

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, sunny, increasing afternoon clouds, less wind, high 33. **Tonight**, cloudy, cold, flurries late, low 26. **To-morrow**, partly sunny, breezy, cold, high 34. Weather map, Page B6.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



Laying flowers and lighting candles on Friday at a memorial to fire victims, near the Constellation bar in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

SPARKLERS CITED IN FATAL ALPS FIRE

May Have Ignited Ceiling
of Bar at Swiss Resort

This article is by **Ségolène Le Stradic**, **Aurelien Breeden** and **Thomas Fuller**.

CRANS-MONTANA, Switzerland — The basement bar in the Swiss Alpine resort town was crowded, but not packed, with young revelers in the first moments of 2026.

Noa Bersier was playing billiards with friends. Waiters were hurrying past, he noted, and some were carrying bottles of Champagne topped with small fireworks that sent showers of sparks into the air.

Then Mr. Bersier, 20, became alarmed. The ceiling was on fire, and the flames were spreading quickly.

He grabbed his jacket and rushed for the stairs, ascending through a scrum of bodies. He felt a wave of heat pulse through him.

“I saw my hands decomposing,” he said. “I felt like I was on fire.”

Mr. Bersier emerged with serious burns, but alive.

More details surfaced on Friday about the New Year’s fire at the Constellation bar, a short walk from the ski lifts in the high-end resort of Crans-Montana. Swiss authorities described the disaster as one of the deadliest conflagrations in the country’s history. Forty people died, they said, and the dozens who were critically burned were flown to hospitals across Switzerland, as well as in France and Italy.

Beatrice Pilloud, the prosecutor general of the Valais canton near Lake Geneva, said Friday that the likely cause of the fire had been the sparkling devices, known in French as feux de Bengale — finger-size fireworks that send up a fountain of sparks — which had ignited the ceiling insulation.

“From there, a rapid, very rapid, and general ignition occurred,” she said at a news conference on Friday.

Videos posted by French news organizations and on social media appeared to show the earliest moments of the fire, with young people dancing to thumping music as some revelers shouted “Oh là ça brûle, oh là ça brûle!” It’s burning, it’s burning!

A man was seen trying to extin-

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Israel Calls Mamdani’s Early Moves Antisemitic

By **LIAM STACK**
and **JEFFERY C. MAYS**

The government of Israel accused Mayor Zohran Mamdani of New York of antisemitism on Friday, following his decision the day before to cancel two executive orders issued by his predecessor that had barred city agencies from boycotting Israel and defined some criticism of Israel as antisemitic.

New York City is home to the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, and the statement, made on social media by the country’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was

New Mayor Overturns
a Ban on Boycotts
by Predecessor

an extraordinary accusation of anti-Jewish animosity leveled at the new mayor of that city by the leadership of the Jewish state.

“On his very first day as @NYC Mayor, Mamdani shows his true face: He scraps the IHRA definition of antisemitism and lifts restrictions on boycotting Israel,” the Foreign Ministry wrote on X.

“This isn’t leadership. It’s antisemitic gasoline on an open fire.”

Israel’s consul general in New York, Ofir Akunis, amplified that attack, saying Mr. Mamdani’s decision posed “an immediate threat to the safety of Jewish communities in New York City and could lead to an increase in violent antisemitic attacks throughout the city.”

Mr. Mamdani did not directly address the Israeli government’s accusation at a news conference on Friday. But he said “protecting Jewish New Yorkers is going to be a focus of my administration” and

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DESIRÉ VAN DEN BERG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Eyes on Kazakhstan’s Oil

Chevron and its partners face uncertainty after spending big to expand a plant in Tengiz. Page B1.

U.S. Will Act if Iran Kills Protesters, Trump Says

This article is by **Abdi Latif Dahir**, **Sanam Mahoozi** and **Leily Nikounazar**.

President Trump said on Friday that the United States would come to the aid of protesters in Iran if the government there used lethal force against them, in a sharp escalation of remarks after days of widespread demonstrations against the Iranian government.

The comments came a day after reports from Iranian state media

Escalation of Words as Unrest Spreads

and activists said that at least one person had been killed in clashes between protesters and security forces, as officials tried to contain protests incited by economic distress. Since then at least two more people have been reported as dead.

The demonstrations, which began among business owners and university students in major Iranian cities, have also spread to smaller towns. Several security officers have been injured in the protests, the authorities said. Semiofficial news outlets and a human rights organization reported clashes and fatalities during protests in the western city of Lordegan on Thursday, though the accounts could not be inde-

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What Does U.S. Look Like Without Its Immigrants?

Trump’s Efforts Are Felt in Stores, Churches,
Streets, Hospitals and Soccer Fields

By **LYDIA DePILLIS** and **CAMPBELL ROBERTSON**

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa — Across the United States, someone is missing.

One year into President Trump’s immigration crackdown, construction firms in Louisiana are scrambling to find carpenters. Hospitals in West Virginia have lost out on doctors and nurses who were planning to come from overseas. A neighborhood soccer league in Memphis cannot field enough teams because immigrant children have stopped showing up.

America is closing its doors to the world, sealing the border, squeezing the legal avenues to entry and sending new arrivals and longtime residents to the exits.

Visa fees have been jacked up, refugee admissions are almost zero and international student admissions have dropped. The roll-back of temporary legal statuses granted under the Biden administration has rendered hundreds of thousands more people newly vulnerable to removal at any time. The administration says it has already expelled more than 600,000 people.

