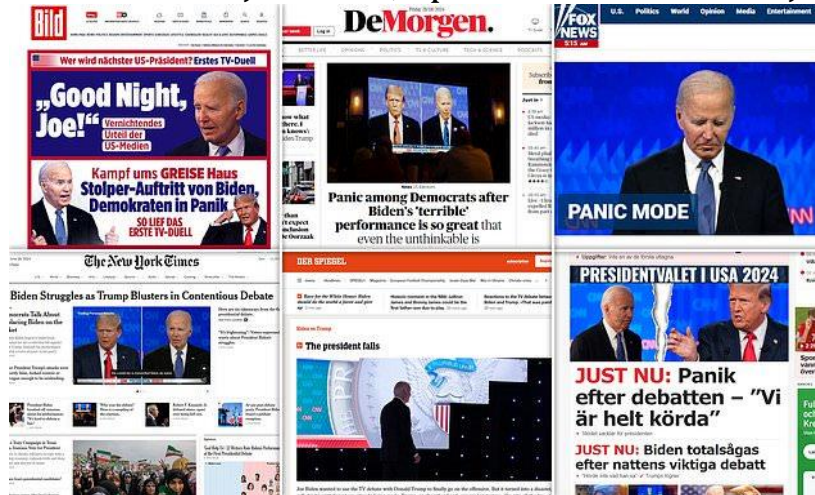


# 'Goodnight, Joe': US and world media rip into 'fragile' Biden

05:41 EDT 28 Jun 2024, updated 05:53 EDT 28 Jun 2024 By Chris Jewers



- **Trump and Biden debate live reaction: [Follow all the fallout from the first presidential showdown on CNN](#)**

The world's media ripped into US President [Joe Biden](#) this morning after he and his Republican rival [Donald Trump](#) faced off in the first presidential debate of the 2024 race, in what was widely regarded as a disaster for the incumbent.

Biden's uneven performance, particularly early in the debate, crystallised the concerns of many Americans that, at 81, he is too old to serve as president.

It sparked a fresh round of calls for the [Democrat](#) to consider stepping aside as the party's nominee as members of his party fear a return of Trump to the [White House](#).

Trump's own performance didn't go unscathed either, as the former president countered Biden's criticism by leaning into falsehoods about the economy, illegal immigration and his role in the [January 6, 2021](#), [Capitol](#) insurrection.

But as the world watched with keen interest, it was Biden's raspy and sometimes halting performance that drew the most criticism and concern from media both in the US and further afield, representing a humiliation on the world stage.

The image shows a screenshot of the German newspaper Bild's website. At the top left is the 'Bild' logo. To its right are navigation links: 'Hey.. AI HELPER', 'BILD+ INFORMATION ABOUT BILDPLUS', 'WEATHER', 'VIDEO & AUDIO', 'MARKETPLACE', 'NEWSPAPER', 'SEARCH', and 'REGISTER'. Below these are category links: 'HOME PAGE NEWS POLITICS REGION ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS EURO2024 LIFESTYLE COUNSELOR HEALTH SEX & LOVE AUTOMOBILE GAMES DEALS'. At the bottom of the navigation bar are advertisements: 'ANZEIGEN Fan Razor | Battery Alliance for Germany | Fan beer | E-cat for Germany'.

The main content area features two headlines. The top headline, with an American flag icon, reads: **Wer wird nächster US-Präsident? Erstes TV-Duell**. Below it is a large image of Joe Biden with the text: **„Good Night, Joe!“** and **Vernichtendes Urteil der US-Medien**. The bottom headline features images of Joe Biden and Donald Trump, with the text: **Kampf ums GREISE Haus**, **Stolper-Auftritt von Biden, Demokraten in Panik**, and **SO LIEF DAS ERSTE TV-DUELL**.

GERMANY: 'Good night, Joe!', Bild said this morning. The German newspaper said Biden received a 'damning verdict from the US media,' called the debate a 'battle for the OLD House,' labelled Biden's appearance 'stumbling' and noted how the Democrats are now 'in panic'



## Dems concerned as sharp attacks from Trump put raspy Biden on the ropes during high-stakes debate

- LIVE UPDATES: Democrat who previously endorsed Biden changes tune
- Voters back Trump slamming Biden's 'fully debunked' claim
- Media figures shocked at Biden's 'bad' debate performance
- Biden speaks about economy he inherited from Trump

US: Fox News's website led with a carousel of pictures from the debate, declaring the Democrats were in 'Panic Mode'. It said: 'A raspy Biden gets off to a halting start against Trump in the first 2024 presidential election debate.'

