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That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, cloudy, areas of drizzle, high 67. **Tonight**, overcast, spotty drizzle, late showers, low 59. **Tomorrow**, windy, rain from tropical storm, high 62. Weather map is on Page B10.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

## USING PINK SLIPS, TRUMP ESCALATES SHUTDOWN FIGHT

### BIG LAYOFFS EXPECTED

Calling the Move Illegal,  
Unions Ask Judge for  
a Quick Ruling

By **TONY ROMM**  
WASHINGTON — The White House said on Friday that it had started to conduct another round of layoffs targeting federal workers, as President Trump looked to seize on the government shutdown to cut agencies, cull the civil work force and pressure Democrats into accepting his fiscal demands.

The administration did not immediately specify how many workers and programs would be targeted, or when the affected employees would be losing their jobs. But the announcement prompted widespread confusion and fear at a moment when hundreds of thousands in government are already furloughed and still others must report for duty without pay.

Early indications suggested that the layoffs could be significant, affecting a wide range of agencies, including the Departments of Commerce, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, and Treasury, according to officials there and congressional aides who later learned of the plans.

Unions representing federal workers quickly denounced the attempted firings as illegal, as they blasted the Trump administration for trying to use the government’s work force as a bargaining chip in a political feud. Even before the White House had announced that it would proceed with cuts, labor officials had sued to block them, and on Friday they urged a federal judge considering the case to intervene swiftly.

“It is disgraceful that the Trump administration has used the government shutdown as an excuse to illegally fire thousands of workers who provide critical services to communities across the country,” said Everett Kelley, the national president of the American Federation of Teachers. *Continued on Page A14*

## E.P.A. Is Asked To Measure Use Of Abortion Pill

By **CAROLINE KITCHENER**  
and **CORAL DAVENPORT**

WASHINGTON — Senior officials at the Environmental Protection Agency directed a team of scientists over the summer to assess whether the government could develop methods for detecting traces of abortion pills in wastewater — a practice sought by some anti-abortion activists seeking to restrict the medication now used in over 50 percent of abortions.

The highly unusual request appears to have originated from a letter sent from 25 Republican members of Congress to Lee Zeldin, the E.P.A. administrator, asking the agency to investigate how the abortion drug mifepristone might be contaminating the water supply.

“Are there existing E.P.A.-approved methods for detecting mifepristone and its active metabolites in water supplies?” the lawmakers asked at the end of the public letter, sent on June 18, an effort led by Senator James Lankford and Representative Josh Brecheen, both of Oklahoma. “If not, what resources are needed to develop these testing methods?”

Scientists who specialize in wastewater analysis have said that the drug and its metabolites are not dangerous to humans and the environment. *Continued on Page A14*



Displaced Palestinians began the long walk to Gaza City on Friday after the truce started at noon.

## Venezuela’s Opposition Leader Wins Peace Prize

This article is by **Julie Turkewitz**, **Jonathan Wolfe** and **Thomas Fuller**.

María Corina Machado, the Venezuelan opposition leader who built a powerful social movement and became the most significant threat and detested adversary to the country’s longstanding authoritarian regime, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

A conservative former member of the national assembly, Ms. Machado has been a driving force in opposing a quarter century of socialist rule that has grown increasingly repressive under President Nicolás Maduro. She has been living in hiding since last year, when Mr. Maduro cracked down on the opposition after

### María Corina Machado Seeks a ‘Just’ End to Maduro’s Regime

claiming victory in an election that was widely seen by independent analysts as fraudulent.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised Ms. Machado for her “tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy.”

Ms. Machado has largely avoided commenting on whether Mr. Maduro’s removal should involve U.S. military intervention in Venezuela. But she has been a strong supporter of President Trump’s military buildup in the Caribbean, where American forces have destroyed several suspected drug boats in international waters, killing at least 21 people.

“I totally support the international deployment and coalition that’s working in the Caribbean to stop the flow of illegal drug income to the regime,” Ms. Machado told the BBC last week.

The Norwegian Nobel Institute was able to reach Ms. Machado by telephone a few moments before the prize was announced to tell her she had been selected. “Oh my God,” she said in a video posted by the institute.

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María Corina Machado at a campaign rally last year in Caracas. She has since gone into hiding.

## Thousands Trek North To Ruins of Gaza City As a Truce Takes Hold

### U.S. Verifies Pullback of Israeli Troops

This article is by **Liam Stack**, **Aaron Boxerman** and **Bilal Shbair**.

TEL AVIV — Thousands of people began the long walk from the south to the north of the Gaza Strip on Friday after the Israeli military announced a cease-fire that mediators hoped would lead to the end of the two-year war.

Men carried bags, women carried young children, and older children held hands as they made their way up the dusty seaside road toward the ruins of Gaza City, which they were ordered to flee weeks ago. Some said they were heading north for the first time since the war began.

Though the surroundings were bleak, the mood was jubilant. “The crowds are unbelievable,” said Shamekh al-Dibs, who fled south with his family last month. “People are so happy, even if what they’re going back to is destruction.”

Israel agreed early Friday morning to a cease-fire deal with Hamas, which the military said came into effect at noon. As part of the agreement, Hamas would release the remaining hostages held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, while Israeli troops would partially withdraw. And deliveries of humanitarian aid into Gaza will significantly increase beginning on Sunday.

