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Prices in Canada may be higher

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Man Held in Brown Attack After 13 Hours of Tension

Lockdown Finally Ends on Campus Reeling From Shooting That Left Two Dead

This article is by Kevin G. Andrade, Mitch Smith and Katherine Rosman.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Brown University students hid out in their dorms, in a library and in the basement of a tea shop on Saturday night as heavily armed police officers swarmed their campus, looking for a gunman.

As they hunkered down, students learned that two of their classmates had been killed and nine others wounded in an attack at an engineering building. For hours, they were implored to stay inside and lock their doors as the search for the shooter played out across Providence, R.I.

Finally, not long before sunrise, and more than 13 hours after the first calls of gunfire, the all-clear came. A person of interest was in custody. Students could go home.

The shooting at Brown, on a busy weekend filled with final exams and last-minute study sessions, shattered the Ivy League campus's end-of-semester buzz and left students and employees shaken and reeling. Spencer Yang, who was shot in the leg when the gunman burst into a review session for an economics exam, described helping a fellow student who was seriously injured as they hid behind seats.

"I handed him water," Mr.



CHRISTOPHER CAPOZZIELLO FOR THE N.Y.T.
A memorial near the building where the shooting took place.

Yang, who is from New York, said in an interview from the hospital where he was being treated. "He wasn't able to respond that well. He was just there nodding and making noise."

Of the nine students who were injured and taken to a hospital, seven were in stable condition, one was in critical but stable condition, and another had been released, officials said on Sunday. The names of the victims were not immediately released.

Officials said the person in custody was a man from Wisconsin, according to two people familiar with the investigation. They did not name him.

The man, who local officials said is in his 20s, had not been charged in connection with the shooting, and the authorities had not said anything about a potential motive or link to the university as of Sunday evening.

The local authorities, who had previously released a video showing a possible suspect in dark clothing walking away from the shooting scene, did not share more details about the person they detained.

"We're in the process of collecting evidence and seizing items that we need to seize, search locations that we need to search," Col. Oscar Perez, the chief of the Providence police, said during a news conference Sunday afternoon.

Kash Patel, the F.B.I. director, said in a social media post that federal agents and local officers detained that person at a hotel in Coventry, R.I., based on a tip from the Providence police.

Officials said the gunman entered the unlocked Barus and Holley engineering building, a popular study spot, and began shooting in a classroom on the first floor shortly after 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Joseph Oduro, the teaching assistant for that economics study

Continued on Page A15

U.S. Casualties Make It Harder To Unify Syria

By ABDI LATIF DAHIR
and ERIC SCHMITT

DAMASCUS, Syria — When a lone gunman who President Trump said was linked to the Islamic State killed three Americans in central Syria on Saturday, it laid bare the mounting security challenges and precarious state of affairs confronting the country's new leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa.

Since ousting Syria's dictator, Bashar al-Assad, a year ago, Mr. al-Sharaa has had to deal with the daunting task of restoring control over a deeply fractured nation. His government has sought to rebuild a unified military force. Yet sectarian violence, involving government forces, has killed hundreds, hindering meaningful progress toward national reconciliation. And rising tensions with Kurdish militias, who hold significant sway over the country's northeast, have complicated government efforts to integrate them into Syria's new political and military structure.

Mr. al-Sharaa has also had to delicately navigate his relationship with Mr. Trump — who has openly embraced him — amid questions about the future of U.S. forces in Syria. American troops have been there for years to fight the Islamic State, or ISIS, counteract Iranian influence and guard strategically important

Continued on Page A9

Zelensky Offers To Compromise To Make Peace

By KIM BARKER

KYIV, Ukraine — President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine met in Germany on Sunday with President Trump's negotiators in what was viewed as a critical round of talks to try to agree on a plan to end the war with Russia.

As Mr. Trump pushes Mr. Zelensky to take a deal, saying Ukraine is losing, Mr. Zelensky made it clear that the country was willing to compromise on certain issues.

He reiterated before the meeting that Ukraine would give up on its hopes to join NATO, at least for now, as long as it won strong security guarantees from the United States to prevent Russia from again invading if a peace deal was reached. But Mr. Zelensky also repeated that Ukraine did not want to cede territory that it now controls, as the Trump administration has suggested.

Mr. Zelensky told reporters that he expected to receive details on proposed American security guarantees.

The meeting lasted more than five hours, and it is to continue on Monday, according to Mr. Zelensky's office. It said he would comment on the results of the meetings on Monday.

The Ukrainian president met with Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump's special envoy, and Jared Kushner, Mr. Trump's son-in-law. They have shuttled between talks with Ukrainian officials, European

Continued on Page A5

SYDNEY CARNAGE TARGETS JEWS



MATTHEW ABBOTT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yossi Freedman and Jason Carr after praying at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, on Monday, the morning after a massacre there.

Trump Warmed to Crypto, and S.E.C. Eased Up

This article is by Ben Protess, Andrea Fuller, Sharon LaFraniere and Seamus Hughes.

Retreating From Cases Involving Firms With Ties to President

A cryptocurrency firm run by the billionaire Winklevoss twins was facing a punishing federal lawsuit. After Donald J. Trump returned to the White House, the Securities and Exchange Commission moved to freeze the case.

The S.E.C. had also sued Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, but then dropped the case altogether under the new administration.

And after a yearslong legal fight

with Ripple Labs, the new S.E.C. tried to reduce a court-ordered penalty against the crypto firm, seeking to soften the blow of the punishment.

The agency's pullback from these cases illustrated a wide-ranging transformation in the federal government's treatment of

the crypto industry during President Trump's second term, a New York Times investigation has found.

