

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, clouds and sunshine, high 65.
Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, low 56.
Tomorrow, mix of sunshine and clouds, breezy and warm, high 71.
Weather map appears on Page B8.

VOL. CLXXV No. 60,676 © 2025 The New York Times Company SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Navy Detains 2 After Strike In Caribbean

Capturing of Survivors Tests War Claims

By ERIC SCHMITT
and CHARLIE SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy has rescued two survivors of an American military strike on a semi-submersible vessel suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean Sea and is holding them aboard a Navy ship there, two U.S. officials said on Friday.

The Navy for now is detaining the two people aboard a warship in international waters, marking the first time the military has found itself holding prisoners from President Trump’s six-week-old campaign of targeting suspected drug runners as if they were combatants in a war.

The Trump administration now faces a dilemma about whether to release the two people, claim it can hold them as indefinite wartime detainees, or transfer them to civilian law enforcement officials for prosecution — a major and messy set of new legal and policy problems that could bring judicial scrutiny to the legally contested basis for its unfolding military campaign.

Since early September, the U.S. military has attacked at least six vessels that the Trump administration has said, without putting forward evidence, were carrying drugs. The first five were speedboats, but the most recent strike targeted a submersible vessel, the officials said.

The latest strike, on Thursday, killed two other people aboard the vessel, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss operational matters. But after the attack, surveillance video showed that there were survivors in the water.

A Navy search-and-rescue helicopter retrieved the two survivors and flew them to one of the eight Navy warships that had been dispatched to the region. The Trump administration has been building up firepower in the Caribbean Sea amid its escalating campaign against drugs and mounting pressure on the government of Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela’s authoritarian president.

The five strikes Mr. Trump has

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Tamping Down Ukraine’s Hopes

At the White House on Friday, President Trump resisted President Volodymyr Zelensky’s bid for more powerful weapons. Page A7.

She Rarely Left Long Island, But Exotic Disease Found Her

By JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

She almost never left Long Island, so the test results and diagnosis simply did not make sense. Not to her, not to her doctors, not to the local health authorities. She was sick with a mosquito-borne tropical disease. A disease that wasn’t supposed to be in New York.

And yet she had the telltale symptoms of chikungunya: fever and joint pain so severe that it made walking difficult and driving impossible. It hurt too much to grip the steering wheel. Her shoulder felt as if it was being wrenched apart. In the middle of the night, she would wake up, drenched in sweat, a hot pain in her toes and a weird sensation: It felt as if someone was pulling on them.

Chikungunya has surged globally in 2025 — with outbreaks in

places including Brazil, islands in the Indian Ocean and China, with more than 445,000 cases worldwide. But the United States has long seemed immune. Only a smattering of cases resulting from local transmission had been reported, in Florida and Texas, and those happened more than a decade ago. The virus had never been known to circulate in New York.

And yet, in lab test after lab test during the past five weeks, the 60-year-old woman tested positive for chikungunya. The health authorities questioned her skeptically about her travel history, insinuating that she was concealing an overseas vacation to the buggy tropics, she said.

But she had not traveled to any of the hot spots recently. The last trip she took, she said, was to

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Bessent’s \$20 Billion Bailout For Argentina Carries Big Risks

By ALAN RAPPEPORT and COLBY SMITH

WASHINGTON — As a top investor for the liberal philanthropist George Soros in the 1990s, Scott Bessent made a splash for a \$10 billion bet that the British pound was overvalued. That wager helped “break” the Bank of England with devastating trades against the pound. In 2013, Mr. Bessent netted \$1 billion for Mr. Soros’s fund with a giant bet against the Japanese yen.

Now, in an unconventional move with little precedent, Mr. Bessent is staking his credibility as President Trump’s Treasury secretary — and billions of taxpayer dollars — on another type of currency bet.

Mr. Bessent, a former hedge fund manager, is orchestrating a \$20 billion lifeline to prop up the Argentine peso, which has been declining in value. The backstop is

intended to support Argentina’s economy and its president, Javier Milei.

On Friday, Mr. Bessent said the Treasury Department had intervened for at least a second time to buy pesos.

“Treasury remains in close communication with Argentina’s economic team as they work to Make Argentina Great Again,” he wrote on social media on Friday. “Treasury is monitoring all markets, and we have the capacity to act with flexibility and with force to stabilize Argentina.”

On the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank this week, Mr. Bessent toyed with an additional \$20 billion in financing for the beleaguered country, on top of a \$20 billion infusion

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Funds for Trump’s Energy Agenda Flow Despite Shutdown

By LISA FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON — More than 700,000 federal employees have been sidelined and thousands more are at risk of being fired as the government shutdown drags on.

