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Judge Upholds Order Blocking Trump Inquiry

Picks Arbitrator to Review Seized Documents

This article is by Charlie Savage, Alan Feuer and Glenn Thrush.

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Thursday rejected the Justice Department's request to resume a key part of its inquiry into former President Donald J. Trump's handling of sensitive government records and appointed an outside arbitrator to review thousands of documents seized last month from his Florida residence.

The judge, Aileen M. Cannon, declined to lift any part of an order she issued last week that barred the department from using the documents, including about 160 marked classified, in an investigation until the arbitrator, known as a special master, had completed a review.

In her 10-page decision, Judge Cannon appointed a special master suggested by the Trump legal team and agreed upon by the government: Raymond J. Dearie, a semi-retired judge from the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Dearie will now have the authority to sift through more than 1,000 records from the FBI, starting with Mr. Trump's state, Mar.-a-Lago, on Aug. 8. The move was a blow to the Justice Department, almost certain to significantly delay its investigation into whether the former president unlawfully retained national defense records or obstructed repeated attempts by federal officials to retrieve them.

The department had asked Judge Cannon to lift restrictions on its use of documents with classification markings and set a Thursday deadline for her to respond before it would ask an appeals court to intervene. The department is now planning to appeal the decision, and top officials were meeting to discuss the timing of the filing, according to a senior law enforcement official.

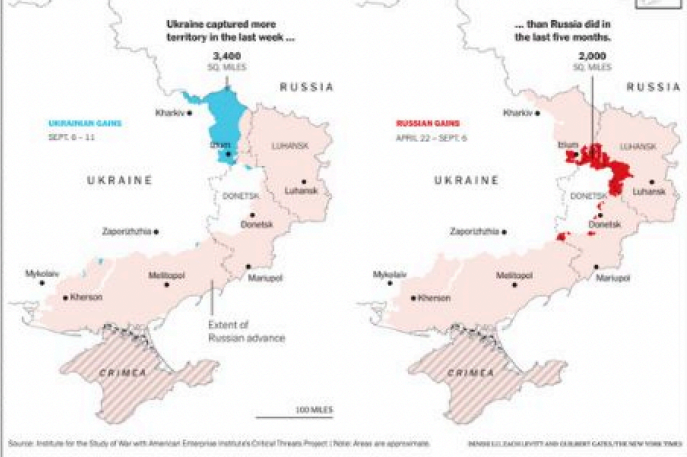
Judge Cannon's order was the latest turn in what has now become a protracted and politically fraught court battle over the trove of documents seized in the search of Mar.-a-Lago.

While Judge Cannon's order was a victory for Mr. Trump and his legal team, she also made two significant concessions to the government.

She said, for instance, that Judge Dearie should first look at the classified documents and "thereafter consider prompt adjustments to the court's orders as necessary." That raised the possibility that Judge Dearie might quickly clear the items and the F.B.I. would then conduct a restricted use of them in its criminal inquiry. In her order, Judge Cannon said the special master should try to finish a review by

Shifting Momentum at a Crucial Time

A high-stakes meeting of the Russian and Chinese leaders followed a week of retreats by Moscow.



Source: Institute for the Study of War with American Enterprise Institute's Critical Threats Project. Note: Areas are approximate.

Polling Shows New Strength By Democrats

By LISA LEKER and NATE COHEN

Even as they struggle to persuade voters that they should be trusted on the economy, Democrats remain unexpectedly competitive in the battle for Congress as the sprint to November's midterm election begins, a New York Times/Siena College poll has found.

The surprising Democratic strength has been bolstered by falling gas prices and President Biden's success at breaking through legislative gridlock in Washington to pass his agenda.

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Overall, 46 percent of registered voters say they back the Democratic candidates for Congress.

Migrants Sent to Martha's Vineyard as Message

Governors of Texas and Florida Seek to Put Pressure on Biden

This article is by Will Semott, Zolan Kanno-Youngs, Eileen Sullivan and Patricia Mazzei.

EDGARTOWN, Mass. — Immigration lawyers rushed onto ferries to reach a quiet red church turned shelter. Students from a high school Spanish class sought to help translate. Inexpert volunteers scoured a dollar store for clothing to donate.

"We had no idea of what was going on," Geoffrey Freeman, director of the Massachusetts island's tiny airport, said Thursday. The decisions by Gov. Ron De-



Migrants met with volunteers on Thursday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Edgartown, Mass.

F.D.A. Relies on Funding From the Drug Companies It Oversees

By CHRISTINA JEWETT

Every five years, top officials of the Food and Drug Administration go behind closed doors to negotiate the terms of its core budget — about \$3 billion this year.

CHINA'S SUPPORT FOR RUSSIA'S WAR APPEARS TO SLIP

XI MEETS WITH PUTIN Leaders Strike Dissonant Notes in Reflection of Alliance's Limits

By ANTON TRIMANOVSKI and KEVIN BRANDEIS

President Vladimir V. Putin acknowledged on Thursday that China had "questions and concerns" about Russia's war in Ukraine, a notable but cryptic admission that Moscow lacks the full backing of its biggest, most powerful partner on the world stage.

Mr. Putin met with Chinese leader, Mr. Xi Jinping, on Thursday in their first in-person meeting since Russia invaded Ukraine, and as Mr. Xi traveled abroad for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

But rather than put on a show of Eurasian unity against the West as Russia struggled to recover from last week's humiliating military retreat in northeastern Ukraine, the two leaders struck dissonant notes in their public remarks — and Mr. Xi made no mention of Ukraine at all.

