

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

VOL. CLXXV No. 60,788

© 2026 The New York Times Company

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



Badgor, an isolated village in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, that was hit by a quake last summer. Tuberculosis cases are ballooning.

After U.S. Cuts, Afghans Face Hunger and Death

This article is by Elian Peltier, Yaqoob Akbary and Sajidullah Padshah.

DAIKUNDI PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The U.S. aid cuts in Afghanistan were as sudden as they were brutal. Even after the U.S. withdrawal and the end of the war in 2021, the United States continued pouring money into Afghanistan. From the 2021 Taliban takeover until last year, Washington had provided nearly \$1 billion annually — over a third of all aid flowing into one of the world's poorest countries. That funding has all but evaporated with the dismantling of the U.S. Agency for

450 Health Centers and Programs That Fed Millions Close

International Development.

The agency's programs once helped clear landscapes scarred by war and mines, diversify crops and keep millions from hunger. Four million children are now at risk of dying from malnutrition, according to the World Food Program, the most in a quarter-century.

"The U.S. withdrawal exacerbated an already bad situation,"

said Sherine Ibrahim, a former head of the Afghanistan office of the International Rescue Committee, which received three-quarters of its funding from the U.S. government. "No other donor has stepped in, and no one will in those proportions."

Nearly 450 health centers closed because of the cuts, including a tiny white building in the drought-stricken village of Nalej, where Malika Ghullami safely gave birth to two children in past years and was pregnant again with twins last year.

After the midwife and nutritionist left Nalej, however, Ms. Ghullami had to be driven on a spine-

Continued on Page A6

With the move appeared to backfire. Instead, the group, the influential American Israel Public Affairs Committee, may have helped a pro-Palestinian progressive win the primary.

The group's allied super PAC spent at least \$2.3 million against former Representative Tom Malinowski, who has said that he "would not deny anything Israel needs to defend itself" but left open the possibility of placing limits on aid.

It ran negative ads against him, sending a message that it was willing to punish Democrats seen as insufficiently supportive of Israel.

And with the race still un-called on Friday, Mr. Malinowski was indeed trailing narrowly. But the candidate leading him was not

one of the other moderates in the race, but an outspoken critic of Israel: Analilia Mejia, a left-leaning political organizer who has said she believed the country committed genocide in Gaza.

The outcome appeared to be a misfire by AIPAC's super PAC, the United Democracy Project, which was flush with nearly \$96 million at the start of the year, making it one of the best-funded outside groups in the country.

Many Democrats were furious at AIPAC's intervention in the primary. Matt Bennett, the executive

Continued on Page A14

Israel Backer Losing Sway On Democrats

By JENNIFER MEDINA

The country's most powerful pro-Israel lobbying group threw its financial might against a moderate Democratic House candidate in New Jersey who is a long-time supporter of the Jewish state but has said that U.S. military aid should not be unconditional.

The move appeared to backfire. Instead, the group, the influential American Israel Public Affairs Committee, may have helped a pro-Palestinian progressive win the primary.

The group's allied super PAC spent at least \$2.3 million against former Representative Tom Malinowski, who has said that he "would not deny anything Israel needs to defend itself" but left open the possibility of placing limits on aid.

It ran negative ads against him, sending a message that it was willing to punish Democrats seen as insufficiently supportive of Israel.

And with the race still un-called on Friday, Mr. Malinowski was indeed trailing narrowly. But the candidate leading him was not

one of the other moderates in the race, but an outspoken critic of Israel: Analilia Mejia, a left-leaning political organizer who has said she believed the country committed genocide in Gaza.

The outcome appeared to be a misfire by AIPAC's super PAC, the United Democracy Project, which was flush with nearly \$96 million at the start of the year, making it one of the best-funded outside groups in the country.

Many Democrats were furious at AIPAC's intervention in the primary. Matt Bennett, the executive

Continued on Page A14

Trump Posts, Then Erases, Racist Video of Obamas

Apes Depiction Is Latest Affront in a Pattern of Denigrating Black Americans

By ERICA L. GREEN and ISABELLA KWAI

President Trump posted a blatantly racist video clip portraying former President Barack Obama and the former first lady Michelle Obama as apes, then deleted it after an unusually strong and public outcry from members of his own party.

The clip, set to "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," was spliced near the end of a 62-second video that promoted conspiracy theories about the 2020 election and was posted by Mr. Trump late Thursday night. It was the latest in a pattern by Mr. Trump of promoting offensive imagery and slurs about Black Americans and others.

