



The destruction on Monday in Sumy, Ukraine, after two missile strikes killed 34 people on Palm Sunday. The country’s reported rise in drone strikes has the city on edge.

Attacked City  
Sees No Hope  
For Cease-Fire

By **ANDREW E. KRAMER**  
and **MARIA VARENIKOVA**

SUMY, Ukraine — A gigantic, roiling cloud of black smoke swirled up from a parking lot of burning cars, as residents milled about on a sidewalk in distress, and police and fire vehicles careened past. Then the scene became more chaotic.

“Shelter! shelter!” a policeman yelled. A thin, buzzing noise, like a chain saw running in the distance, wafted down from the sky. Another Russian exploding drone, like the one that had just hit the parking lot, was flying overhead. People ran for cover.

“It’s like this every day,” said the mayor, Artem Kobzar, who had been visiting the site in Sumy, Ukraine, and dashed into the open doorway of an apartment building. “Everybody in Ukraine wants peace,” he said. “But you see, in Sumy, we don’t have a day or night of calm.”

That bombardment came on Monday, a day after two ballistic missiles struck a central neighborhood of the city on Palm Sunday shortly after 10 a.m., killing 34 civilians, including two children, and wounding another 117, according to the Sumy City Council. Russia said it had struck a military target; a Ukrainian regional governor said a military awards ceremony had taken place in the city that day.

The Palm Sunday attack came more than two months after President Trump started cease-fire talks with a phone call to President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia. And in recent days it has become an argument in Ukraine and elsewhere that those talks are failing. In Sumy, the attack has set off preparation for a possible new Russian ground assault in this region.

Last month, Mr. Trump briefly halted military and intelligence aid to pressure Ukraine into the cease-fire talks while seeking to bring Russia to an agreement with incentives of renewed economic cooperation. Ukraine has agreed to an unconditional cease-fire while Russia is bargaining for

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Trump’s Trade War Threatens  
Talks to Fix Other China Issues

By **DAVID E. SANGER**

WASHINGTON — President Trump came into office sounding as if he were eager to deal with President Xi Jinping of China on the range of issues dividing the world’s two biggest superpowers.

**NEWS ANALYSIS** He and his aides signaled that they wanted to resolve trade disputes and lower the temperature on Taiwan, curb fentanyl production and get to a deal on TikTok. Perhaps, over time, they could manage a revived nuclear arms race and competition over artificial intelligence.

Today it is hard to imagine any of that happening, at least for a year.

Mr. Trump’s decision to stake everything on winning a trade war with China threatens to choke off those negotiations before they even begin. And if they do start up, Mr. Trump may be entering them alone, because he has alienated the allies who in recent years had come to a common approach to countering Chinese power.

In conversations over 10 days, several administration officials, insisting that they could not speak on the record, described a White House deeply divided on how to handle Beijing. The trade war erupted before the many factions inside the administration even had time to stake out their positions, much less decide which issues mattered most.

The result was strategic inco-

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Tariffs of 10% Now Seem Low  
But Can Still Batter Economy

By **PATRICIA COHEN**

When Donald J. Trump championed the idea of a 10 percent blanket tariff on the campaign trail, many people, whether for or against, were taken aback by how radical the idea was.

Alarms sounded about higher inflation, lost jobs, slower growth or recession. The prospect seemed so outlandish that most economists and Wall Street analysts who gamed out the possibilities tended to treat a 10 percent tariff simply as a bargaining tool.

Now, after a rapid-fire series of announcements from the White House that promised, imposed, reversed, delayed, decreased and increased tariffs, the 10 percent solution is looking like the most temperate choice rather than the most revolutionary, especially

now that a red-hot trade war between China and the United States is blazing.

Yet 10 percent tariffs have not lost their sting.

At that level, universal tariffs still hit more than 10 times as many imports as the ones targeted during President Trump’s first term, and are significantly higher and broader than anything the United States has tried in more than 90 years.

The tariff rate is “quite extreme,” said Carsten Brzeski, chief eurozone economist at ING, a Dutch bank. “It still brings us back to levels last seen during the 1930s.”

In addition to measures targeting China, Mr. Trump powered up

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ELLIOTT VERDIER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Inspiration for the Last van Gogh

The artist painted “Tree Roots” in Auvers-sur-Oise, France. The roots still exist, and a preservation fight has begun. Page A8.

Scientist Doubles as Pitchman,  
Inflating Power of Maple Syrup

This article is by **Will Evans, Ellen Gabler and Anjali Tsui.**

For more than a decade, Navindra Seeram, a biomedical researcher, has praised maple syrup, calling it a “hero ingredient” and “champion food” that could have wide-ranging health benefits.

Dr. Seeram, dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of New England, has published more than three dozen studies extolling the power of maple. Much of his work has been bankrolled by Canada’s maple syrup industry and the Canadian and American governments.