"We highly appreciate the balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis," Mr. Putin said in remarks at the summit.

It was a moment, on the sidelines of a regional summit in Uzbekistan, that crystallized the daunting political strain Mr. Putin has lost more than 1,000 square miles of territory this month, rendering the prospect of a decisive victory over a Western-armed Ukraine at remote as ever.

But while the transfers of migrants were called out by Democrats as political stunts, they also served as vivid reminders of how ill prepared liberal Democratic parts of the Northeast are to handle inflows of poor migrants, even though they have long been immigration strongholds where many people are eager to help.

On Thursday, Mr. DeSantis spoke proudly of chartering private planes to drop most Venezuelan migrants on Martha's Vineyard, and by Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas to send two busloads to Vice President Kamala Harris's residence on Thursday — roughly 150 migrants in all — were their most conspicuous attempts yet to provoke outrage over record arrivals at the border, a circumstance the Republican leaders blame President Biden for.

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What's News

Business & Finance

Adobe agreed to buy collaboration-software company Figma for around \$20 billion, using the biggest deal in the tech giant's history to acquire a small but fast-growing rival. A1

Mortgage rates topped 6% this week, their highest level since 2008, giving a jolt to home buyers who last year were paying less than half that. A1

The biggest freight railroads and union leaders reached a tentative labor deal to avert a nationwide strike that would have crippled segments of the U.S. economy. A1

Ford's said its quarterly revenue fell below its expectations and that it was closing offices and parking areas to offset disruptions of volumes of packages. B1

Retail sales rose 0.3% in August from the prior month as consumers spent at stores and restaurants at a steady pace, showing persistent demand despite high inflation. A2

Major U.S. stock indexes fell, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow Industrial averaging 1%, 1.4% and 0.6%, respectively. B1

Uber said Thursday night that it was responding to a cybersecurity alert from a contractor, giving further details. B1

Shell named Vlad Savov, its head of integrated gas and renewables, to succeed its former chairman as the company's chief executive. B1

China's currency has fallen below a widely watched level against the dollar, breaking 7 years for a dollar for the first time in over two years. B1

World-Wide

A campaign by Republican governors to send migrants to the states, initially seen by many Democratic officials as a political stunt, is now sending the officials scrambling as migrants unexpectedly arrive in a widening number of local areas. A2

A federal judge appointed a respected retired judge to independently review the Justice Department's search of Trump's Mar.-a-Lago home, and included those marked classified in his remit. A3

Ukrainian authorities said they staged a bombing caused by a Russian missile strike on the southern city of Zhytyv, at Moscow targeted a diplomat with new salves. A7

Germany and Jewish groups reached an agreement over compensation to the last survivors of the Holocaust, almost eight decades after the end of World War II. A8

Biden ordered heightened U.S. security of Beijing investment that may give advantage to the U.S. in tech, but may endanger supply chains and personal data. A2

Senators said they would introduce a much-anticipated vote to codify same-sex marriage into law until after the midterm elections. A2

DEA agents have questioned people about telephone company Dore Global's practices in processing controlled substances. A2

Xi Has 'Questions and Concerns' on Ukraine, Putin Says



SUMMARY: At a conference in Uzbekistan, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, right, said he sought to reassure China's President Xi Jinping about Beijing's concerns over the Ukraine war in their first meeting since the start of the conflict. A5

Mortgage Rates Jump Past 6%, Hit Highest Mark Since 2008

By ROY EKIN

The jump in mortgage rates is one of the most pronounced effects of the Federal Reserve's campaign to curb inflation by lifting the cost of borrowing for consumers and businesses. Already, it has shaved in a sea change in the housing market by adding hundreds of dollars or more to the monthly cost of a potential buyer's mortgage payment, slowing what was a red-hot market not so long ago.

Higher rates are forcing some would-be buyers to continue renting. Other buyers are skimping elsewhere to make their mortgage payments.



Source: Freddie Mac

Tennis Great Federer Retires



Roger Federer, winner of 20 Grand Slam titles, is retiring from professional tennis at the age of 41, but his legacy will continue to inspire the sport. Jason Gay, A12

Freight Railroads, Unions Reach Deal to Avert Strike

By NINA THOMAS, RATHER PANG, ANDREW BRONKHORST and David Harrison

WASHINGTON — The biggest freight railroads and union leaders reached a tentative labor agreement to avert a nationwide strike that would have crippled segments of the U.S. economy.

President Biden and White House officials intervened to broker the deal to avoid transportation disruptions that could

companies and national retailers, had been calling on the government to avoid a strike.

"This agreement is a big win for America," Mr. Biden, a Democrat, said in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday.

Business groups and key customers, such as energy

Migrant Transfers Spark Scramble

By CHRISTINA JEWETT and ALYSSA LINDEN

An activating campaign by Republican governors to send migrants to Democratic strongholds, initially seen by many Democratic officials as a political stunt, is now sending those officials scrambling as migrants

unexpectedly arrive in a widening number of local areas.

The latest instance of the campaign came Wednesday afternoon when planes carrying 50 migrants seeking asylum, mostly from Venezuela, landed unexpectedly in Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. The office of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, confirmed that the state orchestrated the flights.

The moves follow similar efforts by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, both Republicans who in recent months have each sent thousands of asylum-

Federer Announces Retirement; Sign of Tennis's Changing Times

By CHRISTOPHER CLAREY

Thursday that he would retire from competition.

"I am 41 years old; I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years," Federer said in an audio clip posted on social media.

He said he would like to spend more time with his family and pursue other interests.

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