

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, hot, humid, partly cloudy, thunderstorm, high 90. **Tonight**, warm, humid, thunderstorm, low 75. **Tomorrow**, partly sunny, less humid, high 86. Weather map, Page B12.

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THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Unrest in Syria Prompts Israel To Hit Capital

Damascus Is Urged to Exit Druse Region

By EUAN WARD and AARON BOXERMAN

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israel launched deadly airstrikes on Syria’s capital on Wednesday, damaging a compound housing the defense ministry and hitting an area near the presidential palace, according to the Israeli military and Syrian authorities.

The bombardment in central Damascus followed days of bloody clashes involving Syrian government forces in Sweida, the southern region that is the heartland of the country’s Druse minority.

The Israeli government, which has pledged to protect that minority, warned on Wednesday it would intensify strikes if Syrian government forces did not withdraw from the region, a strategically important province near Israel and Jordan. Israeli officials have said previously that they want to prevent any hostile forces in Syria from entrenching near their borders.

The escalating tensions between Israel and the Syrian government threaten to derail their tentative steps toward warmer ties after decades of hostility. Syria’s new president, Ahmed al-Shara, a former Islamist rebel leader, has tried to stabilize the country since overthrowing the dictator Bashar al-Assad in December. He has also forged closer relations with the United States.

Mr. al-Assad was a loyal ally of Iran and a sworn enemy of Israel. But the rebels who ousted him have opened contacts with Israel in recent months, mediated by the United States, in a bid to ease cross-border tensions.

Shortly after the Israeli airstrikes on Damascus, Syrian authorities announced that a new cease-fire had been reached in Sweida with local leaders. Later, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on social media that the United States had worked with all the parties involved in the clashes and had “agreed on specific steps that will bring this troubling and horrifying situation to an end tonight.”

Soon afterward, the Syrian state news agency, SANA, re-

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JIM HUYLEBROEK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A reception center in the border town of Islam Qala, Afghanistan, for Afghans forced out of Iran, where some had lived for decades.

Uncertainty Confronts Afghans Ousted in a Crackdown by Iran

This article is by Elian Peltier, Farnaz Fassihi and Yaqoob Akbari.

ISLAM QALA, Afghanistan — At the sand-swept border between Iran and Afghanistan, nearly 20,000 are crossing every day — shocked and fearful Afghans who have been expelled from Iran with few belongings in a wave of targeted crackdowns and xenophobia.

More than 1.4 million Afghans have fled or been deported from Iran since January during a government clampdown on undocumented refugees, according to the United Nations’ refugee agency. More than half a million have been forced into Afghanistan just since the war between Israel and Iran last month, returned to a homeland already grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis and draconian restrictions on women and girls, in one of the worst displacement crises of the past decade.

They are being dumped at an overcrowded border facility in

western Afghanistan, where many expressed anger and confusion to New York Times journalists over how they could go on with few prospects in a country where some have never lived, or barely know anymore.

“I worked in Iran for 42 years, so hard that my knees are broken, and for what?” Mohammad Akhundzada, a construction worker, said at a processing center for returnees in Islam Qala, a border town in northwestern Afghanistan near Herat.

The mass expulsions threaten to push Afghanistan further toward the brink of economic collapse with the sudden cutoff of vital remittance money to Afghan families from relatives in Iran.

The sudden influx of returnees also piles on Afghanistan’s already grim unemployment, housing and health care crises. More than half of Afghanistan’s estimated population of 41 million relies on humanitarian assistance.

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For Trump, Critics and Rivals Are Not Just Wrong, but ‘Evil’

By PETER BAKER

ASPEN, Colo. — When the Pentagon decided not to send anyone to this week’s Aspen Security Forum, an annual bipartisan gathering of national security professionals in the Colorado mountains, President Trump’s appointees

explained that they would not participate in discussions with people who subscribe to the “evil of globalism.”

After all the evils that the U.S. military has fought, this may be the first time in its history that it has put globalization on its enemies list. But it is simply following the example of Mr. Trump.

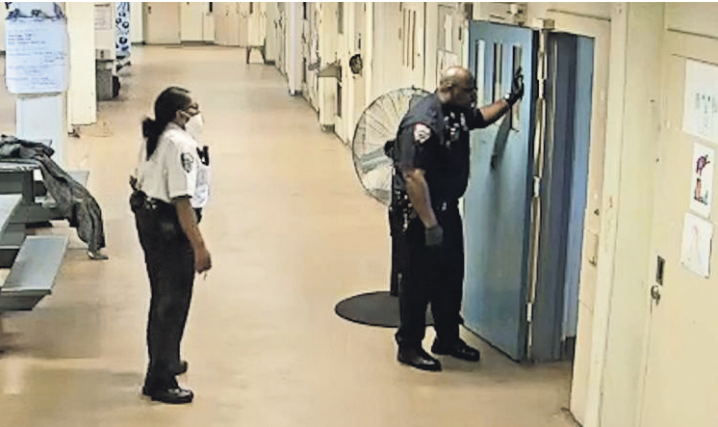
WHITE HOUSE MEMO

More on the White House

GREEN LIGHT In a series of terse orders, the Supreme Court keeps ruling in the president’s favor, without explanation. PAGE A12

FED UNDER FIRE The president waved a copy of a draft letter dismissing Jerome H. Powell at a meeting with lawmakers. PAGE B1

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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

A Suicide Attempt as Rikers Guards Stood By



Michael Nieves, above, was awaiting trial on Rikers Island when he tried to kill himself in 2022. Footage of his suicide attempt offers a window into a jail system in crisis. Page A10.