As he straddles the realms of scientific inquiry and promotion, he has distorted the real-world implications of his findings and exaggerated health benefits, according to a review by The Examination, a nonprofit newsroom that investigates global health, and The New York Times of 15 years of his studies and public statements. In videos and press releases, he has suggested that consuming

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MERT ALPER DERVIS/ANADOLU AGENCY

tained through a public records request.

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**THE WEATHER**  
Today, windy, clouds and sun, high 53. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, brisk, low 40. Tomorrow, breezy, milder, plenty of sunshine, high 62. Weather map appears on Page B10.

NEWS ANALYSIS  
Trump Flirts  
With Defying  
Court Orders

Scholars Raise Alarm  
About Path Ahead

By **ADAM LIPTAK**

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration’s compliance with court orders started with foot-dragging, moved to semantic gymnastics and has now arrived at the cusp of outright defiance.

Large swaths of President Trump’s agenda have been tied up in court, challenged in scores of lawsuits. The administration has frozen money that the courts have ordered it to spend. It has blocked The Associated Press from the White House press pool despite a court order saying that the news organization be allowed to participate. And it ignored a judge’s instruction to return planes carrying Venezuelan immigrants bound for a notorious prison in El Salvador.

But Exhibit A in what legal scholars say is a deeply worrisome and escalating trend is the administration’s combative response to the Supreme Court’s ruling last week in the case of a Salvadoran immigrant. The administration deported the immigrant, Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, to El Salvador despite a 2019 ruling from an immigration judge specifically and directly prohibiting that very thing.

Until recently, none of this was in dispute. “The United States acknowledges that Abrego Garcia was subject to a withholding order forbidding his removal to El Salvador, and that the removal to El Salvador was therefore illegal,” the Supreme Court said on Thursday in an unsigned and to all appearances unanimous order.

The justices upheld a part of an order from Judge Paula Xinis of the Federal District Court in Maryland that had required the government to “facilitate” Mr. Abrego Garcia’s return. He had by then been held for almost a month in one of the most squalid and dangerous prisons on earth.

The administration’s response has been to quibble, stall and ignore requests for information from Judge Xinis. In an Oval Office meeting on Monday between Mr. Trump and President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, both

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Inside the Plan  
To Target Funds  
For Universities

This article is by **Michael C. Bender, Alan Blinder and Jonathan Swan.**

As he finished lunch in the private dining room outside the Oval Office on April 1, President Trump floated an astounding proposal: What if the government simply canceled every dollar of the nearly \$9 billion promised to Harvard University?

The administration’s campaign to expunge “woke” ideology from college campuses had already forced Columbia University to strike a deal. Now, the White House was eyeing the nation’s oldest and wealthiest university.

“What if we never pay them?” Mr. Trump casually asked, according to a person familiar with the conversation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private discussion. “Wouldn’t that be cool?”

The moment underscored the aggressive, ad hoc approach continuing to shape one of the new ad-

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**Zuckerberg Sidesteps Queries**

The Meta chief executive, testifying in a landmark antitrust trial, denied he was trying to snuff out competitors. PAGE B1

**A Protest Market in Teslas**

Vehicles traded in or sold during a backlash against Elon Musk have become bargains on car lots. PAGE B1



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**Bird Strikes in South Korea**

Operators of the airport where Jeju Air Flight 2216 crashed in December, killing 179, failed to meet guidelines intended to prevent such incidents. PAGE A4

**SPORTS B6-10**

**The Portal Reshapes the Draft**

Players’ switching schools, often more than once, has changed how N.F.L. teams evaluate prospects. PAGE B6

**A Faster Route to the Majors**

Teams used to keep players in the minors longer, but a promotion incentive has changed the calculus. PAGE B9

**NATIONAL A11-20**

**Texas Showdown Over Mosque**

Gov. Greg Abbott is attempting to stop a master-planned community near Dallas that has fueled anti-Muslim hostility and divided locals. PAGE A11

**Weinstein Returns to Court**

The disgraced producer faces a new trial for sex crimes in New York after a previous conviction was reversed. PAGE A20

**OBITUARIES A21**

**April Fools’ Prankster**

Joseph Boskin, a scholar of humor who was made famous by his made-up story about the holiday’s origin, was 95.

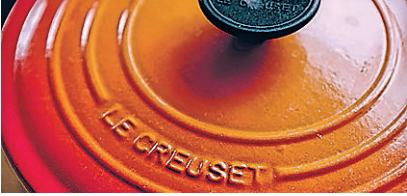
**FOOD D1-8**

**Can’t-Miss Easter Desserts**

Two recipes, one as simple as it gets and another not as hard as it looks, are surefire hits for the holiday. PAGE D7

**The Colorful Cult of Le Creuset**

The weighty cookware has inspired generations of home chefs who hunt for their favorite types and shades. PAGE D6



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**An Inexhaustible Creator**

A successful actor, musician and writer, Whitney White now also finds herself in demand as a stage director. PAGE C1

**Marvelous Marbles**

The Torlonia collection of Roman sculptures, now in Chicago, has the urgency of the greatest contemporary art. PAGE C4

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**M. Gessen** PAGE A22

