

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, rain in the morning, some clearing in the afternoon, high 72. **Tonight**, partly cloudy, cooler, low 62. **Tomorrow**, mostly sunny, high 80. Weather map is on Page A20.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



AMIR HAMJA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Solemn Farewell for a Fallen Officer
Mourners gathered outside a Bronx mosque to honor Didarul Islam, shot inside a Manhattan office building on Monday. Page A19.

Face to Face With the Park Avenue Gunman, but She Survived

By JONAH E. BROMWICH
On Monday evening, Sebije Nelovic was dusting a table on the 33rd floor of the Park Avenue office building she had been cleaning for close to three decades when she heard startling noises. She stood, looked toward a glass door separating her from the elevator bank and saw a man holding what looked to her like a machine gun. He pointed it straight at her.

During the 27 years she has been cleaning the building at 345 Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, Ms. Nelovic, like so many other Americans, has watched mass shootings play out in malls and schools across the country, feeling so sorry for the victims and helpless to do anything about it. On Monday night, Ms. Nelovic, 65, experienced that terror firsthand. The day began as her days normally do, she said in an interview

A Cleaner Fled and Hid in a Closet, Praying as the Bullets Flew

on Thursday. She reported for work around 4:30 p.m., preparing her cart and the other materials she needed to clean the 33rd floor. Then she began to pick up the garbage on the 51st Street side of the building.

There were five office workers still there, including Julia Hyman, 27, an associate at Rudin Management. Ms. Hyman was friendly with Ms. Nelovic, and they exchanged the usual greetings. Ms. Nelovic finished up that side of the building, threw the garbage she had collected in a freight elevator and moved to the 52nd Street side. It was about 6:10 p.m. She took a short break and then moved toward the Lexington Ave. *Continued on Page A19*

Implant Offers Hope of Easing Arthritis Agony

By RONI CARYN RABIN
The Food and Drug Administration has approved a medical device that offers new hope to patients incapacitated by rheumatoid arthritis, a chronic condition that afflicts 1.5 million Americans and is often resistant to treatment. The condition is usually managed with medications. The device represents a radical departure from standard care, tapping the power of the brain and nervous system to tamp down the uncontrolled inflammation that leads to the debilitating autoimmune disease. The SetPoint System is an inch-long device that is surgically implanted into the neck, where it sits in a pod wrapped around the vagus nerve, the largest nerve in the body. The device electrically stimulates the nerve, a sort of information freeway through the body, for one minute each day.

The stimulation can turn off crippling inflammation and “reset” the immune system, research has shown. Most drugs used to treat rheumatoid arthritis suppress the immune system, leaving patients vulnerable to serious infections. On a recent episode of the American College of Rheumatology podcast, the SetPoint implant was described as representing a “true paradigm shift” in treatment of the disease, which until now has relied almost entirely on an evolving set of pharmaceutical interventions, from gold salts to powerful agents called biologics. The F.D.A. designated the implant as a breakthrough last year *Continued on Page A21*



THOMAS PETER/REUTERS

Deadly Wave of Strikes Pummels Kyiv
A wounded man outside his damaged home Thursday after Russia attacked Ukraine’s capital. The assault, which killed at least eight people, came after the U.S. threatened new sanctions. Page A10.

Loomer Targets a Fresh Round of U.S. Officials

This article is by Robert Draper, Julian E. Barnes and Christina Jewett.
WASHINGTON — Laura Loomer, the far-right activist and self-described Trump administration “loyalty enforcer,” has had another busy stretch. Last Friday, April Falcon Doss, the general counsel of the National Security Agency, was fired after Ms. Loomer spotlighted conservative attacks of her previous work, including for the Senate Intelligence Committee’s Democratic staff.

Activist Uses Influence to Assail Perceived Foes of Trump

Then the Food and Drug Administration’s top vaccine official, Dr. Vinay Prasad, resigned on Tuesday after a post by Ms. Loomer on social media, in which she pointed out his past statements disparaging President Trump and describing his following as a “cult.”

On Wednesday, the Army secretary, Daniel Driscoll, ordered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to rescind the employment offer it made to a cybersecurity expert and Army veteran, Jen Easterly. Ms. Easterly, who has worked for both Republican and Democratic administrations, had drawn Ms. Loomer’s ire for serving as the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency under President Joseph R. Biden Jr. They are the most recent examples of government officials being *Continued on Page A15*

Murky Pledges Throw Shadow On Trade Deals

Investment Plans Open to Interpretation

By RIVER AKIRA DAVIS and CHOE SANG-HUN
TOKYO — President Trump calls them “signing bonuses,” and they have emerged as the most effective way for wealthy trade partners to complete deals with the world’s largest economy. It started when Japan declared it would establish a \$550 billion fund for investments in the United States. Following suit, the European Union indicated its companies were poised to invest at least \$600 billion. On Wednesday, South Korea pledged to create a \$350 billion investment fund. But now, a little over a week after the Japan deal was announced, significant discrepancies have emerged between how the United States and its trade partners are interpreting the spending commitments, underscoring the tenuousness of these flashy pledges. For these partners, the investment promises were key to reaching deals with the United States that kept tariffs on their exports relatively low. Dozens of other countries that have not reached trade deals with the Trump administration were facing tariffs as high as 50 percent as of 12:01 a.m. Friday. For Japan, its commitment to establish a fund for U.S. investment proved a pivotal factor in securing a more favorable, lower-than-threatened tariff rate of 15 percent. Nevertheless, from the deal’s announcement last week, Japanese and American officials appeared to hold diverging views on the specifics of the investment plan. In revealing the U.S.-Japanese agreement in a social media post, Mr. Trump said that in exchange for the reduced tariff, Japan would funnel \$550 billion, at his direction, into the United States, with America expected to receive 90 percent of the profits. Ryosei Akazawa, Japan’s chief trade negotiator, conveyed a different message back to Tokyo: Japan would offer a blend of investment, loans and loan guarantees, totaling up to \$550 billion, with profits to be allocated based on each side’s committed risk and financial contribution. The scarcity of detail, and the absence of a publicly disclosed written joint agreement, prompted trade experts to ques- *Continued on Page A5*

