



JAMES HILL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Vigil at the Vatican

An anxious mood hung over St. Peter's Square as the faithful prayed for Pope Francis, who remained in critical condition. Page A11.

Toiling at Sea,  
With Pay Sent  
To North Korea

By CHOE SANG-HUN  
and MUKTITA SUHARTONO

They spent up to 10 years at sea, toiling in some of the harshest conditions distant-water fishing crews can face. Many never set foot on land because their Chinese captains did not want them to be seen by the port authorities. Most of their salaries went directly to their government, and some of their catch most likely ended up on dining tables in Europe and Asia.

These were North Koreans assigned by their government to work on board Chinese tuna long-liners operating in the Indian Ocean, according to a report published on Monday by the London-based Environmental Justice Foundation. Through them, North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, established a new source of revenue for his cash-strapped regime.

The United Nations bans member states from hiring North Korean workers because its Security Council says Mr. Kim's government uses them to raise funds for its nuclear weapons program. But Mr. Kim sends tens of thousands of his people abroad to earn cash and other benefits for his regime.

They have worked in factories and restaurants in China, logging camps and construction sites in Russia and farms and shipyards in Eastern Europe. They have sweated on construction sites in the Middle East and built monuments for dictators in Africa. An estimated 11,000 North Koreans were sent to fight for Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Until now, the fate of North Korean fishermen has drawn little global attention because they were in vast oceans, cut off from the rest of the world and even their own families for years at a time.

The conditions they faced “would constitute forced labor of a magnitude that surpasses much of that witnessed in a global fishing industry already replete with abuse,” the foundation said in its report, shared with The New York Times ahead of its publication.

Regulatory and other data available suggested that the products from these ships may be en-

Continued on Page A11

A Discovery Has a Literary Community Kveling

By JOSEPH BERGER

Altie Karper had been waiting for the call for years.

An editor at a Knopf imprint, she had long wanted to publish an English translation of the last novel by Chaim Grade, one of the leading Yiddish authors of the 20th century.

Grade was less well known than the Nobel Prize laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, but was held in greater esteem in some literary quarters. He'd written the novel in question through the 1960s and 1970s, and published it in installments in New York's Yiddish newspapers. But he died in 1982 without publishing a final Yiddish version.

The following year, his mercurial widow, Inna Hecker Grade,

Lost Manuscript Turns  
Into a ‘Last Great  
Yiddish Novel’

signed a contract with Knopf to publish an English-language translation. To do that, Knopf needed the original pages in Yiddish, with Grade's changes and corrections. But Inna, who held his papers, put up roadblocks. She offered to translate, but then went silent, rebuffing entreaties from two editors over the years and refusing to consent to another translator. Karper took over the project in 2007, with no success.

And then, in 2010, Inna died without any children or a will,

leaving behind a morass of 20,000 books, manuscripts, files and correspondence in their cluttered Bronx apartment. The Bronx public administrator turned the papers over to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the National Library of Israel.

The galleys, if they existed, were somewhere in there.

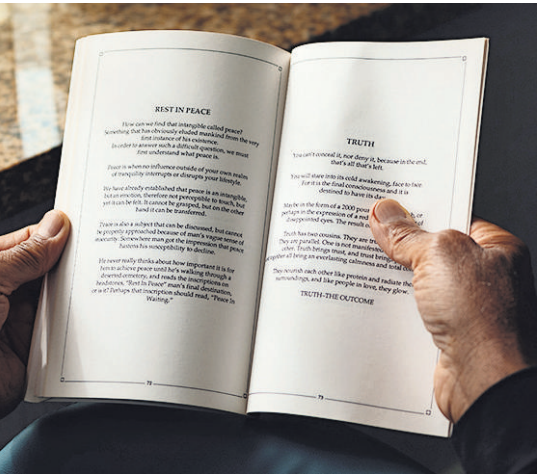
Finally, in 2014, Karper received a call from Jonathan Brent, the executive director of the YIVO Institute. It was the call.

“We found it!” he said.

In the small world of Yiddish literature, the discovery of the pages had the startling impact of a lost Hemingway manuscript suddenly turning up.

“I nearly passed out,” said Karper, who retired in December

Continued on Page A20



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM PEREZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

WHAT THEY TOOK

Survivors of the L.A. fires shared what they rescued, and why it mattered. Items included, clockwise from top left: A self-published book of poetry; a cookie jar from a collection; a departed mother's earrings; and a family's goat. Pages A18-19.

Justice Official  
Battles District  
Where He Rose

Ties in New York Fray  
in Feud Over Mayor

This article is by Adam Goldman, Glenn Thrush, Benjamin Weiser, Maggie Haberman and Michael S. Schmidt.

WASHINGTON — Emil Bove III, the acting deputy attorney general, stood stone-faced and alone at the prosecution table inside the federal courthouse in Manhattan last week to do a job his onetime colleagues in the U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of New York would not.

Mr. Bove, who runs the day-to-day operations of the Justice Department under President Trump, was there to seek the dismissal of corruption charges against Mayor Eric Adams, a task seen as so dubious that two prosecutors in a prideful office known as the “Sovereign District of New York” resigned rather than carry out his demands to do it.

He lashed out at the office after the hearing. “There are no separate sovereigns in this executive branch,” he wrote in a statement that also suggested his former co-workers prepare to resign if they disagreed.

It was the latest chapter in Mr. Bove's estranged-family feud with the Southern District, where he rose to prominence as a top terrorism prosecutor and departed in December 2021 after a case he oversaw crumbled over procedural violations by members of his team.