Shrinking the foreign-born population won’t happen overnight. Oxford Economics estimates that net immigration is running at about 450,000 people a year under current policies. That is well below the two million to three million a year who came in under the Biden administration. The share of the country’s population that is foreign born hit 14.8 percent in 2024, a high not seen since 1890.

But White House officials have made clear they are aiming for something closer to the immigration shutdown of the 1920s, when Congress, at the crest of a decades-long surge in nativism, barred entry of people from half of the world and brought net immigration down to zero. The share of the foreign-born population bottomed out at 4.7 percent in 1970. Stephen Miller, a top adviser to Mr. Trump, has extolled those decades of low immigration as the last time the United States was “an undisputed global superpower.”

Whether or not restrictions will

restore some of what Mr. Miller views as a midcentury idyll, there’s little doubt that major changes are in store. Immigration has woven itself so tightly through the country’s fabric — in classrooms and hospital wards, city parks and concert halls, corporate boardrooms and factory floors — that walling off the country now will profoundly alter daily life for millions of Americans.

Grocery stores and churches are quieter in immigrant neighborhoods. Fewer students show up in Los Angeles and New York City. In South Florida, Billo’s Caracas Boys, a Venezuelan orchestra, puts on an annual holiday concert where generations of families come to dance salsas and paso dables. This season, the orchestra announced at the last minute that it was canceling the show because so many people are nervous about leaving home.

The changes will also be felt hundreds of miles from any ocean or national border, even in the snow-washed streets of Marshalltown, Iowa, a city of 28,000 about an hour’s drive northeast of Des Moines.

First Mexicans, some undocumented, came to Marshalltown in the 1990s to work at the pork processing plant.

After a high-profile immigration raid there in 2006, refugees with more solid legal status ar-

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RACHEL WISNIEWSKI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Nepalese eatery in the immigrant haven of Lancaster, Pa.

By Aiding South Africa’s Shift To Solar, China Upends Grid

By **SOMINI SENGUPTA**

CAPE TOWN — Ismet Booley, a dentist in Cape Town, had a serious problem a few years ago. Patients showed up for appointments, only to find the power had gone out.

No power meant no X-rays, no

POWER MOVES

A Drive to Dominate Clean Energy

fillings, no root canals. “I just couldn’t work,” he said.

South Africans like Dr. Booley have found a remedy for power cuts, which have plagued people in the developing world for years. Thanks to swiftly falling prices of Chinese-made solar panels and batteries, they now draw their power from the sun.

These aren’t the tiny, old-school solar lanterns that once powered a lightbulb or TV in rural communities. Today, solar and battery systems are deployed across a variety of businesses — auto factories and wineries, gold mines and shopping malls. And they are changing everyday life, trade and industry in Africa’s biggest economy.

This has happened at startling speed. Solar has risen from almost

A Continent Upgrades at Startling Speed

nothing in 2019 to roughly 10 percent of South Africa’s electricity-generating capacity.

No longer do South Africans depend entirely on the giant coal-burning plants that have defined how people worldwide got their electricity for more than a century. That’s forcing the nation’s already beleaguered electric utility to rethink its business as revenues evaporate.

Joel Nana, a project manager with Sustainable Energy Africa, a Cape Town-based organization, called it “a bottom-up movement” to sidestep a generations-old problem. “The broken system is unreliable electricity, expensive electricity or no electricity at all,” he said. “We’ve been living in this situation forever.”

What’s happening in South Africa is repeating across the continent. Key to this shift: China’s ambition to lead the world in clean energy.

Over the past decade, while the United States ramped up fossil fuel exports, China focused on dominating renewables. Today,

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SPORTS B7-10

Where Admission Is Steep

Old buildings have quirks, but none has an entrance quite like Madison Square Garden’s five-story ramp. PAGE B7

All of the Paths to the Playoffs

As the N.F.L.’s regular season wraps up, the field is mostly set, but the seeds are not. We chart the possibilities. PAGE B8

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Using A.I. to Find Tumors

A tool for spotting pancreatic cancer in routine CT scans has shown promise, highlighting how China is applying A.I. to medicine’s tough problems. PAGE A4

Zelensky Hires Chief of Staff

Kyrylo Budanov, who has served as Ukraine’s military intelligence chief, is seen as a potential rival. PAGE A8

BUSINESS B1-6

China’s BYD Outsell Tesla

As the U.S.’s largest maker of E.V.s, Tesla suffered a major blow from the elimination of tax credits. PAGE B1



TRAVEL C7-8

36 Hours in Park City

The Deer Valley resort in Utah has added more than 2,000 acres of skiing in the first phase of an expansion. PAGE C8

Mission in India’s Pink City

To understand how Jaipur balances tradition and innovation, a writer and chef explores its street food. PAGE C7

NATIONAL A10-15

Higher Premiums, Hard Calls

With the expiration of enhanced subsidies in the new year, many Americans who are covered under the Affordable Care Act are having trouble paying for their health insurance. PAGE A15

Battling a Deportation Machine

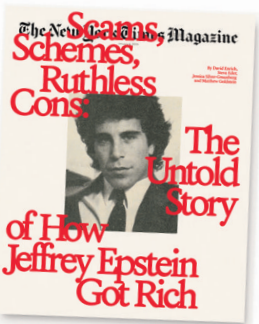
Mahsa Khanbabai’s client, a graduate student, had been whisked away by masked agents and detained. Would a court free her, and would the government let her go? PAGE A11

OPINION A16-17

Jenny Rosenstrach

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MAGAZINE



THIS WEEKEND