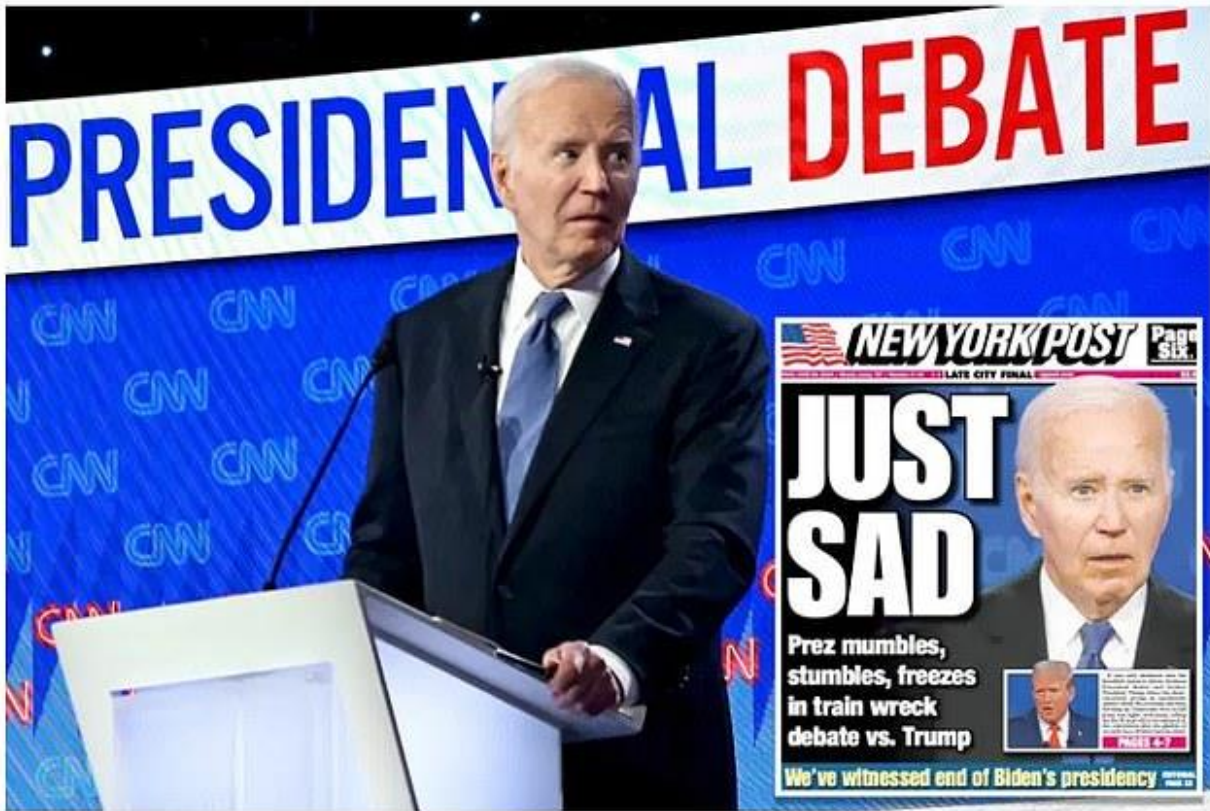


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## DEMOCRATIC DISASTER



### Biden’s candidacy in doubt after weak, frozen debate performance against Trump leaves Dems in ‘aggressive panic’

“Look, we finally beat Medicare,” concluded Biden as he looked up again after an agonizing wait.

- > Biden calls Trump ‘convicted felon’ but ex-prez hits back by blasting Hunter Biden’s verdict
- > Biden freezes before Medicare, jobs gaffes minutes into CNN debate with Trump

US: On Friday morning, the front page of the New York Post led with the words 'Just Sad' alongside a picture of an open-mouthed Biden, adding that the president 'mumbles, stumbles, freezes in train wreck debate vs. Trump'

Friday, June 28, 2024  
Today's Paper

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# Biden Struggles as Trump Blusters in Contentious Debate

ANALYSIS

## Democrats Talk About Replacing Biden on the Ticket

President Biden hoped to build fresh momentum for his re-election bid against Donald Trump. Instead, his performance prompted a wave of panic in his party.