He would go on to become a key member of Mr. Trump's defense team known for his unyielding style. Since being installed at the Justice Department, he has emerged as one of the most powerful officials in the country and the main enforcer of Mr. Trump's demands for retribution and unimpeded control of federal law enforcement.

That Mr. Bove, 44, has quashed dissent at the Southern District is an indication of its outsized importance as a symbol of prosecutorial independence — and its enduring role in Mr. Trump's own long, tortured relationship with the department since his first term. But his forceful tack is also a measure of his own fraught relationship

Continued on Page A16

THE WEATHER Today, partly sunny, mild for late February, high 54. Tonight, becoming cloudy, a shower late, low 43. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, a few showers, high 57. Weather map, Page B12.

MILLIONS AT RISK  
OF MEDICAID LOSS  
IF G.O.P. WINS CUTS

TARGETING EXPANSION

A Plan to Pay for Trump  
Tax Breaks May Shift  
Burden to States

By NOAH WEILAND  
and SARAH KLIFF

WASHINGTON — House Republicans hunting for ways to pay for President Trump's tax cuts have called for cutting the federal government's share of Medicaid spending, including a proposal that would effectively gut the Affordable Care Act's 2014 expansion of the program.

Cutting Medicaid spending, which is central to the budget bill that House Republicans may bring to a vote on Tuesday, could result in millions of Americans across the country losing health coverage unless states decide to play a bigger role in its funding.

Republicans are considering lowering the 90 percent share that the federal government is required to pay to states that enroll participants in the expansion. The change could generate \$560 billion in savings over a decade, money that Republicans want to use toward extending Mr. Trump's 2017 tax cuts, which are set to expire at the end of 2025. Extending the tax cuts is expected to cost \$4.5 trillion, meaning Republicans will have to find savings beyond Medicaid from a long menu of options.

A move to lower federal spending on the Medicaid expansion population could effectively gut the program. Around 10 states that have expanded their programs have so-called trigger laws that reverse the Medicaid expansion if the federal government decreases funding for the population.

The change could leave the 40 states that participate in the Obamacare program with a difficult set of choices. They could shoulder the extra costs to preserve Medicaid coverage for millions, make cuts to coverage or look for cuts from other large government programs to offset the reduction

Continued on Page A13

Threads of the Iron Curtain Cling  
To the Vote in Old East Germany

By CHRISTOPHER F. SCHUETZE

BERLIN — Three and a half decades after reunification, a line runs through Germany where the Iron Curtain once stood. Instead of barbed wires and dogs, that line now divides Germans by measures like income and unemployment — and increasingly by the willingness to vote for extremist parties.

If East Germany were still its own country, the hard-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, which has been linked to neo-Nazis and is being monitored by domestic intelligence, would have scored a convincing win in the elections on Sunday, with nearly one in three voters there casting ballots for it.

Only two of 48 voting districts outside of Berlin in the former East Germany were not won by the AfD. In a handful of districts in the east, the AfD got nearly 50 percent of the vote.

That division — and the sense that Germans still to some degree inhabit two separate worlds, east and west — has become a persistent feature of Germans' voting habits. It is one that was manifest not only on Sunday but also when Germans voted in elections for the European Parliament last June.

The divide, analysts say, re-

WHERE THE FAR RIGHT WON The AfD came in first in most constituencies in the former East Germany.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

flects not only a failure to fully integrate the east, but also its unique problems and culture, shaped by decades of Communist rule during the Cold War and close alignment with Moscow and the former Soviet bloc.

“One important aspect of this is that many East Germans have never really connected emotionally or mentally with West German democracy,” said Benjamin Höhne, a political scientist who

Continued on Page A7

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Mineral Deal Is Struck

Ukraine has agreed to turn over the revenue from some of its resources to the United States, officials said. PAGE A8

The Right to Plan Her Death

Sandra Demontigny, an Alzheimer's patient, pushed Quebec to change its laws. The Global Profile. PAGE A4



NATIONAL A12-20

Justices Grant a New Trial

Both sides had told the Supreme Court that long-suppressed evidence had undermined the case against an inmate on death row in Oklahoma. PAGE A13

Parade of Planets

With Mercury joining the show, all seven of Earth's celestial neighbors will be present at dusk this week. PAGE A20

OBITUARIES B10-11

A Force in Black Culture

Alvin F. Poussaint, 90, a mental health researcher, urged Black Americans to stand up to systemic racism. PAGE B11

BUSINESS B1-6

Big Bet on Tax Cut Extension

Investors are bullish that the tax cuts from President Trump's first term, which mostly benefited businesses and the wealthy, will be continued. PAGE B1

Inflation Concerns Worry Fed

More Americans are starting to brace for higher prices as President Trump's policies begin to take effect. PAGE B1

SPORTS B7-9, 12

Offense, Defense, or Both?

Colorado's Travis Hunter is a rare dual threat. We asked N.F.L. players where they would play him. PAGE B7

ARTS C1-6

Leaping Into the Spotlight

Miriam Miller, newly promoted to principal at New York City Ballet, is set to make her debut in “Swan Lake.” PAGE C1

Art and Horses in Mexico City

Marina Abramovic, with some equine help, celebrates the announcement of a new cultural center. PAGE C1



FOOD D1-8

Restaurateurs to Remember

We look back on the careers of four Black women who were able to deftly mix fine dining, fashion and art. PAGE D1

When You Can Still Dig In

How long can you let yogurt sit out? Turns out that the breakfast option is surprisingly long-lasting. PAGE D4

OPINION A22-23

Thomas L. Friedman

PAGE A23



0 354613 9