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**Grief and Outrage in Turkey**  
At least 79 people were killed when fire tore through the Grand Kartal Hotel, a 12-story ski lodge 180 miles from Istanbul. Page A10.

North Koreans  
Going It Alone  
On Battlefield

**By MARC SANTORA and HELENE COOPER**

SUMY, Ukraine — The North Korean soldiers fighting for Moscow in Russia’s Kursk region are assigned their own patches of land to assault. Unlike their Russian counterparts, they advance with almost no armored vehicles in support.

When they attack, they do not pause to regroup or retreat, as the Russians often do when they start taking heavy losses, Ukrainian soldiers and American officials say. Instead, they move under heavy fire across fields strewn with mines and will send in a wave of 40 or more troops.

If they seize a position, they do not try to secure it. They leave that to Russian reinforcements, while they drop back and prepare for another assault.

They have also developed singular tactics and habits. When combating a drone, the North Koreans send out one soldier as a lure so others can shoot it down. If they are gravely wounded, they have been instructed to detonate a grenade to avoid being captured alive, holding it under the neck with one hand on the pin as Ukrainian soldiers approach.

Sent to Russia to join with Moscow’s troops in Kursk, the North Koreans essentially operate as a separate fighting force, the Ukrainian soldiers and American officials said — distinct in language, training and military culture.

“It’s partly two different militaries that have never trained or operated together and partly, I think, Russian military culture, which is, shall we say, not highly

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WHITE HOUSE MEMO

In His Return, Trump Embraces Pomp of Royalty

**By PETER BAKER**

WASHINGTON — At a late-night inaugural ball on Monday, President Trump, flush with his restoration to power, began waving a ceremonial sword he had been given almost as if it were a scepter and he were a king.

Perhaps it is a fitting metaphor as Mr. Trump takes control in Washington again this week with royal flourishes and monarchical claims to religious legitimacy. His return to the White House has been as much a coronation as an inauguration, a reflection of his own view of power and the

**Asserting Dominance  
Marks First Days of  
a Second Term**

fear it has instilled in his adversaries.

His inaugural events have been suffused with regal themes. In his Inaugural Address, he claimed that when a gunman opened fire on him last summer, he “was saved by God to make America great again,” an echo of the divine right of kings. He

invoked the imperialist phrase “manifest destiny,” declared that he would unilaterally rename mountains and seas as he sees fit and even claimed the right to take over territory belonging to other nations.

At an event with supporters at Capital One Arena, he introduced his relatives one at a time as if presenting the royal family, and he stood elevated on a platform looking down on supporters who were brought onto stage. In the evening, reinstalled in the Oval Office, he relished signing one executive order after another,

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**Big Fun, Until It Melts**  
Enjoying the snow slope that Cuyler Boad made outside his home in New Orleans on Wednesday.

Murdoch Empire Admits Unlawful Prying Into Prince Harry’s Life

**By MARK LANDLER**

LONDON — Prince Harry cast himself as the “last person” who could hold Britain’s tabloids to account for years of predatory conduct during the phone hacking scandal. On Wednesday, he settled for a partial victory in his lonely campaign.

Harry settled a long-running lawsuit with Rupert Murdoch’s

News Group Newspapers over unlawful information-gathering, winning a multimillion dollar payout and, perhaps more significantly, an admission of “unlawful” conduct by private investigators hired by The Sun, the company’s flagship tabloid.

But the settlement averted what could have been weeks of damaging testimony about phone hacking and other unlawful practices News Group used to ferret

**Tabloids Apologize in  
Hacking Settlement**

out personal information about Harry and other prominent figures more than a decade ago. Harry, who did not appear in court on Wednesday, was scheduled to take the stand next month.

It marked the end of an era of high-profile legal cases that grew out of the hacking scandal, one of the darkest periods in the history of the British news media. And it gave Harry long-sought acknowledgment for the relentless intrusion of the tabloids into the life of his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, who died in a car accident in Paris in 1997 while being pursued by the tabloids.

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Trump Hurries  
To Test Limits  
Of His Powers

Pardons Send Message  
About His Plans

*This article is by Jonathan Swan, Maggie Haberman and Alan Feuer.*

WASHINGTON — His vice president, JD Vance, said he “obviously” wouldn’t do it.

His nominee for attorney general, Pam Bondi, agreed there was no way: “The president does not like people that abuse police officers,” she told senators last week.

The Republican speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, gave similar assurances that President Trump would not pardon “violent criminals” — the kind who bashed police officers with pieces of broken furniture or stashed an arsenal of weapons in Virginia to be used if their breach of the Capitol failed on Jan. 6, 2021.

Even public opinion was against Mr. Trump. Just 34 percent of Americans thought he should pardon the Jan. 6 rioters, according to a Monmouth University poll in December.

But on Monday, the first day of the second Trump presidency, he tossed caution aside and did exactly what he wanted: He decreed that every rioter would get some sort of reprieve. It didn’t matter what crimes they committed; whether they were convicted of violent acts or even seditious conspiracy, they will all eventually be cleared. Hundreds of convicts got full pardons; 14 members of far-right groups accused of sedition had their sentences commuted; and all others with ongoing cases will eventually have their charges dismissed.