5 MIN READ

## Former President Trump's attacks were frequently false, lacked context or were vague enough to be misleading.

3 MIN READ



Trading Personal Attacks

He could be a convicted felon as soon

CNN PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Here are six takeaways from the first presidential debate. See more updates.

"It's frightening": Voters expressed worry about President Biden's struggles.

5 MIN READ



President Biden brushed off concerns about his performance: "It's hard to debate a liar."

1 MIN READ



Who won the debate? Here is a sampling of the reaction.

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Robert F. Kennedy Jr. debated alone, upset over being left out.

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At one post-debate party, President Biden found a jubilant reception.

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US: The New York Times website, meanwhile, led with the headline: 'Biden Struggles as Trump Blusters in Contentious Debate'



Biden's uneven performance, particularly early in the debate, crystallised the concerns of many Americans that, at 81, he is too old to serve as president

On Friday morning, the front page of the New York Post led with the words 'Just Sad' alongside a picture of an open-mouthed Biden, adding that the president 'mumbles, stumbles, freezes in train wreck debate vs. Trump.'

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[Biden's disastrous Trump debate showdown sends Democrats into 'aggressive' panic](#)



On its website, the Post [said Biden's candidacy for the November 2024 election was 'in doubt' and that the debate had left 'Dems in 'aggressive panic'.](#)

Further down the page, a banner highlighted 'Biden's sad showing' above stories that looked at how Biden's wife Jill led him off stage after the debate, and a comment piece that said 'Biden looked like a basket case in shocking debate performance.'

Fox News's website led with a carousel of pictures from the debate, declaring the Democrats were in 'Panic Mode'. It said: 'A raspy Biden gets off to a halting start against Trump in the first 2024 presidential election debate.'

The New York Times website, meanwhile, led with the headline: 'Biden Struggles as Trump Blusters in Contentious Debate.'

Its lead story said that Biden had 'hoped to build fresh momentum for his re-election bid by agreeing to debate nearly two months before he is to be formally nominated.'

'Instead,' it said, 'his halting and disjointed performance on Thursday night prompted a wave of panic among Democrats and reopened discussion of whether he should be the nominee at all.'

The president 'struggled to deliver his lines and counter a sharp though deeply dishonest' Trump, raising concerns about his campaigning ability, it added.

Similarly, The Washington Post topped its web page with 'Biden struggles, Trump deflects questions' while an opinion piece called Biden's performance 'meandering'.

It also noted that some were unhappy with CNN's moderators not fact checking the debate, pointing to the network's political director saying earlier this week that a debate 'is not the ideal venue for a live fact-checking exercise.'

The Los Angeles Times, meanwhile, ran a number of stories looking at Trump's lies during the debate. 'Column: Biden bumbles, Trump lies and we all lose,' one headline read. Another read: 'Biden flops, Trump lies and Democrats face tough decisions on what comes next.'

A third looked at the insults traded between the two men: "'Sucker", "loser" and other insults Biden and Trump lobbed in presidential debate,' it said.

As Europe woke up, the fallout from the debate still raging in the US, German publication Bild declared on its homepage - in English: 'Good night, Joe.'





## Législatives 2024 >



### FAQ

Procuration, enjeux... Les réponses à vos questions



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# Débat Biden-Trump : un premier duel prévisible... et plutôt inquiétant pour les démocrates



Pour leur premier débat dans la course à la Maison-Blanche, les deux candidats se sont invectivés et ont laissé libre cours à leur détestation mutuelle. Donald Trump a enchaîné les fake news face à un Joe Biden qui a parfois semblé embrouillé et affaibli.

