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Prices in Canada may be higher

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DANIEL BERHULAK/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two sprawling detention centers in Kurdish-controlled northeastern Syria house more than 27,000 family members of ISIS militants.

Volatility Grows in Syrian Camps Holding Families of ISIS Fighters

By ALISSA J. RUBIN

AL HOL CAMP, Syria — The arid steppes of northeastern Syria stretch almost uninterrupted to the Iraqi border, the emptiness broken only by the occasional oil derrick, until the road comes to a sprawling prison camp.

A chain-link fence topped with barbed wire surrounds the vast compound, and supply trucks line the route for more than half a mile outside the camp's gates. This is Al Hol detention camp, where most detainees are family members — wives, sisters, children — of fighters for the terrorist group Islamic State, or ISIS. More than 8,000 fighters themselves are in prisons nearby.

For years, ISIS ruled large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq, brutally enforcing its strict interpretation of Islamic law. As

As U.S. Steps Back, It Wants Damascus to Take Over Control

Kurdish-led Syrian forces backed by the United States battled to reclaim that land, they detained thousands of ISIS fighters and tens of thousands of their relatives. U.S. forces entrusted their Syrian Kurdish allies with guarding the ISIS detainees and families. But now, the Pentagon is drawing down its troops in Syria, and there are indications that U.S. officials want Syria's new government to take responsibility for the prisons and detention camps.

This is part of a larger govern-

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SOUTH KOREA DISPATCH

A Theater Popular Partly Because It's Zzz-Rated

By MAX KIM

SEOUL — The matinee was coming to a gruesome ending on the screen, but in the seats casual conversation mixed with a salvo of ringtones, several of which resulted in long phone calls. Dozens of patrons wandered in and out of the auditorium. One man stopped in the aisle to stretch, his puffer jacket emitting loud polyester swishes with every move.

These are the rhythms of Hollywood Classic, an independent movie theater in Seoul that has a dedicated clientele.

"It's a sanctuary for people in their 60s and older — somewhere you can just sit and pass the time," said Kim Woo-bon, 81, who was sitting in the middle section. "Everybody knows about this place."

For the cinephiles, it is a place to catch long-forgotten flicks on the big screen. For the nostalgia-seekers, the lobby is a well-furnished museum of life in postwar South Korea, filled with everything from vintage rice cookers to old children's textbooks. But most just come to hang out.

"A lot of people just come and sleep in their seats because they have nowhere better to be," said Mr. Kim, a retired foreman.

Older Patrons Take In a Film, Chat or Nap

"Then they wake up and watch for a bit and then doze off again."

The theater's target audience is rapidly growing. Years of falling fertility rates have turned South Korea into one of the fastest-aging societies in the world. Last year, for the first time in the

country's history, citizens in their 70s outnumbered those in their 20s.

But older residents have scant options for leisure, said Hyeri Shin, a professor of gerontology at Kyung Hee University in Seoul.

"There is growing demand among older South Koreans for different forms of recreation, but their choices are still limited to simple activities like 'resting' or

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INTERNATIONAL A4-12

Peace Prize Winner Ups Ante

Maria Corina Machado's decision to leave Venezuela to travel to Norway carries risks. News Analysis. PAGE A11

Flaws in Diamond Industry

After decades of growth from mining gemstones, Canada's Northwest Territories are facing a crossroads. PAGE A14



NATIONAL A13-20

G.O.P. Infighting in Indiana

Some Republicans have resisted a new congressional map despite lobbying from the White House and threats of political consequences. PAGE A15

Push to Oust Health Secretary

An impeachment bid against Robert F. Kennedy Jr. by Haley Stevens, a House Democrat running for Senate in Michigan, is all but certain to fail. PAGE A17

Effectiveness of Arrests

In high-profile Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations in major cities, most of those arrested had no criminal record, data shows. PAGE A18

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A.I. Divide Yawns at Meta

An us-versus-them mentality has emerged between the company's new artificial intelligence team and longtime top executives. PAGE B1

Trump Makes It Awkward

The president's decision to involve himself in the Warner Bros. deal puts pressure on the Justice Dept. PAGE B1

SPORTS B6-10

A Tip for N.F.L. Hopefuls: Wait

N.F.L. team executives believe the top quarterbacks eligible for the 2026 draft should stay in college. PAGE B6

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Dangerous Female Writers

Shows like "Pluribus" and "Die My Love" take viewers inside the minds of their complex protagonists. PAGE C1

Director Grounded in Success

Ryan Coogler discusses his plans post- "Sinners," and why he isn't particularly interested in judging things. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-8

Seeking Laughs, and Groans

In her comedy special, the "S.N.L." cast member Sarah Sherman is aiming to make her audience squirm. PAGE D7

An Exasperated Progressive

The left-wing podcaster Jennifer Welch is fed up with President Trump. But Democrats can infuriate her too. PAGE D1

OPINION A22-23

Ezra Klein

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THE WEATHER
Today, sunny, windy, very cold, an afternoon snow shower, high 35. Tonight, cloudy, blustery, cold, low 28. Tomorrow, cloudy, brisk, cold, high 36. Weather map is on Page B8.

U.S. TAKES TANKER IN BID TO SQUEEZE MADURO FURTHER

TARGETING OIL MARKET

As Trump Claims 'Good Reason,' Venezuela Sees 'Piracy'

This article is by Tyler Pager, Eric Schmitt and Nicholas Nehamas.

WASHINGTON — The United States seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela on Wednesday, a dramatic escalation in President Trump's pressure campaign against Nicolás Maduro, the leader of Venezuela.

Speaking at the White House before an event on a new luxury visa program, Mr. Trump announced the operation and said it was "a large tanker, very large," adding, without elaboration, that "other things are happening."

When asked about the ship's oil, Mr. Trump said, "Well, we keep it, I guess." He declined to say who owned the tanker. "It was seized for a very good reason," he added.

Three U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe a law enforcement operation, said the ship was carrying Venezuelan oil. They said there was no resistance from the crew and no casualties.

In a statement, Venezuela's government called the seizure a "barefaced robbery and an act of international piracy" aimed at stripping the country of its oil wealth.

The operation was the latest tactic in an expanding effort to squeeze Venezuela and pressure Mr. Maduro. The Trump administration has accused him of running a "narcoterrorist" cartel sending drugs to the United States, although many current and former officials in Washington say the campaign is ultimately aimed at regime change.

Since September, the United States has launched more than 22 known strikes against boats in the region, killing more than 80 people. The Trump administration insists, without publicly providing evidence, that the boats are smuggling drugs. Legal experts say the strikes may violate international law.

Attorney General Pam Bondi posted a video on Wednesday evening on social media showing armed U.S. forces rappelling from a helicopter onto the deck of the tanker. The video could not be independently verified.

Ms. Bondi said the operation included the F.B.I., the Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard, supported by the Pentagon. She said the tanker had been used to transport "san-

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Calibri

A Typeface Falls Victim To the D.E.I. Backlash

Times New Roman

Secretary of State Marco Rubio halted a Biden-era move to a sans serif font at the State Department, casting a return to Times New Roman as part of a push to stamp out diversity efforts. PAGE A13

BOAT STRIKES

A closer look at the Pentagon's strategy for dealing with survivors. PAGE A10



ANDREA VERDELLI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Art Sent With Love From a Chinese Jail

The artist Gao Zhen tore letter paper by hand into images for his wife and son, who are also unable to leave China. Page A6.

