



w e e k l y The Generation

Spokesperson of the new generation

Tuesday
July 30, 2024
Year: 2, Issue: 30
Total Page 16



- 1st week, including \$200 million in donations and thousands of new volunteers
- Focusing on newer battleground states like Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, and North Carolina.

Kamala Harris has Energized Democratic Voters

During the first whirlwind week of her second presidential campaign, Kamala Harris locked up the support of the Democratic Party, recruited thousands of volunteers and hauled in \$200 million in donations.

But the challenge over the next 98 days will be whether she can harness that energy to power electoral victories in both traditional party strongholds and the newer battlegrounds that had appeared to be slipping away under President Joe

Biden. The next test of Harris' appeal will take place Tuesday in Georgia, where her campaign is hosting an Atlanta rally. The vice president will be joined by Democratic Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, two-time Democratic

gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams and other guests. Rapper Megan Thee Stallion is set to perform. That Harris would make a high-profile visit to Georgia early in her White House bid indicates

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News

Kamala Harris has Energized

After Page 01

the renewed push the campaign is making in a state that's now back in play for Democrats. "The groundswell of support around the vice president is real and it is meaningful," Dan Kanninen, Harris' battleground state director, told reporters Monday. "Our task now is to translate that enthusiasm into action."

With Harris now the party's presumptive nominee, keeping Sun Belt states like Georgia – as well as Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina – competitive could give Democrats much needed breathing room.

Democrats became disillusioned months ago with the prospect of winning in Georgia, according to party strategists involved in conversations. Frustrations over inflation and the suffering in Gaza were mounting among voters, whose turnout was becoming increasingly uncertain.

Now, Georgia again is seen as within the party's grasp – with a senior Democratic strategist describing Harris's candidacy as a "defibrillator," jolting voters back into awareness. For young people and voters of color, the strategist said, that jolt was more noticeable, and producing an expectation that Harris could engender more support among the African Americans who comprise roughly a third of Georgia's population. But the opportunity in the state, whose former Republican lieutenant governor says is "absolutely" back in play, could extend well beyond those coalitions.

"Any electoral advantage Donald Trump had has been erased," Geoff Duncan told CNN. "The suburbs of Atlanta are back up for grabs."

In a new campaign memo shared with CNN Monday evening, Harris' Georgia state director Porsha White outlined what the campaign hopes is a winning strategy in the state. Per the campaign, more than 7,500 volunteers have signed up in the week since Harris moved to the top of the ticket, with more than 1,000 signed up on the day after Biden announced his decision to withdraw from the 2024 race. The campaign has 24 coordinated offices and 170 Democratic coordinated campaign staff across the state.

Georgia Rep. Nikema Williams, who is also the chair of the state Democratic Party, told CNN her Georgia Democrats gained 1,000 volunteers and saw a more than 300% uptick in donations in the last week.

A Siena/New York Times poll released last week found that, in a head-to-head match up against Trump with likely voters, Hispanic voters favored Harris over the former president by a 24-point margin and voters ages 18-29 favored her by a 21-point margin. In an earlier poll released July 2, Biden held only 3- and 1-point leads with those groups, respectively, against Trump, within the margin of error.

For Democratic organizers, winning in Georgia isn't just about keeping the White House, but maintaining hard won gains in a state that has been promising to tilt blue for years.

Source: CNN

NYC Shootings: 4 Injured in Separate Incidents Across Brooklyn

BROOKLYN: Four people were injured overnight in Brooklyn after a string of NYC unrelated shootings broke out in Crown Heights, Brownsville and Prospect Park, the NYPD said.

Officers arrived on scene at the intersection of Rochester Avenue and Lincoln Place to find a 43-year-old woman shot twice in the right leg.

Fox5NY

She was taken to Kings County Hospital, where she's listed in stable condition.

According to police, the suspect is known to them. They would not provide his name, but described him as 6'1", last seen wearing a white shirt and black pants.

He took off on foot in an unknown direction, but they believe he still may be in the area.

Brownsville shooting

Just 11 minutes earlier at 1:09 a.m., police say they received a call for two men shot on Sutter Avenue in Brownsville.

According to police, a 64-year-old man was shot once in the right leg and a 35-year-old man was shot once in the

right arm and twice in the left leg. Both were taken to Brookdale Hospital in stable condition.

Investigators were seen searching a parked moped with a flashlight. The NYPD has not identified any suspects.

Prospect Park shooting

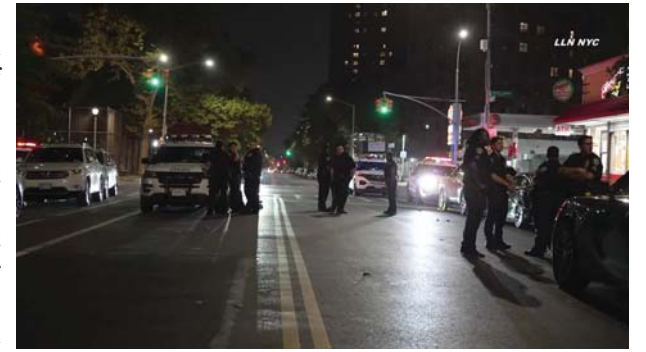
Around 12:30 a.m., police say a 21-year-old man was shot in the hand.

The shooting happened on Crook Avenue and Flatbush near Prospect Park.

The NYPD took the victim to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries at Kings County Hospital.

Officers recovered shell casings at the scene and are looking for three men in ski masks who ran off in an unknown direction.

Source: Fox5NY



US Pledges Funds to Boost Philippine Defences



Reuters photo

The United States yesterday pledged funding of \$500 million for the Philippines' military and coast guard in a big show of support for Manila as it faces Chinese actions in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met their Philippine counterparts in Manila to reaffirm Washington's unwavering commitment to its oldest treaty ally in Asia. "This level of funding is unprecedented, and it sends a clear message of support for the Philippines, from the Biden-Harris administration, the US Congress and the American people," Austin said in joint press conference following security talks.

Ahead of their meetings, Blinken and Austin met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr who has moved the Philippines closer to Washington since he replaced Rodrigo Duterte, who was openly hostile

to the Americans and pursued warmer ties with China during his six-year term.

"I'm always very happy that these communication lines are very open so that all the things that we are doing together... are continuously examined and re-examined so we are agile in terms of our responses," Marcos said.

Violence broke out after a Filipino sailor lost a finger in a June 17 mission to resupply troops stationed at a contested shoal after what Manila described as "intentional-high speed ramming" by the Chinese coast guard.

Blinken said the US shares the Philippines' concerns about "escalatory" actions China has taken in the South China Sea.

Blinken also reaffirmed Washington's "ironclad" commitment to the defend the Philippines against an armed attack on its vessels, aircraft and soldiers in the waterway.

Source: AFP

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World

Israel Targets Hezbollah Commander in South Beirut Strike

Israel struck Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut on Tuesday in retaliation for rocket fire from Lebanon that killed 12 children over the weekend, saying it had targeted the commander responsible for the attack.

A source close to the Iran-backed militant group confirmed that "a leading commander" was the target of the strike, which hit near the group's decision making body, the Shura Council. The source added that two people were killed in the strike, but was unable to confirm if the commander was among them.

Minutes after the explosions rocked Beirut, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant posted on social media site X

that "Hezbollah crossed the red line". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had on Monday threatened a "severe response" to the attack which Israel and the United States have blamed on Hezbollah, though the group denies responsibility. Following Saturday's strike, the international community had raced to head off any escalation that might tip the two into a first all-out conflict since 2006.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib said on Monday he had received assurances from international diplomats that there would be only a limited response.

Analysts told AFP that they also expected Israel to temper its actions, with its leaders wary of having to fight a second war while its troops are still engaged in the Gaza Strip.