FRANCE: Le Parisien called the debate a 'predictable first duel' that was 'rather worrying for the Democrats'



The screenshot shows the EL PAÍS website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories: INTERNACIONAL, OPINIÓN, ESPAÑA, ECONOMÍA, SOCIEDAD, MEDIO AMBIENTE, CIENCIA, SALUD, TECNOLOGÍA, CULTURA, DEPORTES, GENTE, BASELIA, EL PAÍS SEMANAL, and EL PAÍS EXPRESS. Below this is a section for EURO2024 with four interactive elements: 'Estos son los cruces para octavos de final', 'El calendario: consulta todos los días y las horas de los partidos', '¿Quién va a ganar? Así están las predicciones hoy', and 'Reciba cada día la "newsletter" de la competición'. The main content area features a large image of Joe Biden and Donald Trump at a debate, with a headline: 'Biden fracasa en su intento de desnejar la preocupación por su edad'. To the right, there are several article teasers: 'Los demócratas entran en modo pánico por los visibles fallos del presidente', 'Trump arrasó, según el primer sondeo de la CNN', 'La noche en que la desgracia de Biden puso de acuerdo a CNN y Fox News', and 'Los líderes de la UE dan luz verde a Von der Leyen, Costa y Kallas en la cúpula europea sin Meloni'.

SPAIN: Popular newspaper El Pais said Biden failed 'to allay concerns about his age'

Temi caldi di oggi: OMICIDIO PESCARA BIMBO NEL POZZO BIDEN-TRUMP CONSIGLIO UE EUR

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Esplosione in cantiere navale a Murano, fumo visibile da Venezia



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IN AGGIORNAMENTO

## Sfida Biden-Trump: il presidente confuso e con la voce roca, «dem preoccupati». Tycoon energetico, ma non mette a segno punti [Video](#)



di Andrea Marinelli, nostro inviato a New York

Il primo faccia a faccia tra i due candidati alla presidenza degli Stati Uniti, il presidente in carica Joe Biden e l'ex presidente Donald Trump, negli studi della Cnn

ITALY: Newspaper Corriere Della Sera (CDS) called the president 'confused' and highlighted his 'hoarse voice'

The red top added that Biden received a 'damning verdict from the US media,' called the debate a 'battle for the OLD House,' [labelled Biden's appearance 'stumbling' and noted](#) how the Democrats are now 'in panic'.

[Read More](#)

[Moment Joe Biden completely loses his train of thought answering a question 12 minutes into debate](#)



But it was not just the US press that delivered Biden a 'damning verdict'.

German news website Der Spiegel led with an image of Joe Biden stiffly walking across the debate stage and declared: 'The president falls.'

'Joe Biden wanted to use the TV debate with Donald Trump to finally go on the offensive,' the publication said.

'But it turned into a disaster, and calls for his withdrawal are already being made. Trump, on the other hand, emerged victorious. Despite all the lies.

In Italy, meanwhile, newspaper Corriere Della Sera (CDS) called the president 'confused' and highlighted his 'hoarse voice'.

It also pointed to the growing panic among the Democrat party that has now gone into overdrive ahead of the looming November elections.

The publication also quoted prominently a piece [written in the New York Times](#) by Thomas Friedman, which said: 'Biden is my friend, but he should drop out of the race'. 'The title is anything but cryptic,' CDS wrote.

Friedman wrote how he cried in front of the TV, calling the debate heartbreaking.

CDS wrote that Friedman was now calling on Biden's family to 'gather quickly and have the hardest of conversations with the president, a conversation of love and clarity and resolve' and persuade him to step aside.

On the same theme, Italy's La Repubblica asked the question: 'What would happen if Biden stepped aside?'

It noted that 'Michelle Obama [is] the star that gives US Democrats hope.'

In a separate piece, the publication pointed to a poll that found that '67% of Americans thought Trump won the debate'.

'It becomes almost irrelevant to dwell on the topics touched on, the right and wrong jokes, or how much Donald lied,' La Repubblica wrote.

'The bottom line is the impression left on voters, and the White House chief has fuelled all doubts about his ability to lead a superpower for the next four years.'



Slaap fris en  
comfortabel

tot  
**67%**  
verschil

## Paniek na pijnlijke afgang van Biden in debat: “De Democraten hebben zonet collectieve zelfmoord gepleegd”



In het eerste debat voor de Amerikaanse presidentsverkiezingen moest Joe Biden zijn land ervan overtuigen dat hij als 81-jarige mentaal en fysiek nog in staat is het land te besturen. Dat lukte niet. De Democraten zitten met de handen in het haar, bronnen hebben het zelfs over “paniek” in de partijrangen.

