

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

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THE WEATHER
 Today, sunny, breezy in the morning, lower humidity, not as warm, high 82. Tonight, clear, dry, low 65. Tomorrow, sunny, low humidity, high 80. Weather map is on Page B6.

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Firing Powell Could Backfire For President

If Investors Lose Faith, Rates May Spike

By BEN CASSELMAN

President Trump wants the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates. Firing Jerome H. Powell, the Fed chair, could have precisely the opposite effect, pushing up costs for home buyers, businesses and other borrowers.

Mr. Trump in recent days has intensified his long-running attacks on Mr. Powell, whom he has criticized for holding interest rates at a relatively high level even as inflation has cooled and economic growth has slowed. On Tuesday, the president asked a group of House Republicans whether he should fire Mr. Powell, and showed off a draft of a letter that would do so.

Asked on Wednesday whether he intended to fire Mr. Powell, Mr. Trump said he had no immediate plans for a removal, though he refused to rule it out. If he took such a step, it is unclear whether he would succeed. Mr. Powell has indicated his intention to serve out his term as chair, and many legal experts say the law is on his side.

Even if Mr. Trump did manage to oust Mr. Powell, the move might prove counterproductive. A new chair might be able to persuade enough other Fed officials to lower the short-term interest rates that the central bank directly controls. But the rates that matter to most borrowers are long-term rates, particularly those on 10-year and 30-year federal government bonds, which are the basis for what borrowers pay for mortgages, auto loans and other borrowings.

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More on the White House

EPSTEIN CASE The president faces hurdles in getting grand jury testimony unsealed. PAGE A16

POLICY SHIFT A birth control program is focusing on helping women get pregnant. PAGE A17

Genetic Scores Could Estimate Risk of Obesity

By GINA KOLATA

Researchers have known for decades that genetics may be more powerful than environment in predicting who will develop obesity. Identical twins tend to have the same body mass index, even if they are reared apart. Adopted children tend to have a degree of obesity similar to their birth parents rather than their adoptive ones.

Identifying the genetic roots of obesity could aid with prevention starting in childhood. But finding a genetic footprint for obesity has proved challenging. With rare exceptions, there's not one gene or even a few that are the culprits. Instead, obesity is spurred by thousands of gene variants acting in concert. Each variant exerts a tiny effect.

Now, using genetic data from five million people, an international group of hundreds of researchers reports that it has developed an obesity risk score, known also as a polygenic risk score. It combines thousands of gene variants to estimate individuals' predicted body mass indexes, which continue to be used by doctors to anticipate weight-related health dangers.

The researchers showed that the scores can predict which young children are at risk of obesity as adults. And, in another test, they found that overweight and

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Mourners at Al-Shifa Hospital on Sunday after the shooting near the Zikim crossing between the northern Gaza Strip and Israel.

ISRAELIS SHOOT DOZENS RUSHING FOR AID IN GAZA

ATTACK NEAR CROSSING

Crowds by U.N. Convoy — Over 60 Killed, Palestinians Say

This article is by Aaron Boxerman, Isabel Kershner and Ameera Harouda.

JERUSALEM — Israeli forces killed and wounded dozens of Palestinians on Sunday in the northern Gaza Strip as crowds gathered near a border crossing where United Nations trucks were entering the enclave with humanitarian aid, according to the Gaza health ministry and local health workers.

A convoy of 25 trucks from the World Food Program, a United Nations agency, was crossing into Gaza and "encountered large crowds of civilians anxiously waiting to access desperately needed food supplies," the agency wrote in a statement on Sunday. It said, "As the convoy approached, the surrounding crowd came under fire from Israeli tanks, snipers and other gunfire."

The episode was the latest in a string of episodes in which Gazans lost their lives as they gathered to get food. Hunger and desperation have gripped Palestinians in Gaza during Israel's nearly two-year military campaign against Hamas.

The shooting on Sunday took place "despite assurances from Israeli authorities" that conditions for humanitarian operations would improve, "including that armed forces will not be present nor engage at any stage along humanitarian convoy routes," the World Food Program said.

"People were simply trying to access food to feed themselves and their families on the brink of starvation," the agency said. "This terrible incident underscores the increasingly dangerous conditions under which humanitarian operations are forced to be conducted in Gaza."

The latest violence took place near the Zikim crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel. More than 60 people were killed according to the health ministry and Mohammad Abu Salmiya, the director of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

A field hospital operated by the Palestine Red Crescent Society in northern Gaza was flooded with gunshot victims, receiving two of the dead and more than 100 wounded, said Nebal Farsakh, a spokeswoman for the Red Crescent.

The Israeli military said in a statement that soldiers had fired "warning shots" after thousands of Gazans gathered in the area.

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Next on the List For Mamdani: Woo His Party

By LISA LERER and EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

The head of the local Democratic Party in Queens, where Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani got his political start, has never met him. The party's longtime state chairman had not spoken to him until the day after a stunning primary night that stamped him as a rising Democratic star.

And among the party's strategists, officials and elected leaders in Washington, he's almost entirely unknown.

Now, as the Democratic nominee for mayor of New York City, Mr. Mamdani, 33, is on a crash course to change that. He is unleashing a full-scale charm offensive of private meetings, phone calls and public promises aimed at wooing top party leaders, donors and activists.

Last Monday, he met with Jewish elected officials in New York City. The next day, he took pointed questions about his views on Israel and tax policy from a group of 150 business leaders in the city.

A day later, he headed to Capitol Hill to offer campaign advice to dozens of Democratic members of Congress at a breakfast hosted by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

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Cemetery Transformed Into Industrial-Scale Mass Grave

gation reveals — for the first time — how the regime methodically developed the cemetery into one of the country's largest mass grave sites.

The Times took hundreds of photo-

tographs at the site to help show the scale of burials at Najha, and analyzed satellite images, reviewed photographs and videos, and interviewed more than 20 people — including neighbors and former workers who were coerced into taking part in mass burials.

The Times's investigation found evidence of numerous other trenches and pits at Najha that had been systematically filled with bodies over time.

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Falah al-Zaal overlooking the Najha burial grounds. Some of his relatives may be buried there.

Suspect in Minnesota Slayings Led Rambling Life of Devotion

This article is by Dan Barry, Ernesto Londoño and Ruth Graham.

The sudden change in the teenager was dramatic and unsettling, as if some internal switch had been thrown. Those who knew him could only wonder: What's come over Vance Boelter?

One moment he was an affable college freshman, pursuing a family passion by trying out for the baseball team. The next, he was giving up the game and shedding his belongings — even his cherished baseball bat — as if to put away childish things.

Suddenly, he was telling dorm mates they were going to hell, denouncing a guest speaker on campus as "Satan's worker" and announcing he was now "all in for Je-

sus." It was a lifelong commitment he would just as suddenly violate 40 years later, prosecutors say, with an act of political assassination that would stun the nation and send his home state of Minnesota into communal mourning.

Throughout his life, Mr. Boelter's Christian belief in the sanctity of life seemed unwavering. He told a church congregation in 2021 that all the world's wealth was "not worth the value of the person on your left, or the person on your right, or the person you see going home today."

But his worldview darkened as his fortunes declined. He moved from state to state, job to job. He went from overseeing large food-service operations to collecting

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