Source: AFP



Photo: Reuters

Anti-Maduro Protests Spread

Protests spread around Venezuela yesterday and police fired tear gas in the capital Caracas as the opposition said it had voting-tally proof it won a weekend election awarded to long-ruling socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

Demonstrations began after the election board, which critics say is in the pocket of a dictatorial government, declared on Monday that Maduro had won a third term with 51 percent of the vote, extending his "Chavista" movement's quarter-century rule.

But the opposition said the 73 percent of vote tallies to which it has access showed its candidate Edmundo Gonzalez had won by a landslide, with more than twice as many votes as Maduro.

Many Venezuelans staged "cacerolazos", a traditional Latin American protest where people bang pots and pans in anger. Some blocked roads, lit fires and threw petrol bombs at police. At least four people were killed as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters.

Source: Reuters



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Reuters file photo

US Accuses Venezuela of Election Manipulation, Leaves Door Open to Sanctions

The Biden administration said on Monday that electoral manipulation had stripped Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's claim of reelection victory of "any credibility," and Washington left the door open to fresh sanctions on the OPEC nation.

Senior US officials, briefing reporters on Sunday's election, sharpened Washington's response to the disputed vote, in which Venezuela's electoral authority declared Maduro had won a third term, extending 25 years of socialist party rule.

Independent exit polls pointed to a landslide opposition win.

The US and a number of other governments cast doubt on the official vote count. Maduro's opposition rival, Edmundo Gonzalez, asserted that he was the true winner.

The US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, amplified public demands by President Joe Biden's senior aides that Maduro publish a detailed tabulation of votes and said a failure to do would leave the international community unwilling to accept the

announced outcome.

The officials did not unveil any new punitive measures but said Washington would assess its sanctions policy toward Venezuela based on whatever actions Maduro took going forward. Maduro early on Monday reiterated his campaign assertion that Venezuela's electoral system is transparent. White House spokesperson John Kirby said the US would withhold judgment until it gets further information but would then "respond accordingly."

Source: Reuters

93 Killed, Many Feared Trapped in India Landslides



Southern state of Kerala, India, July 30, 2024/Photo: Reuters/CK Thanseer

International Desk: The death toll rose to 93 in the deadly landslides triggered by heavy rains in hilly Wayanad district of India's Kerala today, PTI reported quoting state government sources.

As rescue operators recovered body parts from the rivers and mud in the area, it is difficult to ascertain the exact number of people killed in the tragedy, the sources said.

It is unclear yet whether the

remains belong to a single person or multiple individuals, the sources said.

However, several women and children are among the dead. Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha villages were among the areas affected and cut off by the massive landslides, authorities said.

Hundreds of people are feared to be trapped but the authorities have not confirmed the same,

our New Delhi correspondent reports.

The officials said that there was a possibility that fatalities will increase as many people are feared to be trapped under the debris or washed away in local rivers.

Of those killed, four people, including a child, died in Chooralmala town of the district. A one-year-old child of a family from Nepal died in Thondernad village, according to the Wayanad district authorities.

Hundreds are feared to be trapped in the landslides, but officials have not confirmed this as yet.

Chooramala, Mundakkai, Attamala, and Noolpuzha are four villages worst hit and cut off by the landslides, authorities said.

The landslides left a trail of destruction, with several houses destroyed, water bodies swollen, and trees uprooted, hampering rescue operations.

Nearly a Quarter of Adolescent Girls Suffer Partner Violence, WHO Study Finds



Reuters photo

Around a quarter of adolescent girls who have been in relationships have endured physical or sexual violence, a World Health Organization study said on Tuesday, calling for more prevention actions.

The WHO analysis published in the Lancet medical journal was based on surveys from thousands of adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 from 154 countries and areas. It showed that 24 percent of them had been subjected to intimate partner violence at least once, with 16 percent reporting it in the past year.

Lead author Dr. Lynnmarie Sardinha said the analysis was motivated in part by a concern that younger women were

"falling through the cracks" and not receiving support.

"I was extremely surprised to see what a huge percentage of adolescent girls basically are already being subjected to violence, even before their 20th birthday," she told Reuters. "We are behind where we should be."

The data was based on surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018. Sardinha said data gathered since was still being verified and appeared to show there had been only a "very slight decline."

Acts of violence counted in the survey included kicking or hitting as well as any unwanted sexual act, such as rape or attempted rape.

Source: Reuters

EU High Representative Concerned about Killings, Arrests in Bangladesh

A statement has been issued by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, on recent developments in Bangladesh. The statement, sent through a press release, reads:

"In the margins of the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Laos on 27 July, I conveyed to the representative of Bangladesh and former Foreign Minister, AK Abdul Momen, MP, my grave concern at the announcement of a 'shoot on sight policy' and unlawful killings perpetrated in recent days by the authorities in Bangladesh.

"I am also deeply concerned by the killings of law enforcement officers, violence, torture, mass

arrests and damage to property that have taken place.

"These acts must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice. There must be full accountability for the numerous instances of use of excessive and lethal force by the law enforcement authorities against protesters and others, including journalists and young children. The thousands arrested must receive due process.

"We will follow closely the actions of the authorities in the context of this crisis and, with the fundamentals of EU-Bangladesh relations in mind, expect all human rights to be fully respected." Source: Reuters

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USA

US Treasury Lowers Q3 Borrowing Estimate to \$740B

The US Treasury Department announced Monday it expects to borrow \$740 billion in privately held net marketable debt, assuming a cash balance of \$850 billion by the end of September.

The 3rd quarter figure, from July through September, is \$106 billion lower than the previous estimate that was announced in April, it said in a statement.

During the October-December period, or 4th quarter of this year, the Treasury Department expects to borrow \$565 billion in privately-held net marketable debt, assuming a cash balance of \$700 billion by the end of December.

“During the April – June 2024 quarter, Treasury borrowed \$234 billion in privately-held net marketable debt and ended the quarter with a cash balance of \$778 billion,” said the statement.

“In April 2024, Treasury estimated borrowing of \$243 billion and assumed an end-of-June cash balance of \$750 billion,” it added.

Source: Anadolu Agency

Trump Hush-Money Prosecutors Say Conviction Must Stand Despite Immunity Ruling



The Manhattan prosecutors who secured Donald Trump’s historic criminal conviction disputed the former US president’s claim that the verdict should be set aside in the wake of a US supreme court ruling on presidential immunity. In a court filing dated 24 July and made public on Thursday, the prosecutors said the supreme court’s ruling had no bearing on their case, which stemmed from hush money paid to a porn star. “All of the evidence that he complains of either concerned wholly unofficial conduct, or, at most, official conduct for which any presumption of immunity has been rebutted,” prosecutors

with Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg’s office wrote. Trump, the Republican nominee in the 5 November election, was convicted on 30 May on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to cover up his former lawyer Michael Cohen’s \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about an alleged sexual encounter with Trump. Trump denies any encounter with Daniels and has vowed to appeal the guilty verdict. He is the first US president past or present to be convicted of a crime.

Source: The Guardian



AFP Photo

Over 370,000 Acres Burned in California Wildfires

Wildfires in the US state of California have burned more than 370,000 acres, leading to the evacuation of thousands of residents, local media reported on Tuesday.

The fires, which began on July 24 near the city of Chico in northern California, are still ongoing, according to CNN.

“The Park Fire,” which is

effective east of Chico, has become “the sixth-largest wildfire in California history, torching more than 370,000 acres, or 578 square miles,”

CNN quoted the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) as saying.

“That occurred in only six days. This region, both Butte and Tehama, over the course of

time in California, has had four of the largest 10 fires known in history,” Cal Fire Incident Commander Billy See said at a news conference on Monday.

As of Monday evening, the fire was 12% contained and had destroyed 111 structures and damaged six others across the two affected counties, See added.

Source: Anadolu Agency

US Senate Poised to Pass Major Online Child Safety Reforms



Reuters/File photo

The US Senate is expected to pass major online child safety reforms in a vote on Tuesday, although the legislation, which has drawn mixed reactions from the tech industry, faces an uncertain fate in the House of Representatives.

