

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, clouds and sun, some haze from Canadian wildfires, high 80. **Tonight**, turning clear, low 66. **Tomorrow**, mostly sunny, low humidity, high 81. Weather map, Page B12.

VOL. CLXXIV No. 60,604 © 2025 The New York Times Company THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Trump Weighs Playing a Role In Mayor Race

Said to Call Cuomo — Focus on Mamdani

This article is by **Nicholas Fandos, Jeremy W. Peters, Maggie Haberman and Katherine Rosman.**

President Trump may have moved out of New York City, but he has privately discussed whether to intercede in its fractious race for mayor to try to stop Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic nominee, according to eight people briefed on the discussions.

In recent weeks, Mr. Trump has quizzed a Republican congressman and New York businessmen about who in the crowded field of candidates, which includes Mayor Eric Adams and former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, has the best chance of beating Mr. Mamdani, the leftist front-runner.

The president has been briefed by Mark Penn, a pollster who has worked for Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Andrew Stein, a former New York City Council president and decades-long friend of Mr. Trump, on an array of polling that showed Mr. Cuomo could still be competitive as an independent candidate. Both men have pushed Mr. Cuomo as the best candidate despite his loss in the Democratic primary, including in a recent Wall Street Journal op-ed. One of Mr. Penn’s firms did extensive work for a pro-Cuomo super PAC in the primary.

And in a previously undisclosed call in recent weeks, Mr. Trump spoke about the race directly with Mr. Cuomo, an old associate and foil, according to three people briefed on the call, who were not authorized to discuss it.

The possibility that Mr. Trump would somehow involve himself in New York politics could inject a new element of unpredictability into an already fractious contest. It remains far from certain how or if Mr. Trump would make his presence felt. And in recent weeks, some Republicans close to the administration have indicated that the president might sit it out.

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A New Entree For Zoo Cats: Domestic Pets

By **ALEXA ROBLES-GIL and EMILY ANTHERS**

A zoo in Denmark is asking pet owners to donate their animal companions — their guinea pigs, rabbits, chickens and even small horses — to feed to its predators.

In a Facebook post last week, the Aalborg Zoo noted that it welcomed animals that, regardless of circumstance, might be nearing the end of their lives. These animals would be “gently euthanized” by trained employees and then used as food for the zoo’s predators, like its European lynx, the zoo notes on its website. Lions and tigers are also part of the zoo’s predator exhibits.

The donations would help the zoo mimic the natural food chain by feeding whole prey to its predators, the post said: “This way, nothing goes to waste, and we ensure natural behavior, nutrition, and well-being for our predators.”

The post linked to the zoo’s website, which described the process for donating horses as food. “Our needs vary throughout the year, and there may be a waiting list,” the site explains. For horses, certain conditions must be met, including the horse not having recently been treated for an illness.

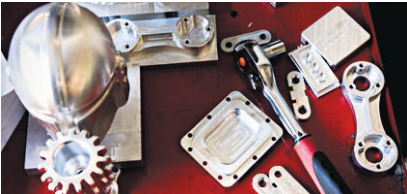
“The horse will be delivered alive to Aalborg Zoo, where the horse will be euthanized by a zookeeper and a veterinarian and

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BUSINESS B1-5

\$100 Billion Apple Pledge
President Trump and Tim Cook announced the tech giant’s added U.S. investment from the Oval Office. **PAGE B1**

‘Top Chef’ for Welders
A reality show’s unusual aim: elevating U.S. manufacturing and increasing the appeal of the skilled trades. **PAGE B1**



Set Up Like a Logistical Hub For Packages, but It’s for People

This article is by **Brent McDonald, Campbell Robertson, Zach Levitt and Albert Sun.**

ALEXANDRIA, La. — Alexandria International Airport has the feel of a small commercial airfield, with a shop selling coffee and snacks and panoramic windows overlooking the runways where a dozen American and Delta flights take off and land on a typical day.

A few hundred yards from the passenger gates, though, is a far busier patch of tarmac. This is where Badar Khan Suri arrived on an afternoon in March.

The State Department had sought the deportation of Mr. Suri, asserting that his presence compromised “a compelling U.S. foreign policy interest.” Mr. Suri’s wife, a Palestinian American, had drawn the attention of pro-Israel activists for her sharp criticism of Israel on social media, and for her father’s former role as a government official in Gaza.

And so he found himself among thousands of foreign nationals flown to Alexandria after being taken into custody as part of the Trump administration’s sprawling immigration crackdown.

No airport has become more

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Fragile Cease-Fire in Syria’s South
The fighting has stopped in Sweida, three weeks after deadly sectarian violence entangled government troops, above. But the atmosphere remains tense as clashes continue near the city. **PAGE A4.**

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Statue Divides French Town
An effort to remove a monument to a general accused of torture reignites a debate about colonialism. **PAGE A5**

A Negative for Brazil on Tariffs
A top justice’s house arrest order for a Trump ally, Jair Bolsonaro, could derail trade negotiations with the U.S. **PAGE A6**

SPORTS B6-9

The Rams’ Fearsome Twosome
Defenders Braden Fiske and Jared Verse, who played together at Florida State, have built a brotherly bond while pushing each other to excel. **PAGE B6**

NATIONAL A12-19

Texas G.O.P.’s Gerrymander
By redrawing the districts around the biggest population centers, the Republicans are looking to flip five seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. **PAGE A12**

Up on the White House Roof
The president took a heavily secured 20-minute walkabout atop the Executive Mansion, to survey the changes he has made or plans to make. **PAGE A16**

A Forever Fire Season
California’s summertime fire activity is creeping into spring, and the warming climate could be causing it to grow longer at the back end, too. **PAGE A13**

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Cosmetic Acupuncture
When it comes to achieving youthful-looking skin, our writer asks, do all roads eventually lead to needles? **PAGE D5**

The Man Trying to Save Fro-Yo
The treat was inescapable a decade ago, then seemed to vanish. One chief executive hasn’t given up on it. **PAGE D1**

China Turning To A.I. to Push Its Propaganda

Tracking U.S. Officials and Influencers

By **JULIAN E. BARNES**

WASHINGTON — The Chinese government is using companies with expertise in artificial intelligence to monitor and manipulate public opinion, giving it a new weapon in information warfare, according to current and former U.S. officials and documents unearthed by researchers.