But the workers responsible for carrying out the president’s plans for more fossil fuels and less wind and solar power are still hard at work. Some are approving permits for companies that want to extract metals, coal, oil and gas from public lands and federal waters. Others are rolling back limits on the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change.

On Thursday the Bureau of Land Management approved the expansion of a copper mine on public land in Utah. Earlier this week the Interior Department prepared to open more than 250,000 acres of land in Wyoming and Nebraska to oil drilling, and held a coal lease sale for access to Montana’s Powder River Basin. And at the Environmental Protection Agency, employees are finalizing a plan to allow more mercury emissions from coal plants, according to two people familiar with the work underway.

Charlotte Taylor, a spokeswoman for the Interior Department, said the agency was doing what was necessary in light of President Trump’s declaration in Janu-



HAIYUN JIANG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A quiet Capitol Hill. While other federal employees have been furloughed, the Interior Department this week prepared to open 250,000 acres of land in Wyoming, right, and Nebraska to oil drilling.



MARLI MILLER, VIA GETTY IMAGES

ary of a national energy emergency.

“Work related to permitting, leasing and other essential energy operations is continuing as expected work to help strengthen the nation’s energy security, main-

tain reliable supplies and protect American consumers from disruption,” Ms. Taylor said.

Most experts say that there is no national energy emergency, pointing to record amounts of oil and gas that is being produced in

the United States. Electricity demand, however, is on the rise, driven largely by the explosion of data centers as well as population growth and the rise of artificial intelligence applications. At the

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THE GLOBAL PROFILE

Meet the Designer Who Has Zelensky Dressing More ‘Suity’

By KIM BARKER
and EVELINA RIABENKO

KYIV, Ukraine — Viktor Anisimov, one of Ukraine’s top fashion designers, first worked with the future president of Ukraine about 20 years ago. That was when Volodymyr Zelensky was part of a comedy troupe whose members all dressed in T-shirts and leather pants. Mr. Anisimov coaxed them into trying classic suits.

So in January, when Mr. Zelensky’s wife wanted a new look for her husband, and her office reached out to Mr. Anisimov, he had a familiar thought. Suits.

It didn’t matter to him that Mr. Zelensky had repeatedly said he would not wear a suit until the war with Russia was over, and that he had worn only military garb in solidarity with his troops. Nor did it matter that the designer knew Mr. Zelensky did not care about clothing.

“He dressed for comfort,” Mr. Anisimov said in an interview in his workshop, surrounded by clothing racks. But, he added, “they thought he might listen to me.”

Mr. Anisimov, 61, never ex-



FINBARR O’REILLY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The designer Viktor Anisimov created a new look for the Ukrainian president.

pected to end up in the fashion world. He had planned to be a military man for the Soviet Union.

But these days, he not only has his own successful design business, he is also the fashion consultant for Mr. Zelensky, fielding questions about what Ukraine’s leader planned to wear for his meeting Friday with President Trump.

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INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Madagascar’s Future

The Gen Z movement that toppled the government is now confronting questions about what’s next. PAGE A8

The Duke of York No Longer

Prince Andrew gave up his royal title after a cascade of scandals, including ties to Jeffrey Epstein. PAGE A10

NATIONAL A11-17, 20

Salesforce Had Offer for ICE

The San Francisco-based firm has told federal immigration officials that they could use A.I. to help the agency nearly triple its workforce. PAGE A13

Confusion Over Autism

The Trump administration’s embrace of unproven theories about vaccines and Tylenol has left doctors fielding questions from worried parents. PAGE A11

A Fiery Mayoral Debate

The televised clash of Andrew Cuomo, Zohran Mamdani and Curtis Sliwa covered a minefield of political issues, both global and hyperlocal. PAGE A17

TRAVEL C9-11

Comforts of Treehouse Hotels

Six accommodations you can rent around the world that retain rustic vibes without compromising creature comforts and great views. PAGE C10

OBITUARIES B11-12

Kiss ‘Spaceman’ And Showman

Ace Frehley, 74, was known for playing guitars rigged with pyrotechnic effects and for his stage persona. PAGE B12



BUSINESS B1-5

Uniqlo Founder’s Faith in U.S.

Tadashi Yanai has deep affection for America and sees it as vital for his company’s growth, but is concerned about its protectionist turn. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-10

From Division II to SEC Star

Quarterback Trinidad Chambliss, a transfer from Ferris State, has been a surprise breakout this season for No. 5 Mississippi, which is 6-0. PAGE B6

OPINION A18-19

Andrew Ross

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ARTS C1-8

In the Wake of a Lost Freighter

The Edmund Fitzgerald sank 50 years ago on Lake Superior. Our reporter spent a week on a Great Lakes freighter that survived the storm. PAGE C4