Two bills - the Children and Teens’ Online Privacy Protection Act and the Kids Online Safety Act, nicknamed COPPA 2.0 and KOSA - would need to pass in the Republican-controlled House, currently on recess until September, to become law.

The bills were approved by the Senate in a bipartisan procedural vote last week, with 86 senators supporting and just one

opposing. Democrats control that chamber by a margin of 51-49 seats, while Republicans hold the House by 220-212.

COPPA 2.0 would ban targeted advertising to minors and data collection without their consent, and give parents and kids the option to delete their information from social media platforms.

Top US social media platforms made an estimated \$11 billion in advertising revenue from users younger than 18 in 2022, according to a Harvard study published last year.

KOSA would make explicit a “duty of care” that social media companies have when it comes

to minors using their products, focusing on design of the platforms and regulation of the companies.

Executives at social media sites Snap Inc and X said at a congressional hearing in January that they supported KOSA, while Facebook and Instagram owner Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg and TikTok Chief Executive Shou Zi Chew said they disagreed with parts of it.

Senators amended the language of the bill in response to such concerns earlier this year, in part by limiting the enforcement responsibility of states’ attorneys general.

Source: Reuters

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Biden Unveils US top Court Reform Plans



President Joe Biden/File

US President Joe Biden yesterday announced plans for urgent reforms to the conservative-dominated Supreme Court, in a bold but long-shot move as he seeks to make a mark in his last six months in power.

The 81-year-old Democrat is calling for a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's recent ruling backing Donald Trump's claims of presidential immunity, according to the White House. The Democrat is also calling for term limits for Supreme Court justices, who currently serve for life, following shock rulings such as the repeal of the nationwide right to abortion.

Biden, who was due to further unveil the

plans in a speech in Austin, Texas later yesterday, will also seek an enforceable ethics code after a string of scandals. He had confirmed he would seek the reforms during an Oval Office address last week outlining his priorities after deciding to drop out of the 2024 election, though the plans have almost no hope of getting through a deeply divided Congress.

"This nation was founded on a simple yet profound principle: No one is above the law. Not the president of the United States. Not a justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. No one," Biden said in an opinion piece published Monday. *Source: AFP*



Donald Trump/File

Trump says Olympic Opening Ceremony was 'A Disgrace'

Donald Trump on Monday called the Olympics opening ceremony in Paris a "disgrace," after its creators came under fire for what some said was a show gone too far.

"I'm very open-minded but I thought what they did was a disgrace," Trump told Fox News.

His comments followed condemnation from Catholic groups and French bishops of a ceremony scene involving dancers, drag queens and a DJ in poses that appeared to recall depictions of the Last Supper, although creators have said it was not meant to represent the

religious setting.

The sequence drew international criticism from Christian groups and far-right politicians on social media.

When asked by host Laura Ingraham what he would do if he's reelected president in time for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, Trump replied: "We won't be having a 'Last Supper' as portrayed the way they portrayed it last night."

Thomas Jolly, the director of the opening ceremony, later responded to criticism by saying he intended for the production to "reconcile" and "repair."

Source: AFP



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New York

New York State's Medical Indemnity Fund is Running out of Money

New York state's Medical Indemnity Fund, which helps children injured by medical malpractice, is running out of money. It has enough to keep enrollment open until next spring, but after that, it will need additional funding. Typically, patients who sue

York investigative reporter Mahsa Saeidi when the deal was conceived during budget negotiations in 2011, the plan was to have hospitals largely finance the fund. The state won't reveal how much hospitals are putting in, but it's not enough. State records show the fund is facing a projected shortfall of at least \$3 billion, and that shortfall is impacting the children.

Medical Indemnity Fund stops enrolling new applicants

The New York Department of Health oversees the fund. During a state budget hearing in January, Krueger asked DOH about the fund's future.

"We have a legal obligation to the children that are in the fund for the rest of their lives. What's happening?" she asked.

"We have not stopped enrollment and if we did, we would be, we would notify you, as well as others," said Amir Bassiri, Medicaid director for the state health department.

But four months later, DOH quietly stopped enrolling new applicants. Families tell CBS New York they found out by reading a notice on the state's website.

Source: Fox5NY



for malpractice and win get a substantial award, but in New York, the hospital or doctor found to be negligent is only on the hook for part of the damages. Instead of paying for future costs, New York enrolls these kids into the fund with the promise of a lifetime of care.

Sen. Liz Krueger, chair of the Senate Finance Committee, told CBS New

Gilgo Beach Murders: Rex Heuermann Due in Court Pending Additional Evidence



Suffolk County DA says Heuermann says they have expanded their investigation beyond Gilgo Beach.

LONG ISLAND: Alleged serial killer Rex Heuermann is due back in court on Long Island on Tuesday, pending additional evidence.

This will be his first court appearance since he was charged with the murders of six women.

At the time of his initial arrest, a year ago on July 13, prosecutors said they had an "avalanche" of evidence against the alleged serial killer.

The judge hopes the prosecution will hand over additional discovery to the defense.

Gilgo beach murder evidence
Prosecutors say Heuermann had burner phones and a long Internet history containing at least 200 searches about the investigation into the Gilgo murders. Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond Tierney told FOX 5 initially that "after reviewing all the evidence in the case, they had sort of honed in on this."

Arrest records show that detectives believe Heuermann used burner cell phones to contact his victims and, in one case, used one of the victim's cell phones to make "taunting" phone calls to her family in which he admitted killing and sexually assaulting her.

'Gilgo Four'
The bodies of the "Gilgo Four" were located within a quarter-mile of one another near Gilgo Beach in December 2010.

Their bodies were all located near each other on Ocean Parkway, and were the first of 10 sets of remains found in the same area between fall of 2010 and spring of 2011.

The alleged serial killer was also charged with the killings of Sandra Costilla and Jessica Taylor, two women who were long suspected of being the victims of men preying on sex workers.

Source: Fox5 NY

Elhaam Academy: Nurturing Faith and Knowledge for the Next Generation



In a rapidly changing world, the importance of nurturing faith and identity in young Muslims cannot be exaggerated. According to a 2018 Pew Research Center article, 23% of Americans raised as Muslims no longer identify with the faith, and 18% have no religious identification.

The academy is led by Sr. Jamilah, a

Harvard graduate with a PhD, who also taught at Wellspring Islamic School.

By providing a strong foundation in Islamic teachings and modern education, the academy is helping to shape a generation of Muslims who are proud of their faith and ready to contribute positively to society. -Press release

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Editorial

Israel's war is Having Multiple Ripple Effects in Gaza

The increasing deaths and displacement of Palestinians as well as outbreaks of diseases in Gaza demand a much greater pressure from the international community to bring Israel's genocidal campaign to an end. The WHO's head of health emergencies in the occupied Palestinian territories also said that the number of people now needing to be evacuated from Gaza for medical care may have risen to 14,000.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the ongoing war has risen to 39,090 since October 7, as Khan Younis suffered one of its bloodiest days on Tuesday, with at least 89 Palestinians being killed. The order came days after the health ministry in Gaza said that 92 people were

killed in a strike on Al-Mawasi, when Israel claimed it was targeting a Hamas commander. Such mass casualties, under the guise of Israel targeting Hamas militants, has tragically become the norm in Gaza.

These endless deaths, displacement and injuries to Palestinians can only be brought to an end by the international community putting enough pressure on Israel. Worryingly, however, there has been little response from the former so far, despite a number of directives and rulings from the International Court of Justice which, as recently as Friday, came down hard against Israel by calling its occupation of Palestinian territories illegal, and likening its laws in the occupied territories to "the crime of apartheid". This is deeply concerning.

The population of the strip has already been through starvation; immeasurable amounts of violence has been inflicted upon them; and now with the threat of possible outbreaks hanging over them, we hope the international community will finally recognise the urgency with which it must act.