BELGIUM: Newspaper Nieuwsblad also focused on the 'panic' following 'Biden's painful defeat' saying the president 'could barely find the words'

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► **'I really don't know what he said at the end there. I don't think he even knows':** Highlights from the Biden-Trump debate



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## Panic among Democrats after Biden's 'terrible' performance is so great that even the unthinkable is



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**PANIEK BIJ DEMOCRATEN NA WANPRESTATIE BIDEN**

THE NETHERLANDS: Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf led with the headline: 'Democrats panic after Joe Biden's poor performance during election debate'

► Uppgifter: Inte en av de första uttagna

## PRESIDENTVALET I USA 2024



# JUST NU: Panik efter debatten – "Vi är helt körda"

► Stödet vacklar för presidenten

SWEDEN: Newspaper Aftonbladet's story on the debate described the 'total panic' left in its wake, quoting one Democrat saying: 'We are completely screwed'

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## Předvolební debata Bidena s Trumpem: „Bláboly“, hádky, vypnuté mikrofony a testy „senility“

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1/42

CZECH REPUBLIC: Blesk, a Czech tabloid, picked out several points from the debate, noting how Trump was without his wife Melania, while Biden's wife Jill was seen leading him off stage

Belgian newspaper Nieuwsblad also focused on the 'panic' following 'Biden's painful defeat' saying the president 'could barely find the words.'

[Read More](#)

[Biden's debate disaster gets the memes treatment from social media](#)



'And although Trump 'lied all night,' according to analysts, Biden's poor performance lingers. To the frustration of Democrats,' the publication said.

It quoted a 'party strategist who has worked on presidential campaigns' as saying: 'Democrats just committed collective suicide.'

Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf led with the headline: 'Democrats panic after Joe Biden's poor performance during election debate.'

It said Biden was 'confused and stuttering', and said the debate had gone 'completely wrong' for the president.

'[...] Biden was unable to live up to high expectations in a first TV debate with Donald Trump, his opponent in the presidential elections in November,' De Telegraaf said.

'Biden appeared confused several times and was unable to convince the American voter that he can still serve a new term despite his old age.'

In France, Le Parisien called the debate a 'predictable first duel' that was 'rather worrying for the Democrats'. 'It was a strange spectacle that American democracy offered Thursday night in Atlanta,' the newspaper said.

It said Trump, who himself is 78, won the debate, speaking with 'confidence' to deliver 'his arguments and many untruths and exaggerations with his customary force and energy' adding that Biden 'had difficulty expressing himself'.

Spain's El Pais newspaper said that Biden failed in his 'attempt to allay concerns about his age'. It said that while Trump 'attacked the president with hoaxes and lies,' Biden was 'unable to confront him due to his hesitations, hoarseness and lapses'.

The newspaper's leading story on the debate opened with a quote from Trump during the debate, in which he said of Biden: "'I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence. I think he doesn't know what he said either".'

El Mundo's headline this morning read: 'A fragile and shaky Biden fails against Trump and gives wings to Democrats who ask for another candidate to replace him.'

In Sweden, newspaper Aftonbladet's story on the debate described the 'total panic' left in its wake, quoting one Democrat saying: 'We are completely screwed.'

Blesk, a Czech tabloid, picked out several points from the debate, noting how Trump was without his wife Melania.

In contrast, it said, 'Biden was accompanied to the debate platform by his wife Jill, whose gestures showed that she was 'leading' her husband.'

In Ukraine, the Kyiv Post was more critical of Trump, who has long suggested he would not fund the country to help in its continuing war against Russia that has laid waste to swathes of the country.

It picked out a quote from Biden, who attacked Trump over his comments on the EU and NATO. 'I've never heard so much foolishness,' Biden responded. 'This is a guy who wanted to get rid of NATO. He has no idea what the hell he is talking about.'

'Further afield, Chinese newspaper the Global Times likened the debate to a 'reality show', saying viewers were focused on the candidates 'physical condition'.

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## 'He Has No Idea What the Hell He Is Talking About' – Ukraine at War Update for June 28



### WAR IN UKRAINE

Trump sidesteps debate questions about Ukraine war; EU realizes it needs to put €500B into defense; Olympics invite 22 Russians to Paris, some decline RSVP; Bulgaria cold-shoulders NATO summit.

