



Greetings. The moon hangs low over the inkstone, casting long shadows across the waiting parchment. I have gathered the whispers of the wind and bound them into this morning's report. Here is the state of the scroll as it stands.

MAIN HEADLINES

- A DHS shutdown appears inevitable this Friday as Senate negotiations remain stalled.
- President Trump has repealed the EPA's landmark greenhouse gas endangerment finding.
- European leaders gather in Munich to address defense concerns and criticism from the U.S.
- Eight people, including young students, were killed in a school shooting in Tumbler Ridge, Canada.
- A federal judge blocked the Pentagon from demoting Mark Kelly over an "illegal orders" video.
- Satellite imagery shows Iran is fortifying an underground complex near a nuclear site.
- McDonald's sales have surged as customers pivot toward budget-friendly value meals.
- The FBI raid on a Georgia election office was reportedly based on debunked conspiracy theories.
- A fireball was observed crossing the night sky over several Midwestern states.
- Intelligence disputes have emerged regarding a reference to Jared Kushner in intercepted communications.
- National Guard troops have completed their withdrawal from Chicago, Portland, and Los Angeles.
- The IOC is facing criticism for selling a T-shirt featuring a Nazi-era Olympics design.

THEMES

- **Transatlantic Friction:** European leaders are navigating a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy and defense expectations.
- **Environmental Rollback:** The removal of the EPA's power to regulate greenhouse gases signals a major pivot in U.S. climate strategy.
- **Domestic Fiscal Tension:** Budgetary disagreements in Washington are pushing the Department of Homeland Security toward a lapse in funding.
- **Security Vulnerabilities:** Reports on drone defense gaps and fortified nuclear sites highlight evolving global and domestic threats.

CATEGORIES

USA

- Senate Democrats blocked a Homeland Security bill, making a Friday night shutdown likely.
- Trump claimed ignorance of Howard Lutnick's visit to Jeffrey Epstein's island before suggesting he was there with family.
- Documents show a Bard College president invited Jeffrey Epstein to visit high schools to discuss the author of "Lolita."
- Kristi Noem's press conference featured drug props and was interrupted by protesters and sirens.
- Pam Bondi's odds of being the first cabinet member ousted rose on Polymarket following testimony.
- An NYPD officer is suing McDonald's over scalding coffee burns, echoing a famous 1990s case.
- Fake \$100 bills covered in a mysterious white powder are appearing in Orange County.
- A homeless encampment is reportedly causing disruptions at a Cambodian Buddhist temple in Fresno.

WORLD

- The far-right AfD party is attending the Munich Security Conference for the first time.
- NATO members have launched a new initiative focused on Arctic security.
- U.S. sanctions are being cited as a contributing factor to ongoing protests in Iran.
- Iranian exiles in Turkey are struggling to maintain communication with contacts inside Iran.
- The U.S. issued a travel warning for the Seychelles due to a disease outbreak.
- Relations between India and Pakistan have reached a new low ahead of the T20 World Cup.

TECH

- Gaps in the U.S. drone defense industry were highlighted by a recent incident in El Paso.
- Debate continues over whether Mexican drug cartels are actively utilizing drones at the border.
- A.I. companies are increasingly influencing the landscape of higher education.

ENTERTAINMENT

- Netflix released "Million-Follower Detective," a series about a cop investigating influencer deaths.
- FX/Hulu debuted "Love Story," a Ryan Murphy production focusing on JFK Jr. and Carolyn Bessette.
- Sarah McLachlan added new dates to her "Better Broken Tour," including two shows in New York.

- Alfonso Ribeiro shared a photo of a "last goodbye" with James Van Der Beek.
- Blake Lively reportedly brought a mahjong set to a court appearance via her chauffeur.

SPORTS

- Matthew Stafford has returned to the Rams, though the team is searching for an eventual successor.
- The Yankees reportedly passed on a Nick Castellanos trade after receiving mixed internal reviews.
- Ukrainian Olympian Vladyslav Heraskevych was banned for a message on his helmet, sparking rallies.

OTHER

- Mothers are remaining in the labor force at high rates due to a mix of rising costs and workplace flexibility.
- A popular Ethiopian-Israeli restaurant in NYC closed following sustained anti-Zionist harassment.

WATCHLIST / UNKNOWN

- **DHS Funding:** Whether a last-minute deal can be reached before the Friday night deadline.
- **Orange County Powder:** The chemical composition of the white powder found on fake currency remains unidentified.
- **Munich Outcomes:** Whether European leaders will announce specific defense spending increases following U.S. pressure.
- **Stafford's Successor:** Which player on the Rams' current roster or upcoming draft list will be tapped as the next quarterback.
- **Seychelles Outbreak:** The specific type of disease and the duration of the U.S. travel warning are not yet confirmed.

SOURCES

System source stats:

- Feeds in profile: 11
- Headlines scanned: 183
- Digest items passed to model: 60
- Unique domains in digest items: 8

Sources used (deduped by domain):

- New York Post (nypost.com) — 13
 - Example: McDonald's sees sales soar as cash-strapped customers look for budget-friendly burgers on value meals
 - Example: Choose your own under-eye patch adventure with this 18-pack for 15% off

- The Independent World (independent.co.uk) — 13
 - Example: Kristi Noem struggles to compete with protesters and sirens blaring during theatrical press conference decora...
 - Example: Canada school shooting latest: Eight killed in one of country's deadliest attacks are named by police, includ...
- NYT (nytimes.com) — 10
 - Example: Europe's Leaders Gather At Munich Summit, Reeling From Trump's Criticism
 - Example: El Paso Incident Highlights Gaps in America's Drone Defense Industry
- New York Post (pagesix.com) — 8
 - Example: Alfonso Ribeiro shares heartbreakin photo of 'last goodbye' with James Van Der Beek
 - Example: How to watch Elizabeth Olsen, Miles Teller and Callum Turner in 'Eternity' movie for free
- NPR Topics: World (npr.org) — 7
 - Example: How U.S. sanctions played into the protests in IRan
 - Example: Germany's far right political party, the AFD, is at the Munich Security Conference
- BBC News (bbc.com) — 4
 - Example: Iran fortifies underground complex near nuclear site, satellite images show
 - Example: IOC criticised for selling Nazi-era Olympics T-shirt
- New York Post (decider.com) — 3
 - Example: Stream It Or Skip It: 'Million-Follower Detective' On Netflix, Where A Cop Investigates Influencer Deaths Pre...
 - Example: Stream It Or Skip It: 'Love Story: John F. Kennedy Jr. & Carolyn Bessette' On FX/Hulu, Ryan Murphy's Take On...
- Al Jazeera (aljazeera.com) — 2
 - Example: US urges Europe to take the lead on defence in NATO
 - Example: T20 World Cup: How India vs Pakistan relations went from bad to worse

Feed titles encountered (raw RSS, debug):

- NYT > Top Stories
- NPR Topics: World
- The Independent World
- New York Post
- Al Jazeera – Breaking News, World News and Video from Al Jazeera
- BBC News