State is yet to answer for so many deaths

The government seems to be in overdrive to identify those involved in the violence centring the quota protests, which would have been welcome had it included in its assessment of "violence" the role of its own security forces, especially in the deaths of over 165 people (as verified by this paper) that occurred during those violent clashes. In this connection, more than 10,000 people have been arrested in 12 days, and at least 473 more detained in police raids till July 29, according to our reports.

Unfortunately, despite the gravity of the violence against students and the general population, the government's sole focus seems to be catching those who carried out vandalism of public properties, or clashed with security forces and members of ruling party affiliated groups—totally disregarding the role played by the latter in terms of instigation, escalation, and even the commission of killings. It is not for nothing that the students are now asking if the damage and destruction caused to public establishments, which we must condemn, are worth more to the current regime than the loss of citizens' lives.

By the home ministry's own count, at least 150 people have so far lost their lives in the recent violence over the quota reform protests. Would the ministry please provide an answer for how these people died? Was there really a shoot-on-sight order? If so, who ordered it, and why? And if not, why did law enforcers go out of their way to indiscriminately open fire on protesters? Verified videos, media reports, and eye-witness accounts have provided chilling evidence of the cruelty of the state apparatuses, which didn't even spare a four-year-old standing on his balcony.

Despite repeated calls for accountability and justice—not least from the students themselves who have lost their comrades—we have not seen any real attempt by the government to address the mass killings, even as it observed a nationwide mourning in remembrance of those killed in the recent violence. The judicial probe commission that was formed has confirmed that it will only investigate the six deaths that took place on July 16 for now. Who will answer for the blood that has since been spilled? And when?

As the government goes all out to quell the protests—by using the full force of the state—they seem to be missing the point altogether. Public anger and calls for accountability cannot be suppressed by mass arrests and crackdown on social media. By refusing to acknowledge the complicity of state apparatuses in the deaths, it is trivialising the sanctity of the lives of citizens and in the process further eroding its own credibility in the public eye. We can observe a national mourning day, but without unearthing what caused so many deaths, it will lack any moral authority.

Opinion

The future of US

by SALMAN J. CHOUDHURY



In a surprising turn of events, President Joe Biden has announced that he will not seek re-election, shifting the political focus to Vice President Kamala Harris as the potential next leader of the United States. This decision has profound implications for the Democratic Party and the nation,

highlighting the historic and unprecedented nature of Harris's possible presidency. As the first female, Black, and South Asian Vice President, Harris stands at the threshold of making history once more, this time as President. The question now is whether she is fit to lead the country during these turbulent times.

Kamala Harris brings a wealth of experience to the table, having served as the Attorney General of California and as a U.S. Senator. Her career has been marked by significant achievements in areas such as criminal justice reform, healthcare, and immigration. As Attorney General, she gained a reputation for being tough on crime while also advocating for reforms to reduce recidivism and improve the fairness of the justice system. In the Senate, she was known for her sharp questioning and her commitment to progressive policies. These roles have equipped her with a deep understanding of the legal system and the legislative process, both critical for effective governance.

However, Harris's potential presidency is not without controversy. Her prosecutorial record has been a point of contention, with some critics arguing that her policies were overly punitive and did not adequately address the systemic issues within the criminal justice system. Additionally, as Vice President, she has faced challenges in defining her role and asserting her influence within the administration. Some have questioned her handling of key issues, such as immigration

and voting rights, where tangible progress has been slower than anticipated. Beyond policy and experience, the question of leadership style is crucial. Harris is known for her assertive and forthright manner, traits that are both praised and criticized. Her ability to communicate effectively and connect with a broad range of voters will be vital in a nation deeply divided along political and cultural lines.

Moreover, her leadership will be tested by the need to build consensus within a diverse Democratic Party, which includes both progressive and moderate factions. The potential presidency of Kamala Harris also carries significant symbolic weight. Her ascent to the presidency would not only shatter glass ceilings but also resonate deeply with communities of color and other underrepresented groups in the United States. This aspect of her candidacy could galvanize support from these communities and inspire a new generation of leaders. However, it also places her under intense scrutiny, as she would be expected to navigate complex issues of identity, representation, and policy with nuance and sensitivity. As the nation grapples with critical issues such as economic inequality, climate change, healthcare, and international relations, the choice of the next president becomes even more consequential.

Harris's experience and perspective could bring a new approach to these challenges, potentially reshaping the policy landscape in meaningful ways. Yet, the extent to which she can unite the country and deliver on the pressing needs of the American people remains an open question. In this pivotal moment, the American public is faced with a fundamental question: Is Kamala Harris the leader who can guide the United States through its current challenges and into a more equitable and prosperous future? This question invites reflection on what qualities are most needed in a leader today and how the nation's diverse population can come together to support a vision for progress and unity.

Author is a Executive Editor of The Generation

Students of West Bengal Stand in Solidarity with the Student Protestors of Bangladesh

by JESSICA GHOSH



Earlier this month protests erupted in universities in Bangladesh over the quota reservation system that reserves over half of the government jobs for descendants of Bangladesh's 1971 liberation

war fighters.

The peaceful protests were met with violence by the police and the ruling party members leading to the escalation of the movement and violent clashes, widespread unrest and internet shut down throughout the country.

Many student leaders and protesters have been detained by the government authorities and over 130 people lost lives.

In West Bengal, students and academics showed solidarity with the Bangladeshi students in places like Shantineketan, Kolkata by organizing marches and rallies.

There were demonstrations against the violent police attacks on the protesters on July 19. Students from across universities and organizations like All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO), All India Students' Federation participated in the protests in Kolkata. A protest march was organised by AIDSO from

Lady Brabourne College to the Bangladesh High Commission, in Kolkata.

Students from Viswa Bharati University also held a march in support of the Bangladeshi students at Shantineketan.

People also took to their social media handles to voice their support and strongly condemn the violent means used by the Haseena government to suppress the movement.

Students in India have a long history of organizing and participating in protests against the government for bringing in reforms and change. They can identify themselves with the Bangladeshi youth and hence feels compelled to support them. The way the peaceful protests were met with violence by the government authorities in Bangladesh brings our attention to the demolition of democratic structures by "democratic governments" and gives rise to concerns regarding the preservation of democracy not just in Bangladesh but in democratic countries all over the world. The Bangladeshi protests and the sacrifices of the students will remain etched in history and serve as a stark reminder for authoritative regimes functioning in the guise of liberal democracies that the ultimate power will always reside in the people.

Reference- The Hindu

Author is a Student

“Bangladesh’s Political Turmoil: Examining the Quota Movement and its Effects on Sheikh Hasina’s Administration”

by DR. DILIP NATH



The quota movement in Bangladesh has developed from a students demand for change of policy to political crisis involving violence and demand for removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This overview will also discuss the background of the movement, consequences, state of affairs, and politics of the scenario

especially the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami’s role. Also, it will give background information about Sheikh Hasina’s government and her achievement and at the same time arguing other movement.

Background of the Quota Movement

The quota system of civil service jobs in Bangladesh was first introduced when the government wanted to provide a share of the civil service jobs to the reserved groups. But in recent years, it turned to be debated one due to the opinion that quotas are abused; thus, change is welcomed. It gained support from students specifically targeting CEOs who wanted to eliminate or at least lower the quotas as they considered merit as the best reason to be recruited.

How the Quota Movement Started

The appreciation of the quota reform movement started in the year 2018 when the students’ formed groups to demonstrate against the existing quota systems arguing that it was a demerit of meritocracy. The demonstrations were taken to the next level following the government move in March 2018 to scrap the less favorable quotas. At first, the students’ claims were related to the need to change the quota system only for the benefit of providing equal opportunities for the representatives of the weaker sections of society.

Implications of the Movement

What the men themselves have done to the ‘quota movement’ is not to be underestimated. Not only has it focused on merit in civil service in Bangladesh, it has also revealed the society’s prejudices in representation and discrimination. The protests have brought necessary focus on the fact that merit needs to be combined with social justice to minorities.