- **Aug. 25, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.** A shaving razor has gone missing, and officers at the jail suspect that Nieves is hiding it.
- After a search of Nieves’s cell doesn’t turn up the razor, officers move to take him for a body scan, but leave him alone for 12 minutes.
- They return (top) to discover that Nieves has harmed himself. He bleeds out as officers stand by and wait for medical help.
- After 10 minutes, medics arrive; a breakdown in communication means they don’t have the equipment to treat Nieves. He is later taken to a hospital and declared brain dead.
- Five days later, Nieves is taken off life support.

Move Over, Curds. Whey Is the New Big Cheese.

By KEVIN DRAPER

MARSHFIELD, Wis. — Ken Heiman is a certified Master Cheesemaker, one of four who ensure that the Cheddar, Gouda and other cheeses made at Nasonville Dairy in Marshfield, Wis., taste great.

But as proud as he is of his cheese, Mr. Heiman knows that his company’s profitability these days is thanks less to Colby than it is to whey, the liquid byproduct of making cheese that helps to satisfy America’s seemingly insatiable appetite for added protein.

Nasonville Dairy produces around 150,000 pounds of cheese a day, but just breaks even on most of it, especially the 40-pound blocks of Cheddar that are a cheesemaker’s stock in trade. What increasingly keeps the lights on is whey.

“We ought to be thanking people who are buying whey protein at Aldi’s,” said Mr. Heiman, who, in addition to being a Master Cheesemaker, is Nasonville’s chief executive. “It definitely enhances the bottom line.”

Whey is so valuable because it can deliver a lot of protein in a small caloric package, especially as exhortations to consume more protein have popped up everywhere over the last two decades.



TIM GRUBER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dairies are profiting off of whey, a liquid byproduct of making cheese that has grown increasingly valuable as a protein source.

Doctors recommend additional protein for healthy aging. Weight lifters often take protein to build muscle, and more women and members of Generation Z are taking up the sport. Popular eating trends like the Keto diet emphasize eating a good amount of protein and fats.

More recently, the demand for whey has been turbocharged by the growing use of GLP-1 drugs

like Ozempic. Patients taking those drugs are advised to increase their protein intake to avoid muscle loss.

Whey protein powders, and the increasing number of whey-protein-enhanced products on grocery store shelves, are an expedient way of consuming a lot of protein. Estimates of the size of the whey protein market vary from

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SPORTS B6-9

The All-Stars Got All Giddy

Players turned into children, and skeptics turned into fans, during M.L.B.’s first tiebreaking swing-off. PAGE B7

Legends Play Here. So Can You.

At Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland, the site of the British Open, anyone can be a member for a day. PAGE B6



BUSINESS B1-5

Immigrant Purge Hits Amazon

The tech giant has quietly shed warehouse employees whose work authorizations were revoked after Trump ended a Biden-era program. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Traffic Jams at E.U. Borders

Enhanced checks to keep migrants out have been frustrating drivers and slowing down economic activity. PAGE A4

Moscow Shrugs at Ultimatum

Russia appears unrattled by President Trump’s latest demand for an end to the 3-year-old war in Ukraine. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A9-17, 20

Paying Meth Users to Quit

Unlike with opioids, there is no medication to suppress cravings for meth and other stimulants. As use soars, clinics are trying a different approach. PAGE A9

Wait, the Tooth Fairy Is Real?

For 20 years, a Seattle dentist has been answering messages from gapped-toothed children and their parents. PAGE A20

OBITUARIES B10-11

Author Behind ‘Gorky Park’

Martin Cruz Smith startled critics and readers with his 1981 Soviet Union novel and its antihero. He was 82. PAGE B11

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A Barren Zone in New Fiction

The seeming decline of young straight white male novelists is discussed and debated. But does it matter? PAGE C1

Gospel Star’s Bold Leap

Tasha Cobbs Leonard reveals more of herself on “Tasha,” a new studio album blending gospel and pop. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Alive and Well in Vermont

The real-life inspiration for the famous toxic bachelor on “Sex and the City” left New York’s magazine world. PAGE D1

Couture Shows in Paris

A look at some of the most stylish — and unforgettable — designer collections on the runways. PAGE D5

OPINION A18-19

Linda Greenhouse

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