Mr. Trump’s decision to intervene in even the most violent cases sends an unmistakable message about his plans for power these next four years: He intends — even more so than in his first term — to test the outer limits of what he can get away with.

“These people have been destroyed,” Mr. Trump said of the Jan. 6 rioters, after issuing the pardons, sitting behind the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office for the first time as the 47th president. “What they’ve done to these people is outrageous.”

Mr. Trump’s advisers and lawyers had spent months debating how far he should go in granting clemency to people prosecuted in connection with the Capitol riot. The White House counsel, David Warrington, presented Mr. Trump with options, some more expansive than others, according to two people briefed on the situation

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U.S. MAY PUNISH  
LOCAL RESISTANCE  
ON IMMIGRATION

EYES SANCTUARY CITIES

Justice Dept. Is Seeking  
Officials’ Compliance  
With Its Agenda

**By GLENN THRUSH**

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is threatening to prosecute state and city officials who refuse to help the Trump administration carry out its immigration agenda, a provocative move that will reignite President Trump’s first-term fight with liberals over “sanctuary” policies.

In a three-page memo, dated Tuesday and intended as guidance to all department employees for carrying out executive orders seeking to limit immigration and foreign gangs, interim leaders have told U.S. attorneys around the country to investigate law enforcement officials who decline to enforce such policies.

The memo commands state and local officials to cooperate with the department under the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause, or face criminal prosecution or civil penalties if they fail to comply.

It came as the Homeland Security Department prepared to make targeted raids in cities, including Chicago, with high numbers of undocumented immigrants.

The document underscored the central role the Justice Department will play in enforcing Mr. Trump’s hard-line immigration agenda. It also kick-started the pitched fight between the White House and states and cities that decline to comply with government directives that erupted in the first term. The Trump administration has long battled Democrats in sanctuary cities and counties — localities that refuse to hand over detained immigrants to federal authorities.

“Federal law prohibits state and local actors from resisting, ob-

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Emil Bove III, Justice Dept.’s acting deputy attorney general.

Lawyer Racked by Regret Vows  
To Free a Man He’d Sent Away

**By JOSHUA SHARPE**

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. — Kelly Burke took a few labored steps to the witness stand and looked toward a large video screen in a rural Georgia courtroom. There, he saw the face of a man, beamed in from a nearby prison, whom he had sent away 25 years earlier for life without parole.

Mr. Burke, a former district attorney, hadn’t seen the man, Jessie Askew Jr., since the sentencing in 1998. He had insisted at the time that Mr. Askew, then 24, deserved to die in prison. On this spring morning in 2023, Mr. Burke planned to tell the court it was the biggest mistake of his career.

Both men had changed since then, though Mr. Burke’s transformation was more dramatic. Once an imposing 6-foot-7, he was now a

hunched cancer patient who relied on a motorized wheelchair. Complications from the disease had left him thin and unable to swallow. And he was deeply troubled by a self-inflicted wound to his conscience.

“Good morning, Mr. Burke,” Mr. Askew said, representing himself because he couldn’t afford a lawyer. “Would it be fair to say you remember my case?”

“Very much,” said Mr. Burke, whose trouble swallowing caused saliva to build up, making him at times hard to understand.

Mr. Askew was hoping to persuade a judge to overturn his sentence for an armed robbery in 1997. Mr. Burke was his only witness.

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**Cooperstown Calling**  
Ichiro Suzuki, above, along with CC Sabathia and Billy Wagner, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Page B9

**The N.B.A.’s ‘Genuine’ Face**  
Victor Wembanyama, the Spurs’ 21-year-old star, has embraced the idea that he is the league’s future. Page B7

**Gaza Family Returns**  
Returning home to find only a pile of rubble after being ordered by Israeli forces to flee Rafah in May. Page A8

**Labeling Cartels May Backfire**  
Isolating U.S. companies from cartels could prove hard given that the groups operate in sectors like tourism. Page A11

**Go-To Diner Is Left in Ashes**  
The Little Red Hen Coffee Shop in Altadena, Calif., offered grits and a sense of community for decades before it was lost in the Eaton fire. Page A13



**Soaring at the Cloisters**  
A poem about the soul’s journey becomes a musical promenade at the Met Museum’s medieval outpost. Page C1

**Best ‘S.N.L.’ Ad Parodies**  
Over the years, the show has aired ads for crystal gravy, robot insurance and many other demented items. Page C6

**Charities’ Costs Rise on Google**  
After the search giant welcomed more ads from small rivals like Ask.com, ad costs for some nonprofits trying to find donors ballooned. Page B1

**The Band’s Musical Polymath**  
Garth Hudson was a multifaceted artist who helped elevate the Band into one of the most influential rock groups of the 1960s and ’70s. He was 87. Page B11

**Jeffrey Toobin** Page A22



**The Lynchian Look**  
Lavish hair, nondescript clothes and a smoking habit were some of the hallmarks that made up the filmmaker David Lynch’s visual persona. Page D1