Current Status

Beginning of July 2024 sees a drastic change in the circumstances whereby; The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has come up with a ruling for that 7% affirmative action for certain liberate groups such as the freedom fighters and the ethnic groups but opens up 93% for competition. This ruling was considered as the prospective solution to the protests, which still matched the students’ demands. However, the movement has a problem of violence with unrests which have more

political factions leading to rampage and arson in various regions of the country.

Some open sources state that during July 18-21, intensive fighting took place, and calculated for each of these days the loss in terms of lives of between 30 to 51 people in Dhaka and other cities. There were allegations by medical facilities of the use of live bullets on protesters further demonstrating the regime’s willingness to deal with the protests violently. The violence has received global concern, diaspora groups’ protests in other nations demanding Hasina’s ouster.

Political Hijacking of the Movement

The quota movement has been hijacked by the party opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami whose ... main agenda are anti-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, not the students’. This has led to use of force which includes; fighting, destruction of property and a general degradation of the law and order. Several accounts show that these political groups used students’ genuine concerns to advance their causes; thus the non-violent protests end up being a pathway through which political opposition to Hasina’s government is waged.

The BNP and Jamaat have been caught in the middle of charges of inciting violence and the protests serve as a tool to overthrow the government. The situation has been so progressed that now armed cadres of these parties have started controlling the protest which often results in the burning of public and private property. The country has been put under a curfew and the military deployed to quell the violence.

Even in Dhaka city, Vandalism and arson attacks have targeted and affected various Government buildings including BTV Center, National Data Center, Bridge Authority Building and many others that include the Disaster Management Authority Building, BRTA Building, Mirpur Indoor Stadium, Building of the Postal Authority, at least two Metro Rail Stations, a number of toll plazas of the Elevated Expressway, BEZA Bhaban, DG Health Office, a number It is important to note that no one and nothing was safe during this unprecedented campaign of violence, not even private properties and transports. There were also testimonies about violence from other parts of Bangladesh, apart from Dhaka. In the specific districts which include Rangpur, Narayanganj, Madaripur and some others, several installations belonging to the Law Enforcement Agencies have been attacked paralyzing several security personnel while leaving several grievously injured and several others having their arms and ammunitions stolen. In one daring attempt, many hundreds of the prisoners, two of whom where Jihadist convicted terrorists, broke out of the district jail of Narshingdi, leading to the theft of the jail’s arsenal, and the degradation of the residents’ property, quarter of the jail authorities.

Sheikh Hasina and Her Government

Bangladesh has witnessed Sheikh Hasina as a key political personality right from the time when she came into power for the first time in 1996. It has been her government that has seen relatively high economic growth, infrastructural development and the overall advancement in social facilities such as education and health. She has also strived in women’s rights, poverty and income inequality where her administration has achieved tremendous milestones and she has been recognized internationally.

Nevertheless, the government led by this woman is criticized for suppressing dissent and opposing it. Today’s quota movement, however much it had its inception on perfectly valid grounds, has been painted by some as a wrecking ball, designed to bring her government down rather than make constructive changes. The last disturbances have illuminated the weak points of the government and its illegitimacy, especially as the basic storyline changes from the non-educated population of Yemen to the intellectuals who are now quite actively protesting the actions of the administration

Conclusion

The necessary understanding of the interdependence between grass root student movements and political strategies could be observed while analysing the recent quota movement of Bangladesh. In my opinion the earlier part of the demonstrations regarding reform was justifiable, however those following the physical aggression and taking advantage politically have gone too far. In conclusion, the Awami League government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina has done well in these developments besides managing to address some of these crises when coming to power; however, the new regime is one that must attend to these problems while rebuilding and ensuring students’ voice is not hijacked by politically augmented unions. The result of this fighting was expected to redefine the country’s politics, economy, as well as its societal structure in the next several years and possibly beyond.

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Mindfulness

by SADIA J. CHOUDHURY



Mindfulness is not practiced as often as people need to. Mindfulness means being attentive and staying in the present moment. In the era we are living in, practicing mindfulness in our day-to-day lives has become

challenging.

The opposite of mindful living is characterized by a fast-paced culture always multitasking and connected to the internet. I multitask and have difficulty staying in the present. A mind-body practice called mindfulness focuses on the relationships between the brain, cognition, body, and behavior. Essentially, mindfulness is evident in the social work field. Social workers are demanded to do many things at their jobs, which could lead to a lack of mental presence in our

client’s lives. Mindfulness should be an integral part of our work. It benefits not only us but also our clients.

In this paper, we will briefly discuss the different exercises helping the process of mindfulness, the importance of mindfulness in working with my clients in the social work field, and; the importance of practicing mindfulness in my life as a clinician. Mindfulness is an important tool for therapists and social workers to cultivate, both for their well-being and the benefit of their clients.

It can enhance therapeutic presence, reduce stress and burnout, improve empathy and compassion, increase cognitive flexibility, and enhance problem-solving skills. Additionally, mindfulness is important in the therapeutic relationship because it helps to create a safe and trusting environment,

enhances empathy and compassion, reduces stress and anxiety, encourages acceptance and non-judgment, and promotes self-awareness.

These benefits can lead to a more effective therapeutic relationship and improved outcomes for the client.

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A Private Enquiry

by Vicente L Ruiz

Rebecca cursed and almost choked on her coffee when she read the news.

"Maren, stop scrolling. Back up, what was that?" she said.

"What's what, Becca?" Maren, her AI, said.

"Just let me..." she gestured and the images and texts being projected on her goggles changed quickly. "There. I almost missed it."

"Oh. I see."

"Damn, Maren, I thought you'd filter this kind of news for me." She stared ahead and frowned. "Did you apply that last update I

told you about?"

"Becca, please..."

"Do it. Now. I ran it through Mignon. You know it's safe. Don't make me sudo you."

"Dang." There was a pause. "Done."

"Right there. Now, let's see this." Rebecca zoomed the article. "Ollie Mee found dead in his office. A small piece, telling nil about cause of death and mentioning his work as a magician. He never was a good magician. He couldn't be."

"He believed in hiding in plain sight, you mean," Maren said.

"Yes. Let's go."

Rebecca stood and walked into the rain. She brought up her bank account status and sighed. Checking the hour, she sighed again.

"We'd better get a cab. Dammit."

The closest empty cab was round the corner. It wheeled in in silence and the door hissed open. Rebecca sat down and sent the address to the computer. The cab AI answered something, but she wasn't paying attention.

Ollie Mee. An absurd name, an unassuming man on the surface. But Rebecca knew the truth. She cursed again.

The cab stopped and opened its door. Rebecca stepped out. Mee's office was located in an old apartment building, one of those relics of a bygone age that were always just one step away from being demolished.

She pushed the gate. It wasn't locked. She wasn't surprised. She ignored the lift and climbed up the stairs to the fourth floor, giving thanks Mee hadn't chosen one of the upper stories.

"Shit." The door to Mee's office was sealed with black and yellow "Police Line, Do Not Cross" tape. A notice claiming the office would be closed while the investigation took place was stuck to the door.

Rebecca produced a pair of vinyl gloves and put them on, removed the tape and opened the door.

Mee's office was a mess. That sent her alarms tingling. She knew that, for all his shortcomings, the man was -had been- nothing but tidy.

"Maren, full scan. Be thorough, please."

"Got it."

Rebecca stepped over a pile of ledgers, paying attention to everything. She didn't like it. Not at all. Mee's desk was in disarray. There was an ominous-looking dark stain on its surface. Where it touched some papers, it could be seen to be dark red. Rebecca had seen blood often enough to recognize it.

"Becca, I've found traces of..." Maren started

"Magic."

"Yes."

"Of course. Of course." Rebecca touched her wristband.

"I'm going to see if we're lucky. Stand guard and stop me if anybody comes."

"Got you," Maren said.

Rebecca called in the database in her wristband, choosing the right spell from her grimoire. She activated it, and the runes danced before her, aligning themselves in the correct order.