One company’s internal documents show how it has undertaken influence campaigns in Hong Kong and Taiwan, and collected data on members of Congress and other influential Americans.

While the firm has not mounted a campaign in the United States, American spy agencies have monitored its activity for signs that it might try to influence American elections or political debates, former U.S. officials said.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly the new frontier of espionage and malign influence operations, allowing intelligence services to conduct campaigns far faster, more efficiently and on a larger scale than ever before.

The Chinese government has long struggled to mount information operations targeting other countries, lacking the aggressiveness or effectiveness of Russian intelligence agencies. But U.S. officials and experts say that advances in A.I. could help China overcome its weaknesses.

A new technology can track public debates of interest to the Chinese government, offering the ability to monitor individuals and their arguments as well as broader public sentiment. The technology also has the promise of mass-producing propaganda that can counter shifts in public opinion at home and overseas.

China’s emerging capabilities come as the U.S. government pulls back efforts to counter foreign malign influence campaigns.

U.S. spy agencies still collect information about foreign manipulation, but the Trump administration has dismantled the teams at the State Department, the F.B.I. and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency that warned the public about potential threats. In the last presidential election, the campaigns included Russian videos denigrating Vice President Kamala Harris and

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**CRUSADE ON SAFETY RULE
ENTANGLES HIS PRIZED
SUPPLEMENTS**

significant setback for the growing multibillion-dollar supplement industry, which has regularly used the pathway to quickly bring new ingredients to market with little oversight.

Mr. Kennedy’s announcement has rattled the industry, prompting concerned calls from supplement makers and intense lobbying in Washington by the trade associations that represent them. Since March, leaders of four dietary supplement trade associations have met multiple times with F.D.A. officials to lobby the agency on the designation’s benefits.

Supplement makers are worried they could become collateral damage in a campaign targeting unhealthy foods. Kennedy and his team “may not have fully appreciated how it could end up limiting consumer choice in supplements,

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In Targeting Unhealthy Foods, Kennedy Also Imperils a Cause

By **JANE BLACK**

In his first weeks as health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. declared war on an obscure regulatory process that many argue has been exploited by the food industry for decades.

The pathway allows companies to introduce new ingredients or chemicals into food products without a Food and Drug Administration review, as long as they self-certify them as “generally recognized as safe,” or GRAS for short.

The designation has allowed new chemicals to be viewed as “innocent until proven guilty,” leading to thousands of ingredients flooding the American food system, Mr. Kennedy said at his confirmation hearing in January.

“It needs to end, and I believe I’m the one person who’s able to end it,” he added.

In March, Mr. Kennedy directed the Food and Drug Administration to revisit the GRAS rule, describing it as a “loophole” that needed to be eliminated.

Food companies and ultraprocessed snacks may be the target of Mr. Kennedy’s ire. But the elimination of GRAS would also be a

TRUMP, SOURING ON INDIA, VOWS DOUBLE TARIFFS

CASTS FRIEND AS A FOE

Threat Jeopardizes Effort to Counterbalance Beijing’s Might

By **ALEX TRAVELLI**

NEW DELHI — President Trump all but declared economic war against India on Wednesday, threatening to add a 25 percent punitive tariff for India’s purchases of Russian oil on top of a 25 percent tariff he announced last week.

Added together, the 50 percent tariff paints India as a political enemy, putting it in the company of Brazil, whose leftist president sparred with Mr. Trump when the country was threatened with a similarly punishing tariff rate.

The onslaught against India started on July 30, when Mr. Trump declared that India’s economy was “dead.” Until that point, his administration had been angling to reduce India’s trade barriers, but said nothing about its two years of buying Russian oil at a wartime discount.

The crisis between India and the United States suddenly looks much bigger than the terms of trade.

Before tariffs came into play, the world’s two largest democracies seemed to be enjoying the friendship that its leaders had forged.

At a meeting with Mr. Trump at the White House in February, India’s prime minister, Narendra Modi, described his country’s intention to become one of the world’s most advanced economies, with the United States as a partner.

“In the language of America, it’s ‘Make India Great Again’ — MIGA,” he said. “When America and India work together, this MAGA plus MIGA becomes a ‘mega partnership for prosperity.’” Mr. Trump smiled.

Left unmentioned but lingering just out of sight was China, the only country with a population to rival India’s and an economy to stand in its way. China is also far and away America’s most important economic competitor. Together, the United States and India were seen as ready to use each

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Tales of the Delacorte

Actors reminisce about appearing at the theater that stages Shakespearean productions in Central Park. **PAGE C1**

The Pair Behind ‘Platonic’

The creators of the Apple TV+ show discuss what it’s like when your work spouse is your actual spouse. **PAGE C1**

THE PAIR BEHIND ‘PLATONIC’

The creators of the Apple TV+ show discuss what it’s like when your work spouse is your actual spouse. **PAGE C1**

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Tales of the Delacorte
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