It is unheard-of for the agency to retreat from a swath of lawsuits against a single industry. And yet, The Times found that the S.E.C. had eased up on more than 60 percent of the crypto cases that were ongoing when Mr. Trump returned to the White House, moving to pause litigation, lessen penalties or outright dismiss the cases.

The dismissals were particu-

Continued on Page A12

AT LEAST 15 SHOT DEAD

Australia Labels Assault on Hanukkah Festival a Terrorist Attack

This article is by Yan Zhuang, Victoria Kim and Michael Levenson.

Music and bubbles filled the warm evening air at Bondi Beach, one of the most popular spots in Sydney, Australia. Hundreds were there for Hanukkah by the Sea, a celebration of the first night of the Jewish festival of lights. Hundreds more were just playing in the waves or strolling on the sand.

Then, at about 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, two gunmen emerged from a small silver hatchback parked by a footbridge near the beach and opened fire on the Hanukkah celebration, turning it into a scene of mass carnage.

As people started running and screaming, one of the gunmen waved away people who were swearing at him and told them to leave, witnesses said, as he specifically targeted those celebrating Hanukkah.

One witness, a teenager who asked not to be named for safety reasons, said, "They weren't shooting at everyone."

The gunman — a father and son — killed at least 15 people, including a 10-year-old girl, the police said. About three dozen more were injured, including five people who remained in critical condition early Monday.

The police shot and killed the father, 50, and wounded his son, 24, who was arrested, they said. The commissioner of the New South Wales Police Force, Mal Lanyon, said two improvised explosive devices, which were "active," had been found at the scene.

The authorities called it a terrorist attack targeting Jews.

"This is a targeted attack on Jewish Australians on the first day of Hanukkah, which should be a day of joy," Australia's prime minister, Anthony Albanese, said. He added: "An attack on Jewish Australians is an attack on every Australian."

The shooting came as many Jews around the world have been on edge after a series of antisemitic attacks this year, including a shooting at a Jewish museum in Washington in May that killed two young Israeli Embassy employees in which the suspect is charged with murder and hate

Continued on Page A8



More Than a Dusting, Finally

Central Park in New York City had its first significant snow of the season early Sunday. Page A16.

Students Are Getting a Reader's Digest of Books

By DANA GOLDSTEIN

In American high schools, the age of the book may be fading.

Many teenagers are assigned few full books to read from beginning to end — often just one or two a year, according to researchers and thousands of responses to an informal reader survey by The New York Times.

Twelfth-grade reading scores are at historic lows, and college

Standard Testing Works Against the Classics

professors, even at elite schools, are reporting difficulties in getting students to engage with lengthy or complex texts.

Perhaps that is to be expected in the era of TikTok and A.I. Some education experts believe that in

the near future, even the most sophisticated stories and knowledge will be imparted mainly through audio and video, the forms that are dominating in the era of mobile, streaming media.

We wanted to find out how students and teachers feel about the shift, and what role schools can play. So The New York Times asked educators, parents and students to tell us about their experi-

Continued on Page A11

ences with the new tests. Page A11

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Stopping Fire in the Amazon

A scientist heads to the rainforest in an effort to change behaviors that have led to an environmental crisis. PAGE A6

Exposing Germany's Secrets

Opponents of far-right lawmakers say their push to publish national security details could benefit Russia. PAGE A5

NATIONAL A10-17

Rural Fire Agencies Squeezed

Volunteer departments have long relied on cheap software solutions to keep running. But costs have risen with new private equity investment. PAGE A14

Echo of Pandemic in Outbreak

In South Carolina, measles infections have resulted in remote learning for children and quarantines. PAGE A10

OBITUARIES B6-7

Integrated Tennessee School

Jo Ann Allen Boyce was one of the Clinton 12, who broke a racial barrier in 1956. She was 84. PAGE B7

BUSINESS B1-5

Cryptocurrency That Launderers

Through layers of intermediaries, stablecoins can be moved, swapped and mixed into pools of other funds in ways that are difficult for law enforcement to trace, experts say. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

Hanks as a Playwright

The star was a little anxious about "This World of Tomorrow," because he had been putting words into the mouths of his fellow actors. PAGE C1

SPORTS D1-8

Long Path to a Heisman

Fernando Mendoza was once a third-string quarterback at California. Now he leads unbeaten Indiana. PAGE D7

A Revolution in Rebounding

N.B.A. teams crash the offensive glass like never before, and the shift started with a call to New Zealand. PAGE D2

OPINION A18-19

Rachel Cohen Booth

PAGE A18

BARCODE

THE WEATHER

Today, increasing clouds, breezy, cold, high 30. Tonight, clearing, breezy early, cold, low 25. Tomorrow, sun giving way to clouds, cold, high 33. Weather map, Page B8.

STOCK MARKET

Wall Street closed slightly lower on Monday, with the Nasdaq Composite ending down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Technology stocks were the main drag, with Apple, Microsoft and Amazon all down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Financial stocks also承压，with Bank of America and Goldman Sachs both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Healthcare stocks were also承压，with Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Energy stocks were承压，with Exxon Mobil and Chevron both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Consumer staples stocks were承压，with Procter & Gamble and Unilever both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Industrial stocks were承压，with Caterpillar and United Technologies both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Telecommunications stocks were承压，with AT&T and Verizon both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Automotive stocks were承压，with Ford and GM both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Real estate stocks were承压，with Home Depot and Lowe's both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S&P 500 fell 0.1 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1 percent.

Financial stocks were承压，with Bank of America and Goldman Sachs both down. The Nasdaq Composite ended down 0.2 percent. The S