The decision to delete the link from his Truth Social account was an unusual retreat by Mr. Trump, whose own press secretary just hours earlier had brushed off criticism of the video and made no attempt to distance the president from it.

"This is from an internet meme video depicting President Trump as the King of the Jungle and Democrats as characters from the Lion King," the press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, said in a statement, before the clip was deleted. "Please stop the fake outrage and report on something today that actually matters to the American public."

Mr. Trump has also referred to Somalis as "garbage," equated diversity with incompetence and inferiority, and cast himself as the protector of white people at home and abroad.

But the latest video struck a nerve that the White House did not appear to anticipate. The depiction of Mr. and Mrs. Obama as apes perpetuates a racist trope

Continued on Page A15

More on the White House

PRESSURE Administration officials dangled rail-project funding in exchange for renaming transit hubs after the president. PAGE A15

VACCINES Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s advisory panel is taking aim at Covid shots and inoculations for pregnant women. PAGE A16

ICE Watchers in Minneapolis Take Page From Protests Past

By CHARLES HOMANS

In the months leading up to the 2024 election, Jill Garvey, an organizer in Chicago for liberal advocacy groups, gathered with some like-minded colleagues and, she recalled, "did some scenario planning."

"Our sense," she said, was that "authoritarian movements had coalesced, had singular goals, and were advancing them."

Since then, the organization that Ms. Garvey founded shortly before Election Day, States at the Core, has hosted regular Zoom trainings in how to track and document the actions of federal immigration agents. These seminars on "ICE-watching" — referring to Immigration and Customs Enforcement — now draw thousands of attendees at a time.

ICE-watching has been at the heart of the opposition to the

Modeling Their Efforts on '60s Grass Roots

Trump administration's raids in Minneapolis, where activists' unrelenting pursuit of often-belligerent federal agents has led to frequent street confrontations. In two such incidents, federal officers fatally shot Renee Good and Alex Pretti, both Minneapolis residents, killings that were captured on camera from multiple angles by observers.

The videos of these shootings and other instances of aggression by immigration officers have succeeded in doing what perhaps no other anti-Trump protest has done: draw concessions from the administration.

On Wednesday, Tom Homan,

Continued on Page A19

In New England, Some Fans Say, 'Go Seahawks'

By JENNA RUSSELL

After enduring 20 years of hype about the home team, victory parades and mass infatuation with the quarterback Tom Brady, the Patriots haters of New England believed, just a few years back, that they had finally won a respite.

Mr. Brady was gone. So was the longtime Patriots coach, Bill Belichick. And so it began: The Pats went 4-13 in 2023, and again the

Quietly Tormented by Patriots' Success

following year.

"It was so quiet," Andrew Lawrenson, a Patriots hater in Nashua, N.H., wistfully recalled of that brief period. "You didn't hear a whisper."

Then came the 2025 season, and

a comeback so abrupt — and so wildly premature, in the minds of the haters — that it felt surreal.

On Sunday, after going 14-3 in the regular season, the Patriots will play in the Super Bowl. Again. And quietly, across New England, a collective sigh is rising from the willful few who live in the region but root for other teams.

"It's their time, so good for them," said David Loxterkamp, a

Continued on Page A20



INTERNATIONAL A4-12

Threat of 'Biblical Diseases'

A number of infections were nearly eliminated in parts of Africa, before U.S. aid cuts derailed treatment.

NATIONAL A13-20

Going Unconventional

Democrats are tapping candidates with unusual résumés — like a Tejano recording star and a smokejumper — to compete in deep-red areas.

ARTS C1-6

Save the New Deal-Era Murals

Artworks in the Cohen Federal Building are under threat and could meet the same fate as the White House East Wing. Critic's Notebook.

TRAVEL C7-8

Building a Stage Spectacle

The set production designer for the Super Bowl halftime show "makes the impossible possible."

SPECIAL SECTION



BUSINESS B1-6

India's Big Conspiracy Theory

A new Bollywood film has helped revive a divisive conspiracy theory about the origin of the Taj Mahal.

PAGE B1

Continued on Page A21

Clash Brews Over Nike's D.E.I.

The chair of the E.E.O.C. has long opposed diversity initiatives like those that the company embraced.

PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

Carlos Lozada

PAGE A23

Displaced and Deserted

Some 60,000 evacuees in Pakistan have been left in limbo by confusion and political disputes.

PAGE A4

0 354613 9