It felt a bit like VR, that spell. It plunged Rebecca back in time, but not really. The spell tapped into the remaining thaumic traces that always lingered back after magic was

used, and made the user feel what had happened before. If the user was trained in the ways of magic, of course.

Rebecca was trained.

Still, it was too late. There were too little residual traces to make anything out of it. Rebecca was running out of curses for the day.

"Let's go. We'll have to do it the old-fashioned way," she said.

"Lewis'?" Maren asked.

"Lewis'", Rebecca answered.

One couldn't simply stumble upon Lewis': one had to be invited. Not because it was a luxury pub: someone had described it once as a "wretched hive of scum and villainy". But the owner wouldn't have it otherwise.

Rebecca simply walked up to the door and stared at the bouncer. The mountain of flesh stared back for a couple of seconds, then nodded and let her in. Rebecca's goggles automatically adjusted to the darkness and Maren filtered her hearing to dampen the loud music. She saw several familiar faces. A couple even nodded her way when they saw her, then went on with their businesses.

Rebecca made a beeline for the bar, where a blonde was not really busy watching something on an old handheld device.

"I want to talk to Lewis," Rebecca said.

"Everybody wants to talk to Lewis, darlin'" the blonde said, not bothering to look up.

Rebecca just made a gesture and touched the blonde's arm with the tip of her fingernail.

"Ow! That burns!" the blonde now looked at her. "Oh, it's you..."

"How rude of you, Ms September!" a tenor voice said behind Rebecca.

She turned around. Lewis looked as good as ever. Better, probably.

"Won't you take off your goggles and let me see your eyes, Ms September?" he said.

"Bad idea," Maren said. Rebecca considered it, then she raised her hand and took them off.

His light blue eyes pierced her. For a second, she saw the fire in them, and vertigo grabbed her. Then her bracelet burned, sending a spike up her arm.

"Stop that, Lewis," she said. He shrugged and smiled innocently. "I don't have time for games."

"What a pity, Ms September. You know I'd love playing some games with you."

And that would be so horribly wrong, Rebecca knew. But also oh so good... She pushed the thought aside.

"I need to talk to you," she said.

Lewis gazed at her. It was amazing, how many things his eyes expressed, and how unfathomable all of them felt. He seemed to consider what Rebecca had said, then he smiled and nodded.

"This way."

Rebecca followed him dodging the drinkers and dancers. She fell several steps behind. Lewis turned around and smiled. Damned smile. So dangerous, yet so beautiful. He held a side door open for her. Rebecca slipped into his office, then he followed her.

Lewis had a large desk and a wall of monitors. All of them were blank. Opposite the monitors was a large fish tank, easily as large as Rebecca. There must have been more than fifty multicoloured fish placidly swimming inside.

"That's new," he said, pointing at the tank. "I find them soothing."

"Ollie Mee," she said.

"My, direct as ever," he said, sitting behind his desk. "Please take a seat."

Rebecca sat. She had stopped playing the 'sit or stand' game with Lewis a long time ago.

"Ollie Mee," she insisted. "He's been murdered."

Lewis interlaced his fingers.

"You've been to his place," he said. It wasn't a question. Rebecca thought she even heard a little concern in his voice.

"That should not have been possible, Lewis. Ollie was a powerful wizard. Possibly the most powerful one I've ever met."

"People make mistakes," he said.

"Ollie didn't. You know it as well as I do."

He conceded a reluctant nod.

"What do you know?" she asked.

He shook his head.

"Nothing." It sounded like a confession.

"A man in your position..."

"Thank you for the compliment. Calling me a man, I mean. Listen, obviously some high power must have been involved."

"Magic," she said.

"Damn. That's not good. I can only think of four people who could tag Mee. Possibly. The other two aren't in this room, and they're not magic users."

"So, Lewis?"

"You know it wasn't me. You could say I cannot. I'm bound."

"But you can," she insisted. "Those bonds are not real."

"True. Look at me, Rebecca," he said. She noticed he used her first name. "Look."

Eternity passed while she gazed into his eyes.

Rebecca stood.

"Right then," she said. "Lots of work to do still. I'll find my way out."

When she was at the door, he spoke again.

"Why?" Lewis asked. "Why are you doing this?"

She didn't turn around.

"He was my friend."

She left and clicked the door closed.

"I'd like to be your friend too," Lewis said.

Rebecca had barely walked two blocks when they attacked. They were completely noiseless. A Cone of Silence, she realized. She cursed this age, when a woman had to watch out for technology as well as magic.

Rebecca realized her goggles were still in her pocket, that worrisome Lewis had been. Cursing yet again, she set into motion. She ducked one shadow as she activated a Pulse Barrier. There was a clang and sound came back.

"The band! It has her spells!" one rasp voice said. Strong arms grabbed her, and someone picked her bracelet and tore it. Someone else cried in triumph... then went silent.

Without her wristband, Rebecca's real appearance was no longer hidden. Every square centimeter of her skin was covered in intricate tattoos. To any supernatural being, those tattoos had a special meaning.

"Demons?" she said, finally getting a good look at her attackers.

The first one raised a hand. "Wait, we..."

Red glyphs formed a circle on Rebecca's forehead. The circle detached itself and hurled towards the demon. The creature screamed and was gone.

"One down..." green snakes surged from her arms and crawled over the hands that had pinned her. Then the snakes buried themselves under the demon's skin.

Having a demon scream to its death in your ear wasn't fun. "And that's two..."

Free to move, Rebecca put her goggles on.

"Sorry, Maren," she said.

"Hmph," Maren complained. "Look out!"

But Rebecca was already moving her hands as if catching a fly in the air. Two giant arms grabbed the last demon and started shaking it. Rebecca stepped close, her glittery skin gleaming with power.

"Who sent you, demon?" she bit out.

But the demon just screamed, and then its head clung down.

"Shit," she said.

"Wait," Maren said. "It committed suicide?"

"Yes," Rebecca said. She picked her bracelet up. The band was broken, but that's why they made it in rubbery plastic. "And I'm not any closer to finding out who killed Ollie Mee."

Politics

Clock Ticking for Kamala Harris to Name Running Mate

Newly thrust into the race for the White House, Kamala Harris embarks Monday on a pivotal week for her campaign as she intensifies the search for a running mate.

The US vice president, who is all but certain to secure her party's official nomination to challenge Donald Trump this November, is set to announce the number two on her ticket in the coming days.

'Compressed timetable'

Choosing a vice president is a critical step for any presidential hopeful, a chance to broaden their appeal to the electorate with a complementary partner.

Democratic governors: Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, Roy Cooper of North Carolina, Andy Beshear of Kentucky and Tim Walz of Minnesota.

The fifth is US Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona, a former astronaut.

Cooper, Shapiro and Kelly all hail from swing states, critical battlegrounds on which the election hinges -- while Beshear is in his second term in reliably Republican Kentucky.

JD Vance in trouble

Harris's selection process is being scrutinized all the more closely given the troubles embroiling US Senator J.D. Vance, Trump's handpicked running mate.

The Ohio Republican, a graduate of Yale Law School who styles himself as a blue-collar hero, was chosen for his



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican nominee Donald Trump. Kamala Harris, Instagram/Timothy Clary, AFP

100 Days: Extraordinary US Election Enters the Home Stretch

The 100-day sprint to the US election began Sunday, the final act of a campaign transformed by an assassination attempt and the stunning exit of President Joe Biden.

After weeks of infighting and despondency over Biden's candidacy, Democrats have consolidated behind Vice President Kamala Harris, radically reshaping the race to November 5 that was fast becoming Republican nominee Donald Trump's to lose.

A new Wall Street Journal poll showed Harris had closed Biden's six-point deficit with Trump to just two points -- well within the margin of error -- with boosted support from Black, Latino and young voters.

But Republican pollster David Lee, who conducted the Journal survey, cautioned Democrats not to get carried away by the race tightening.

"Donald Trump is in a far better position in this election when compared to a similar time in the 2020 election," Lee said.

If the race is at a dead heat nationally, the advantage still lies with Trump given the mathematics of the Electoral College system for electing the president.