By John Moretti | 5h ago

UKRAINE: The Kyiv Post was more critical of Trump, who has long suggested he would not fund the country in its continuing war against Russia

World news



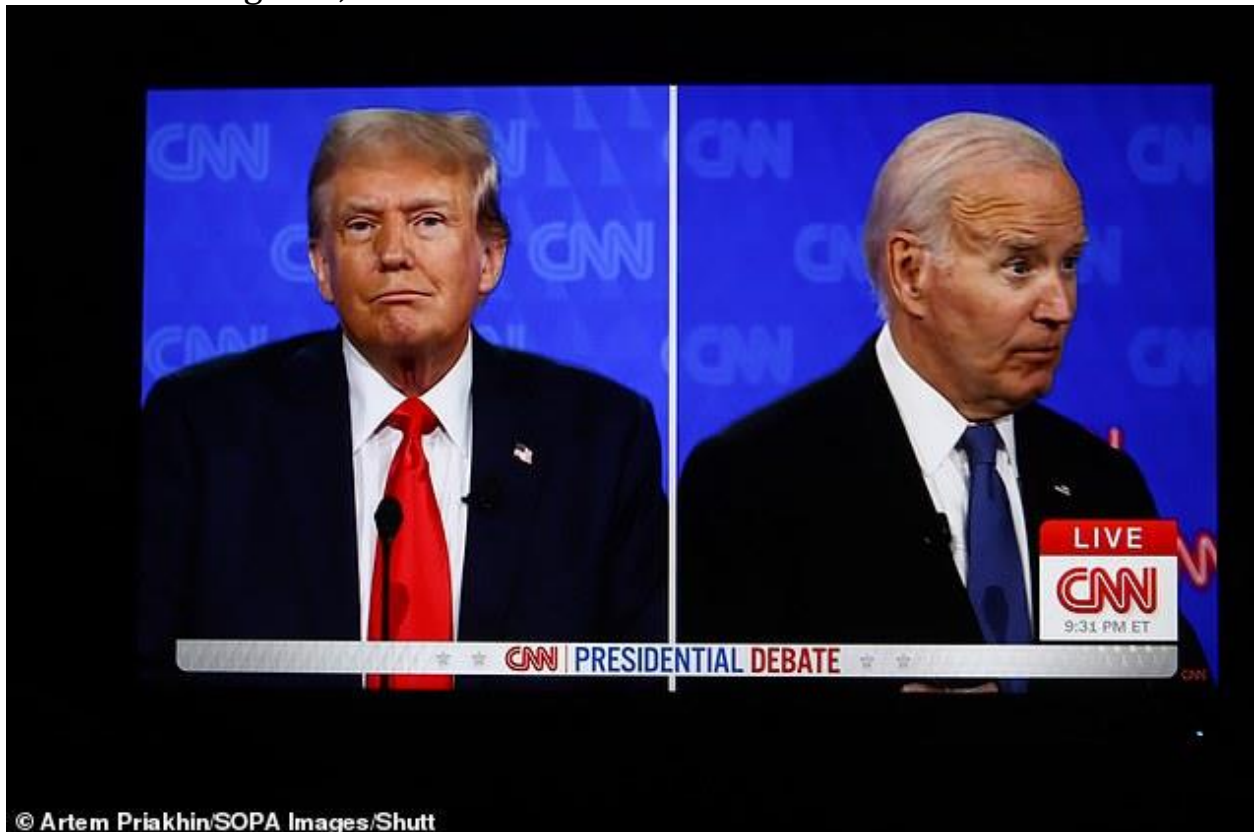
Biden 'could be convicted' – Trump

Trump and Biden accuse each other of 'encouraging' Putin

EU nominates Russia hawk to be bloc's next top diplomat

Biden turned US into 'third-world nation' – Trump

RUSSIA: Russia Today (RT) appeared more focused on the substance of what was being said, rather than the candidate's health



© Artem Priakhin/SOPA Images/Shutt

This photo taken from a screen shows the first presidential debate between US President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump in the CNN studio in Atlanta



'Chinese experts said rather than focusing on policy, global viewers are much more concerned about the physical condition of the two candidates,' it said.

In Russia, too, Russia Today (RT) also appeared more focused on the substance of what was being said, rather than their health.

In one story, RT noted that both Trump and Biden had accused each other of 'encouraging' Russian despot Vladimir Putin - who ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In another, it quoted Trump as claiming Biden could 'be convicted'.

In Australia, meanwhile, the Sydney Morning Herald offered the democrats a glimmer of hope. 'Democrats with no shortage of replacement options after Biden disaster,' the newspaper declared.