

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, windy, morning clouds breaking for some afternoon sun, high 57. **Tonight**, mainly clear, breezy, low 38. **Tomorrow**, partly sunny and cooler, high 44. Weather map, Page 30.

VOL. CLXXV ... No. 60,705 © 2025 The New York Times Company SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025 Prices in Canada may be higher \$6.00

## CONSUMERS’ PAIN MOTIVATES TRUMP TO ACT ON PRICES

### AFFORDABILITY EFFORT

Offering New Policies and  
Messaging as Tariffs  
Sap Wage Gains

By **ALAN RAPPEPORT**  
WASHINGTON — Lower prices for coffee and fruit. A 50-year mortgage to reduce monthly home payments. Direct checks of \$2,000 to many Americans. And a new willingness to welcome skilled foreign labor into the United States.

The Trump administration has begun floating a series of ideas over the past several weeks as it confronts the cold reality that its economic policies are not helping many Americans who continue to struggle with elevated prices and a sense of economic pessimism.

The elections on Nov. 4 made clear that affordability was top of mind for many Americans. Voters in New York propelled Zohran Mamdani, the democratic socialist with an ambitious agenda to lower the cost of living, to victory in the mayoral race. Democratic wins in New Jersey and Virginia were built on promises to address the high cost of living in those states.

Only 30 percent of voters believe President Trump has lived up to their expectations for tackling inflation and the cost of living, according to a recent NBC News poll. That was his lowest mark for any issue respondents were asked about. And a meager 27 percent of voters in a CNN poll in late October said Mr. Trump’s policies had improved the country’s economic conditions — less than half of those who thought he had made matters worse.

In the wake of those results, the administration has begun rolling out new policies and recasting its economic messaging to try to show they are serious about combating the nation’s affordability crisis.

That includes a watering-down of some policies, such as tariffs, that the Trump administration insisted for months were not causing prices to rise for American consumers. The administration said on Friday that it would lift tariffs on foreign products, including beef, tomatoes, bananas and coffee.

The president is also planning to travel around the country to try to explain more clearly how his policies are helping Americans.

“We understand that people understand, as people look at their pocketbooks to go to the grocery store, that there’s still work to do,” Kevin Hassett, the director of the National Economic Council, said outside the White House this past week. He said that providing consumers with more purchasing power is “something that we’re going to fix, and we’re going to fix it right away.”

The new urgency over affordability comes ahead of looming midterm elections that could alter

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HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Only 30 percent of voters said the president had met expectations on inflation, a poll found.



KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Thousands of Homeland Security Investigations agents are being redirected to immigration duties.

## Homeland’s Core Missions Disrupted by Deportations

### A Sharp Pivot From Combating Terrorism, Smuggling and Child Exploitation

This article is by **Nicholas Ne-hamas, Michael H. Keller, Alexandra Berzon, Hamed Aleaziz and Zolan Kanno-Youngs.**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security has diverted thousands of federal agents from their normal duties to focus on arresting undocumented immigrants, undermining a wide range of law enforcement operations in response to mounting pressure from President Trump, a New York Times investigation has found.

Homeland security agents investigating sexual crimes against children, for instance, have been redeployed to the immigrant crackdown for weeks at a time, hampering their pursuit of child predators.

A national security probe into the black market for Iranian oil sold to finance terrorism has been slowed down for months because of the shift to immigration work, allowing tanker ships and money to disappear.

And federal efforts to combat human smuggling and sex trafficking have languished with investigators reassigned to help staff deportation efforts.

The changes have extended deep into D.H.S.’s public-safety mission, as the Coast Guard has diverted aircraft to transport immigrants between detention centers and the department’s law enforcement academy has delayed training for many agencies to prioritize new immigration officers.

The Times investigation is based on previously undisclosed internal documents from D.H.S. — including statistical reports about department workloads, search warrants and arrests — obtained through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. The Times also spoke

with more than 65 officials who have worked in the federal government during the current Trump administration, in addition to local authorities and others who collaborate with the department. Most of them spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters and out of fear of retribution.

The overhaul represents a striking departure for the behemoth agency that Congress created in response to the Sept. 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks. The Department of Homeland Security was tasked with preventing terrorism, protecting the president, investigating transnational crime and responding to natural disasters, among other duties. Immigration enforcement was one of many responsibilities, but it was not envisioned as D.H.S.’s singular function.

Today, the Trump administration has remade the agency into a veritable Department of Deportation.

The shift has had consequences.

Homeland security investigators worked approximately 33 percent fewer hours on child exploitation cases from February through April compared to their average in prior years, according to a Times analysis of data obtained through the F.O.I.A. lawsuit.

“It’s heartbreaking,” said Hany Farid, a computer scientist who helped create software used by law enforcement and technology

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## Food Is Blamed In Mexico City As Drains Clog

By **JAMES WAGNER**

MEXICO CITY — When the heavens opened up over Mexico City this year, chaos ensued in the streets.

Water flooded homes, roads, sidewalks, metro stations and even the airport, in what officials called the worst rainy season in at least 40 years.

Contributing factors to the frequent flooding, experts said, including climate change, an antiquated drainage system, rapid urban growth and the ground slowly sinking under the city.

But one ingredient, at least, is in many citizens’ direct control: trash, especially grease, especially cooking waste.

“Imagine a layer of fat in your arteries, like cholesterol,” said Ricardo Munguía, who oversees the hydraulic infrastructure for Mexico City’s water and sewer agency. “It’s a big problem.”