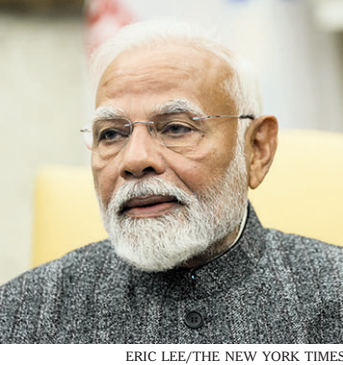
Gaza Hunger Gives Trump Familiar Test

Echo of Moral Crises Faced by Predecessors

By MICHAEL CROWLEY
WASHINGTON — As Gaza tips into famine and images of starving children trigger new demands for action, President Trump faces a test all too familiar to his predecessors. Time after time, presidents have found themselves watching suffering in faraway countries with the knowledge that they could act to save innocent lives. Images of death and misery in places like the Balkans, Rwanda, Darfur and Syria, to name a few, haunted their consciences — sometimes moving them to act, but often leading to excuses. The desperation in Gaza has emerged as such a test for Mr. Trump. By his own account, images of malnourished Gazans in the war-ravaged enclave have disturbed him enough to take action. “I mean, some of those kids are — that’s real starvation stuff,” Mr. Trump said in Scotland on Monday. “I see it, and you can’t fake it. So we’re going to be even more involved.” It was unclear what Mr. Trump meant by getting “more involved.” Days earlier, he had withdrawn his special envoy, Steve Witkoff, from talks between Israel and Hamas in pursuit of a cease-fire to end the Gaza war. But Mr. Witkoff traveled to Israel on Thursday to discuss Gaza and was planning to visit an aid distribution site in the territory on Friday. [Page A8.] Mr. Witkoff’s change of plans came as aid groups say hunger in Gaza is reaching crisis levels. One United Nations-affiliated group said in a report this week that a “worst-case” famine scenario is unfolding, and Gaza health officials say that dozens of Gazans, including children, have died of starvation in recent weeks. Those grim facts have been driven home by gut-wrenching images of skeletal toddlers and people fighting for food. Israeli officials reject responsibility for food shortages in Gaza, which they say are exaggerated and caused by Hamas. “There is *Continued on Page A7*

Being Trump’s ‘Friend’ Gains Little for Modi, Indians Say

By MUJIB MASHAL
NEW DELHI — For years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India has moved his country closer to the United States, in particular by focusing on his relationship with President Trump, whom he has called a “true friend.” The much-touted bond, nurtured through platitudes and joint appearances at stadium rallies during Mr. Trump’s first term, led one television anchor sympathetic to India’s leader to coo that “they have extraordinary chemistry.” Another chipped in: “When the two of them are onstage together, it is like lightning.” But just when Mr. Modi needed to lean into that relationship, he has instead had to weather a series of blows from Mr. Trump that is hurting his strongman reputation at home. Indian officials are wondering how the historic highs in the relationship have soured so



ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India in February. quickly. Mr. Trump’s announcement on Wednesday that he was slapping 25 percent tariffs on India, as well as an unspecified additional penalty for India’s economic ties to Russia, was just the latest in a series of slights. Mr. Modi has also faced a storm of criticism over the Trump administration’s treatment of India, which it has *Continued on Page A6*



Plagued by Fowls’ Fouling
Finns trying to enjoy beaches and parks have been vexed by legions of geese — and their droppings. *PAGE A4*

War of Words With Trump
In a social-media insult, the Russian ex-president Dmitri Medvedev indulged in nuclear saber-rattling. *PAGE A10*

Ill and Asleep as Flood Hit
At a hearing in hard-hit Kerr County, Texas, an emergency official explained his whereabouts when the Guadalupe River burst its banks. *PAGE A21*

Cracking a 70-Year-Old Law
In a triumph for conservative Christians, the I.R.S. now says that churches can endorse candidates, a shift in the interpretation of nonprofit law. *PAGE A11*

Clean Creeks in West Virginia
Locals are removing pollution, and rare earth minerals, left in the state’s waterways by coal mining. Some streams are directed into wetlands. *PAGE A12*



Your Trash, His Treasures
Yuji Agematsu turns discarded items like Q-Tips, chewing gum and ice cream sticks into tiny sculptures. *PAGE C1*

Delivering a Message
At this year’s Stratford Festival in Ontario, several productions have something to say to Americans. *PAGE C1*

Courted Like N.B.A. Stars
A.I. researchers are approaching the job market as if they were Steph Curry or LeBron James, seeking advice from their entourages and playing hardball with the highest bidders. *PAGE B1*

Careful Balance for the Fed
President Trump is putting pressure on the central bank to slash borrowing costs, but it is unlikely to take aggressive steps even once it begins to lower interest rates. *PAGE B1*

Antonio Delgado *PAGE A23*



Unlocking Toronto’s Power
If you think the Blue Jays look strong now, just wait until their \$500 million man, Vladimir Guerrero Jr., gets his swing straightened out. *PAGE B7*