Trump's 2016 victory over Hillary Clinton came despite losing the nationwide popular vote by nearly three million ballots.

"We are the underdogs in this race," Harris acknowledged at a fundraising event on Saturday.

"But this is a people-powered campaign and we have momentum," she added.

The Democratic convention in mid-August will seek to keep that momentum going with a jubilant celebration of Harris's candidacy.

Dogged by voters' concerns about his age and mental acuity, the 81-year-old Biden was an outside bet at best, trailing his predecessor in the first presidential election rematch since Dwight Eisenhower trounced Adlai Stevenson in 1956.

Biden's dismal June 27 debate

performance ignited alarm and panic within his party.

After an initial show of defiance, Biden bowed to the inevitable and dropped out of the race a week ago.

Harris, a generation younger at 59, threw her hat in the ring -- turning what had been a stale contest between two unpopular, aging, white male candidates into a dynamic and unpredictable showdown.

The final result on November 5 will likely be determined by around 100,000 independent, undecided voters in a handful of battleground states that both campaigns will target exhaustively over the coming three months.

The Harris honeymoon

The challenge for Harris is substantial. Once the Republicans have adapted to her candidacy and honed their attack lines, they are set to hammer her over key voter issues such as immigration and rising prices.

Democratic strategist James Carville told MSNBC that Democrats needed to cut the happy talk and prepare for the coming storm.

"They're coming at us and they're going to keep coming. And this kind of giddy elation is not going to be very helpful much longer because that's now what we're going to be faced with," he said.

Even former president Barack Obama has cautioned against hubris, underlining Harris's underdog status and the need for her to earn the trust of voters.

Trump, who has seen his favorability ratings tick upward since the July 13 attempt on his life and the successful Republican convention, made his attack priorities clear at a rally Saturday in the traditionally Democratic state of Minnesota.

Labeling Harris a "crazy liberal" and a "radical left lunatic," Trump lied to make her sound like an extremist on abortion and made fun of her laugh.

"We have a brand new victim," he told his cheering supporters. *Source: AFP*



US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign fundraising event at the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on July 27, 2024. (AFP)

It is a process that normally spans several months, involving meticulous vetting of contenders' experience, their finances, hobbies -- and any lurking scandals.

But with Biden's late exit from the race, Harris faces a "compressed timetable" of mere weeks, says Joel Goldstein, a scholar of vice presidencies at Saint Louis University.

Harris is reportedly expected to reveal her choice by August 7 -- less than 20 days after launching her campaign.

If she wins in November, Harris would make history as the first woman, the first person of South Asian descent, and the second Black person to serve as US president.

"One of the features of vice presidential selection often involves balance," Goldstein told AFP.

Of the five names currently dominating discussion, four are

relative youth and fervent defenses of Trump, despite previously opposing the billionaire.

'The most insignificant office'

For Goldstein, the turmoil engulfing Vance highlights a failure on the fundamentals of the vice presidential vetting process.

"I think the first questions have to be: can they get through the vetting screen? Are they a plausible president who's ready for the national stage?" he said.

In fact, the primary role of a vice president is to replace the president in the event of their death or resignation.

The first US vice president, John Adams, complained bitterly about his fate in a 1793 letter to his wife: "My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived."

Source: AFP

Sports

Argentina, Morocco Through to Men's Olympic Football Knockouts

Morocco reached the quarter-finals with a crushing 3-0 win over Group B rivals Iraq in Nice, while Spain relinquished top spot in Group C after a 2-1 loss to Egypt in Bordeaux, in the final group-stage matches of the Olympic football tournament on Tuesday.

Amir Richardson, Soufiane Rahimi and Abde Ezzalzouli all scored in the first half to make Morocco Group B leaders on goal difference.

Argentina, who advanced in second, beat Ukraine 2-0 thanks to Thiago Almada's fine effort after halftime and Claudio Echeverri's stoppage-time goal at Lyon

Stadium. An alternative lineup failed to clinch Spain first place in Group C, as Egypt moved above them with a brace from Egypt's Ibrahim Adel earning them an unexpected win.

Former Barcelona forward Ezzalzouli sealed the rout in the 36th minute when his brilliant strike from the edge of the box sailed into the far corner.

Also in Group C, the Dominican Republic were eliminated from their first Olympic tournament after being held to a 1-1 draw by Uzbekistan, who arrived at the match at Parc des Princes having already been knocked out of the competition.

Source: Reuters



Paris 2024 Olympics
- Football - Men's
Group B - Ukraine
vs Argentina - Lyon
Stadium, Decines-
Charpieu, France
- July 30, 2024.
Claudio Echeverri of
Argentina celebrates
scoring their second
goal with teammates.
/Photo: Reuters



Jordan Chiles, Hezly Rivera, Simone Biles, Sunisa Lee and Jade Carey celebrate winning the gold medal during the Artistic Gymnastics Women's Team Final at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 on July 30. Photographer: Naomi Baker/Getty Images via Bloomberg

Gymnastics Great Biles Leads USA to Olympic Women's Team Gold

Simone Biles led the United States to a dominant victory in the women's gymnastics team final on Tuesday, laying the ghost of Tokyo as she claimed a fifth career Olympic gold medal.

Three years after Biles battled a disorientating mental block in Tokyo,

pulling out of the team final in which the United States settled for silver, she and teammates Jordan Chiles, Jade Carey and Sunisa Lee led wire-to-wire in reclaiming gold ahead of Italy with Brazil taking bronze.

Source: Reuters



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'Deadpool & Wolverine' Opens with Record-Breaking \$205M in Domestic Sales

Marvel's raunchy and violent "Deadpool & Wolverine" lit up box offices over the weekend with \$205 million in US and Canadian ticket sales, the biggest domestic opening of the year, distributor Walt Disney said on Sunday.

The returns set a record for an R-rated film and topped the \$154.2 million collected by another Disney film, the animated Pixar movie "Inside Out 2," when it debuted in June.

"Deadpool & Wolverine," the first R-rated Marvel film by Disney, stars Ryan Reynolds

as Deadpool, a character known for sexually explicit jokes, swearing and violence. Hugh Jackman plays Wolverine, a sharp-clawed mutant.

The movie opened in international markets on Wednesday and has brought in \$233.3 million outside of the US and Canada, Disney said.

It is the second straight hit for Disney, which is rebounding from lackluster performances in 2023 for movies such as "The Marvels" and "Haunted Mansion."

The films have helped cinema chains such as AMC Entertainment, Cineworld and Cinemark that are grappling with a thin film slate in 2024.

Several major titles were delayed because of strikes last year by Hollywood actors and writers.

Source: Reuters

Ryan Reynolds as Deadpool and Hugh Jackman as Wolverine in 'Deadpool & Wolverine.' Jay Maidment/20th Century Studios/Marvel



Jimmy Kimmel hosting the Oscars on March 10, 2024. Kevin Winter/Getty Images

Jimmy Kimmel Not Returning as Oscar host

Entertainment Desk: Jimmy Kimmel, a four-time Oscar host, has turned down the offer to host the 2025 Oscars. He is tied with Whoopi Goldberg and Jack Lemmon for fourth in hosting duties, behind Johnny Carson (5), Billy Crystal (9), and Bob Hope (19). People Magazine reports that Jimmy Kimmel has declined to host the 2025

Oscars, so he won't be on stage for the 97th Academy Awards. Kimmel previously hosted in 2017 and 2018; the ceremony had no host from 2019 to 2021.

The 97th Academy Awards will be broadcast live at 7pm ET on ABC on Sunday, March 2, from the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood.

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News

Checks Coming to Some NY Families

After Page 16

\$350 million in direct financial assistance would be distributed, with more than a million families in the state receiving a check.

A press release from the governor's office indicated families will get a supplemental payment of up to \$330 per child through the Empire State Child Credit program.

