that have been directly linked to the coronavirus during the same period. Article and more charts, Page A6.



How Harris Emerged From a Formidable Field

This article is by Alexander Burns, Jonathan Martin and Katie Glueck.

It was early in Joseph R. Biden Jr.’s vice-presidential search when he asked his advisers a sensitive question about Senator Kamala Harris. He kept hearing so much private criticism of her from other California Democrats, he wanted to know: Is she simply unpopular in her home state?

Advisers assured Mr. Biden that was not the case: Ms. Harris had her share of Democratic rivals and detractors in the factional world of California politics, but among regular voters her

Biden’s Search Pushed Powerful Women Into Public Eye

standing was solid.

Mr. Biden’s query, and the quiet attacks that prompted it, helped begin a delicate audition for Ms. Harris that has never before been revealed in depth. She faced daunting obstacles, including an array of strong competitors, unease about her within the Biden family and bitter feuds from California and the 2020 primary sea-

son that exploded anew.

Though Ms. Harris was seen as a front-runner, Mr. Biden did not begin the process with a favorite in mind, and he settled on Ms. Harris only after an exhaustive review that forged new political alliances, deepened existing rivalries and further elevated a cohort of women as leaders in their party.

Ms. Harris was one of four finalists for the job, along with Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and Susan E. Rice, the former national security adviser. But in the eyes of Mr. Biden and his advisers, Ms. Harris alone cov-

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Cooling on Reopening
Elementary school students in Godley, Texas, one of the first districts in the state to reopen. Page A7.

ISRAELIS AND U.A.E. AGREE TO FULL TIES IN LANDMARK DEAL

NEWS ANALYSIS Netanyahu Swerves, Eyeing Legacy

By DAVID M. HALBFINGER

JERUSALEM — For the past 16 months, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel had doggedly pursued a right-wing dream that he saw as securing his legacy: annexing West Bank territory that the Palestinians counted on for a future state, potentially dealing a death blow to a two-state solution.

On Thursday, with his annexation plan already running aground, Mr. Netanyahu abruptly walked away from it. Instead, he exulted in a potential legacy achievement of an entirely different character — one that, unlike annexation, could only improve Israel’s ties with the West and much of the Arab world.

The announcement in Washington that the United Arab Emirates had agreed to a “full normalization of relations” with Israel in exchange for Mr. Netanyahu’s agreement to “suspend” his annexation push amounted to a breathtaking turnabout for the veteran Israeli prime minister.

His drive for sovereignty on the West Bank had pushed Mr. Netanyahu into a corner: He was hectorated by European leaders, rebuffed by his coalition partners, and distracted from a pandemic that was rapidly spiraling out of his control, even as the goal of annexation seemed ever more elusive.

But the agreement with the Emiratis allowed Mr. Netanyahu, who has craved a historic achievement to cap his tenure as Israel’s longest-serving leader, to rank himself alongside Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin, forerunners who struck peace accords with the nation’s former bitter enemies, Egypt and Jordan.

The agreement allows the U.A.E., too, to enhance its international standing, which has been deeply damaged over its central role in a war that has

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Rarity for Region — Annexing on Hold in the West Bank

This article is by Peter Baker, Isabel Kershner, David D. Kirkpatrick and Ronen Bergman.

Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a landmark accord sealed by President Trump on Thursday that could presage a broader realignment in the region as the two agreed to “full normalization of relations” in exchange for Israel suspending annexation of occupied West Bank territory.

In a surprise announcement at the White House after a three-way phone call with Israeli and Emirati leaders, Mr. Trump said the deal would lead to greater cooperation on investment, tourism, security, technology, energy and other areas while the two countries move to allow regular direct



POOL PHOTO BY ABIR SULTAN

Israel’s leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, described “a new era.”

passenger flights, open embassies and trade ambassadors for the first time.

If fulfilled, the pact would make the Emirates only the third Arab country to have normal diplomatic relations with Israel along with Egypt, which signed a peace agreement in 1979, and Jordan, which signed a treaty in 1994. It could reorder the long stalemate in the region, potentially leading other Arab nations to follow suit in forging an increasingly explicit alliance with Israel against their mutual enemy in Iran while taking Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s explosive annexation plan off the table, at least for now.

“This deal is a significant step

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Far Right to Election Night: QAnon Gaining at Ballot Box

Democrats dismissed it as a fringe group of conspiracy-minded zealots. Moderate Republicans fretted over its potential to hurt their party’s image, while more conservative lawmakers carefully sought to harness its grass-roots energy. Sympathetic media outlets covered its rallies, portraying it as an emerging strain of populist politics — a protest movement born of frustration with a corrupt, unaccountable elite.

Then, to everyone’s surprise, its supporters started winning elections.

That is a description of the Tea Party movement, which emerged in 2009 from the right-wing fringes and proceeded to become a major, enduring force in American conservatism.

But it could just as easily be a description of QAnon, the pro-Trump conspiracy movement that has emerged as a possible inheritor to the Tea Party’s mantle as the most potent grass-roots force in right-wing politics.

This week, QAnon most likely got its first member of Congress: Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Republican from Georgia who won



STEPHANIE KEITH/REUTERS

A QAnon supporter at a recent pro-police rally in Brooklyn.

a primary runoff in a heavily Republican district on Tuesday. Ms. Greene has publicly supported QAnon, appearing on QAnon shows and espousing the movement’s unfounded belief that President Trump is on the verge of breaking up a shadowy cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles. Other QAnon-affiliated candidates have won primaries at the federal and state level, though few in districts as conservative as Ms. Greene’s.

QAnon, which draws its beliefs from the cryptic message board posts of an anonymous writer claiming to have access to high-level government intelligence, lacks the leadership structure and the dark-money connections

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In Beirut, Loyal to Hezbollah
In a Shiite stronghold, people agree on a need for change, but not at the expense of the powerful party. PAGE A13

Bold Challenger in Belarus
Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who dared to run against an autocratic president, has been compared to Joan of Arc. PAGE A12

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Covid Leaves Trail of Orphans
Children who lost their parents in the pandemic are fighting to hold on to what is left of their families. PAGE A8

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Cape Cod’s once abundant habitat has been diminished by pollution, development and overharvesting, but modern farming is bringing it back. PAGE A15

Trump Cuts Methane Rule
The president effectively freed oil and gas companies from monitoring, and repairing, harmful leaks. PAGE A24

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The \$400 supplement that President Trump announced last week may really be only \$300 — and it won’t be arriving anytime soon. PAGE B1

Apple Wants Slice of Fortnite
The game was removed from Apple’s App Store after it said Fortnite’s creator violated its payment policy. PAGE B1

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Photographing a Movement
Matt Herron immersed himself in the South to capture civil rights marches and clashes. He was 89. PAGE B12



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Aesha Ash, a City Ballet alum, is the first Black woman on the School of American Ballet’s permanent faculty. PAGE C1

Nightmare on Jim Crow Street
Mike Hale reviews HBO’s scary “Lovecraft Country,” about a Black family’s travels across 1950s America. PAGE C1

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Not Exactly a Practice Match
It was quiet at the Top Seed Open, but the Williams sisters traded powerful shots in a tight three-setter. On Tennis. PAGE B7

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N.C.A.A. doctors voiced concerns about playing during the pandemic, but conferences will make the call. PAGE B9

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