The deal was based on a proposal presented by President Trump last week. On Friday, a spokesman for Israel’s Parliament said Mr. Trump was expected to visit the chamber in Jerusalem on Monday.

Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump’s Middle East envoy, said the U.S. military had verified that Israeli troops had withdrawn to the agreed-upon line inside Gaza. That, he said on social media, opened a 72-hour window in which Hamas must hand over the remaining hostages.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said in a recorded statement on Friday that the cease-fire deal would allow Israel to bring back the remaining hostages while maintaining its forces in Gaza.

Israel would not compromise on the rest of its demands, he added, including that Hamas lay down its weapons and that Gaza be demilitarized. But Hamas regards disarmament as tantamount to surrender and views armed struggle as a legitimate form of resistance against Israeli control over Palestinian lands.

“If this is achieved the easy way, so much the better. If not, it will be done the hard way,” Mr. Netanyahu said.

On the coastal road in Gaza, Mousa Rajab, 22, a nursing student, said he and his cousin had decided to start walking to Gaza City as soon as they heard about the cease-fire. Around them, thousands of pedestrians shared the asphalt with trucks, vans and horse-drawn carts packed with people and piled high with blankets, water tanks and mattresses.

“We just want to see if our homes are still standing,” Mr. Rajab said. “We heard ours was destroyed.” *Continued on Page A6*

**AID** Humanitarian groups are set to provide quick relief to Gaza under the cease-fire. **PAGE A6**

## Mamdani Path To Supporting Palestinians

By **NICHOLAS FANDOS**

The skinny undergraduate from New York City was no one’s picture of a campus radical.

He wore an L.L. Bean jacket and a broad smile, sometimes broke into rap to get a rise out of friends and wrote self-deprecating columns for the college newspaper expounding on, among other things, the ethics of grinding on the dance floor.

But to friends and classmates who knew Zohran Mamdani at Bowdoin College in the early 2010s, there was no mistaking the intensity with which he took up his chosen cause: Palestinians’ struggle with Israel.

On a New England campus known more for athletics than activism, he founded a chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine long before the group became a polarizing national force, and led a campaign to persuade Bowdoin to join an academic boycott of Israel’s “oppressive occupation and racist policies.” (The college president said no.)

He was willing to engage with different perspectives — but only so far. When a spasm of violence shook the Middle East in 2012, classmates persuaded him to team up on a joint educational event with J Street U, a liberal pro-Israel group that supported a two-state solution.

To them, the session felt like a promising model for future collaboration. Attendance was strong. Everyone smiled for a photo.

Yet afterward, Mr. Mamdani politely shut the partnership down, saying the group’s goals were too different. *Continued on Page A18*

## Trump Warns China May See New 100% Tax

By **ANA SWANSON**

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Friday said he would impose a 100 percent tariff on all products from China in response to curbs Beijing announced this week on rare-earth minerals, a rapid escalation of tensions between the world’s largest economies.

On Truth Social, Mr. Trump wrote that the tariffs would take effect on Nov. 1 and be imposed “over and above” other tariffs on Chinese exports, which are already 30 percent and in some cases much higher. The United States would also put export controls on critical software, he said.

In an earlier post on Friday, the president threatened to retaliate and cancel a planned meeting with China’s leader, Xi Jinping.

Mr. Trump called the curbs that China put out this week on its exports of rare-earth minerals “sinister and hostile” and said they would “make life difficult for virtually every Country in the World.” He added that he had planned to meet Mr. Xi in two weeks at an international economic conference in South Korea, “but now there seems to be no reason to do so.”

“One of the Policies that we are calculating at this moment is a massive increase of Tariffs on Chinese products coming into the United States of America,” he wrote. “There are many other countermeasures that are, likewise, under serious consideration.”

Markets shuddered at the news with the S&P 500 index sliding more than 2 percent on Friday.

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### On Comics and Free Speech

At the Riyadh Comedy Festival, some performers have been vague about how much dissent is possible. **PAGE C1**

### Lost God and Found Herself

In an Off Broadway play, the “Severance” actor Jen Tullock delves into growing up in a devout family. **PAGE C1**



NATIONAL A11-19

### James Case Looks Familiar

The president and New York’s attorney general have accused each other of real estate fraud. But the dollar amounts involved are a lot different. **PAGE A15**

### Explosion at Munitions Plant

Several people were killed, injured or missing after a “devastating blast” at a facility southwest of Nashville. **PAGE A17**

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

### Fading of a Factory Town

China’s baby boom enriched a small Irish town that made formula for newborns. Then came a baby bust. **PAGE A4**

OBITUARIES A20-21

### Counselor With a Pit Bull Tack

Bruce Cutler, 77, became one of the country’s best-known lawyers after winning cases for John Gotti. **PAGE A20**

### Loyola Basketball’s No. 1 Fan

Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, a chaplain and informal scout for the Chicago team, was 106. **PAGE A21**



BUSINESS B1-5

### Are 2 Bosses Better Than One?

Comcast, Oracle and Spotify recently doubled up on top executives in rapid succession, naming co-C.E.O.s, a rare setup that some say could become more common. **PAGE B1**

### A Path Out of Economic Crisis

Joachim Nagel, the president of Germany’s central bank, warned against complacency in European capitals over tariffs, competition with China and attacks on institutions. **PAGE B1**

OPINION A22-23

### The Editorial Board

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THIS WEEKEND