"Child care has gone up 20%. And I think it's not a news flash that wages have not kept up with that," Hochul said. "The strain on working families is too much, and we're losing families who are going

elsewhere where they don't have the same challenges, and that actually threatens New York state's long-term viability."

The payments going out over the next month are, according to the state, in addition to the 2023 tax credit that families already received. The program was expanded last year to include children younger than 4 years old, which covered 600,000 more children in New York.

"It's not just making life livable in New York, it's making it affordable," Hochul said.

Source: Spectrum NY1

Bangladesh: Can Student Uprising

After Page 16

led by Sheikh Hasina — only half a year since the last national election.

'Growing distrust towards the government'

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the country's largest opposition party, expressed "surprise" at the emergence of this movement. Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal, a member of the party's central committee, said that the protests had unmasked the profound public scepticism towards the ruling Awami League, which has ruled the country for 16 years.

The Awami League won the 2008 election conducted under the military-backed caretaker government. It has since won three more elections, in 2014, 2018 and most recently in 2024. However, all three national elections were marred by allegations of vote rigging and boycotts from the opposition.

How ruling Awami League views protests?

The ruling party has weathered protests before and does not yet seem to have been humbled by the latest student movement. The state response has been harsh — in the capital Dhaka alone, over 200,000 individuals have been implicated in at least 200 cases for their alleged participation in violence. Nationwide, thousands have been apprehended, including a reported minimum of 253 students within a 12-day period, as per Bangladeshi media.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other leaders of the Awami League are insisting that the movement was effectively hijacked from the students by the opposition parties, namely Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP.

The Awami League's Joint General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim claimed that "malevolent" and "anti-liberation war" elements were involved in the violent episodes of the movement — referring to the independence war from Pakistan in 1971.

"The unfolding of such an event was beyond our wildest imagination," he told DW.

He also conceded to the government's shortcomings.

No more 'facade of democracy'

Going back to business as usual might not be easy, however. There have been allegations that several coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement were tortured and taken to the Detective Branch (DB) office of the Bangladeshi police, where they were coerced into declaring the withdrawal of the movement.

Reports from the Bangladeshi media indicate that some of them were apprehended at their residences, while others were taken from hospitals where they were receiving treatment. In a video message recorded in the DB office on Sunday, July 28, six coordinators declared end to the movement.

Ali Riaz, a Bangladesh expert and professor at Illinois State University in the US, believes that the impact of the protests on the ruling party has already become evident. "The government has attempted to foster a facade of democracy through some so-called elections. That era has ended. This government, which lacked moral justification in the past, is now left with no option but to resort to force," he told DW.

Ali Riaz feels that the government "has crossed all limits" through the "politics of repression."

Source: DW

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

After Page 16

Scott Stringer, who held that job before Lander, and State Senator Zellnor Myrie from Brooklyn. All three are left-leaning, taking the progressive lane in a primary against a more moderate incumbent.

The mayor already has an overtly adversarial relationship with Lander, at one point calling him, "The loudest person in New York City," and mocking his nasally voice while wondering out loud why Lander had not gone to Washington to ask for more money for the city at the height of the asylum seeker crisis.

The announcement also kicks off a competition for Lander's now-open comptroller seat. State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar of Queens, a close mayoral ally, is already exploring running for the office.

Source: ABC7NY



Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesperson for the UN secretary-general/UN

UN Alarmed by use of Excessive Force and Credible Evidence of Rights Violations

Dhaka Correspondent: The secretary general of the United Nations, António Guterres, has expressed concerns over reported mass arrests of thousands of young people and political opposition in connection with the current student movement in Bangladesh.

He is also alarmed by emerging reports about the excessive use of force by security forces and credible evidence of human rights violations, said his spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric at a press briefing on Monday.

At the beginning of his briefing, the spokesperson read out the UN secretary general's statement on Bangladesh in particular on Monday.

He said, "The secretary general remains deeply concerned about the situation in Bangladesh. He notes reports of the resumption of student protests today and reiterates his call for calm and restraint."

Highlighting the incidents of recent arrests, he said, "The secretary general is concerned about reported mass arrests of thousands of young people and political opposition in connection with the current student movement. He underscores the importance of due process and the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly."

Citing the UN chief, he referred to the authorities' actions towards the recent protests and called for proper investigations into the incidents.

"He is also alarmed by emerging reports about the excessive use of force by security forces and credible evidence of human rights violations. He reiterates his call for all acts of violence to be investigated promptly, transparently, and impartially, and for those responsible to be held to account," noted the spokesperson.

Weekly Migrant Arrivals in NYC Dip

After Page 16

briefing last week where the migrant data was discussed.

over 1,600 in one week — registered for shelter, per the data.

The decline comes as President Joe Biden's administration enforces sweeping new restrictions on people applying for asylum along the U.S.-Mexico border and as the Adams administration institutes stricter limits on shelter stays for migrants.

"Those executive orders ... we are seeing the benefits of them right now," Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom said at a City Hall press Adams administration officials took some credit for Biden's new restrictions on asylum-seekers, noting the changes followed Adams' repeated pleas for more help from Washington. Mayoral spokesperson Liz Garcia also attributed the decline in new arrivals to the mayor's "crackdown on out-of-state bus companies" hired to transport migrants to the city, including many sent by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas.

Adams signed an executive order in December that required the companies to provide 32 hours' notice before migrant buses arrived in the city, and restricted when they could arrive. He also sued 17 charter bus companies the following month, demanding they repay over \$708 million that the administration says it incurred for housing migrants bused by the companies.

The recent drop in new arrivals in New York City coincides with a steep decrease in unauthorized crossings along the southern border, which reached a three-year-low in June. U.S. Border Patrol apprehended more than 130,000 migrants after they illegally crossed the border last month, a decrease of 23.6% from May, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data.

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New York Gov. Kathy Hochul/Lindsay DeDario/Reuters via CNN

Checks Coming to Some NY Families Through Child Tax Credit Program

New York families with low to moderate incomes will receive financial assistance by the end of next month through the state's child tax credit program, Gov. Kathy Hochul said Tuesday. Hochul, speaking at the Capitol on Tuesday morning, said that approximately *See page 15 to cul. 1*

Weekly Migrant Arrivals in NYC Dip Below 1,000 for the First Time since 2022



The number of new migrants seeking shelter in New York City has slowed to fewer than 1,000 per week for the first time since October 2022, according to Mayor Eric Adams' office. Just over 900 new migrants registered with the city in the first week of July, and some 800 did in each of the three following weeks, data provided by City Hall shows. As recently as mid-February, twice as many newcomers *See page 15 to cul. 2*



AFP photo

Bangladesh: Can Student Uprising Bring New, Young Leaders?

Bangladesh is reeling from a wave of unrest over quotas for government jobs, with the number of casualties still being tallied. The government puts the official death toll at 150, but according to the Bangladeshi media, at least 210 people, mostly young, lost their lives. Thousands more were injured. As the protests escalated across the country, internet and mobile

networks were shut down to prevent communication among the demonstrators. The government deployed the police, the military and the border guard paramilitaries to quell the unrest. Additionally, some protesters reported being attacked by the members of the Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, Awami League.

Some restrictions have since been eased, although social media platforms and educational institutions remain closed. The mostly spontaneous protests were originally prompted by a court ruling that reintroduced the controversial job quota system. However, they quickly grew to articulate widespread displeasure against the government *See page 15 to cul. 1*

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander is Running for Mayor



Brad Lander/Photographer: Christopher Goodney/Bloomberg

New York City Comptroller Brad Lander announced he is running for mayor against Eric Adams, the latest Democrat to challenge the incumbent in a 2025 primary. The 55-year-old Lander, a frequent critic of the mayor, posted a video Tuesday morning questioning "leadership that delivers so little for so few."

"We can replace a leader when they fail the basic tests of the job," Lander said, calling for better transportation, more housing, fair wages, the high costs of child care, and budget cuts to libraries. Lander joins an increasing field of challengers for next June's primary, which includes former city comptroller *See page 15 to cul. 1*


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