An estimated four of every five standing pools of water are caused by trash or materials that should not be in the drainage pipes, he said. One of those materials, he said, is fat from restaurants, markets, taquerías and more.

“We as citizens are to blame,” said Gloria Pantaleón Heredia, a 79-year-old resident of northern Mexico City, where heavy rains gathered into deep pools during the rainy season. She faulted a nearby taco stand for not being careful with its grease runoff, and her neighbors for not picking up debris that blocks drains.

“If we were conscientious,” she

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## How Fallout From Trump Documentary Paralyzed the BBC

By **JANE BRADLEY and TARIQ PANJA**

LONDON — The response was ready to go.

After furious headlines in a British newspaper accused the BBC of institutional bias over a misleading edit of a speech by President Trump, top executives at the British public broadcaster knew they had to act quickly.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, a day after the first article had appeared online, they were prepared to go public with a statement approved

by the BBC’s top communications team and the director general, Tim Davie. It would acknowledge that Panorama, the flagship investigative program, had made a mistake by splicing together footage from Mr. Trump’s speech on Jan. 6, 2021, shortly before an attack on the Capitol.

To their frustration, the executives, including the head of news, Deborah Turness, found themselves blocked by the BBC board, according to four BBC executives and another senior employee with knowledge of the events. News executives and board members

### Top Leaders Were Split as Crisis Snowballed

were divided over whether to focus on the editing error, or to concede wider failings in the newsroom.

Instead of addressing the criticism, the BBC was silent for seven days. In the vacuum, a wave of headlines became a flood of unchallenged claims that eventually pulled in the White House, with

press secretary Karoline Leavitt declaring the BBC “total, 100 percent fake news.” By the time the broadcaster issued a statement, the scandal had engulfed the organization and prompted the resignations of Mr. Davie and Ms. Turness.

The story of how the BBC careened into one of the worst crises in its 103-year history may have centered on the editing of President Trump’s remarks. But it was about something much bigger: a longstanding debate, often driven by the right, over whether the

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## Outrage Over Death of Kit Kat By a Driver Who Has No Heart

By **HEATHER KNIGHT**

SAN FRANCISCO — At Delirium, a dive bar in San Francisco’s Mission District, the décor is dark, the drinks are strong, and the emotions are raw. The punk rockers and old-school city natives here look tough, but they are in mourning.

Kit Kat used to bar-hop along the block, slinking into Delirium for company and chin rubs. Everybody knew the bodega cat, affectionately calling him the Mayor of 16th Street. Kit Kat was their “dawg,” the guys hanging out on the corner said.

But shortly before midnight on Oct. 27, the tabby was run over just outside the bar and left for dead. The culprit?

A robot taxi. Hundreds of animals are killed by human drivers in San Francisco each year. But the death of a

single cat, crushed by the back tire of a Waymo self-driving taxi, has infuriated some residents in the Mission who loved Kit Kat — and led to consternation among those who resent how automation has encroached on so many parts of society.

“Waymo? Hell, no. I’m terrified of those things,” said Margarita Lara, a bartender who loved Kit Kat. “There’s so many of them now. They just released them out into our city, and it’s unnecessary.”

Kit Kat’s death has sparked outrage and debate for weeks in San Francisco. A feline shrine quickly emerged. Tempers flared on social media, with some bemoaning the way robot taxis had taken over the city and others wondering why there hadn’t been the same level of concern over the San Francisco

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DANIEL ZEIDAN

Kit Kat’s death at the wheels of a Waymo robot taxi has infuriated San Franciscans, and spurred some debate about automation.

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### Ethics Report Finds Violations

Adriana D. Kugler, who stepped down as a Fed governor in August, reported trades in stocks, including Apple and Southwest Airlines, in 2024. PAGE 22

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### Leftist Energy Fades in Chile

Gabriel Boric began with big promises and new energy. Now, as his mandate ends, that fervor has waned. PAGE 6

### Women’s Agony in Assad’s Jails

Under the Syrian dictator’s rule, many wives and children of rebels were seized as leverage. PAGE 12



#### METROPOLITAN

### Doctor Could Face Extradition

Dr. Masahide Kanayama, who’s devoted his life to medicine and God, is accused of marring holy sites in Japan. PAGE 1

#### SUNDAY OPINION

### David Herzberg

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### Kickoff Return Consequences

The N.F.L. reinvigorated kickoff returns, but that change has come with a surge in concussions: 13 head injuries in the first seven weeks. PAGE 23

### Weighing M.V.P.s and Rings

Aaron Judge has three M.V.P.s but no World Series rings. Derek Jeter has five rings but no M.V.P.s. PAGE 25

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### The Man Hollywood Listens To

The journalist Matthew Belloni has grabbed the film industry’s attention by saying its power is in decline. PAGE 6

#### ARTS & LEISURE

### A Harlem Institution Shines

The newest iteration of the Studio Museum doubles the exhibition space and helps redefine 125th Street. PAGE 16

### Patti Smith’s ‘Horses’ at 50

In 1975, she transformed poetry into punk. Artists who made and admired the album share memories. PAGE 8



#### SUNDAY STYLES

### Kennedy Scion Tries Politics

Jack Schlossberg, 32, the grandson of President John F. Kennedy, may be best known as a social media provocateur. Now he’s running for Congress in New York City. PAGE 8

### A Sequined Homecoming

Judy Garland’s “lucky jacket,” which she wore during her acclaimed debut at Carnegie Hall in 1961, is back where it all began — and will soon be owned by the venue’s in-house museum. PAGE 1

