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The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, very cold, a mix of clouds and sunshine, breezy, high 22. **Tonight**, extremely cold, clear, low 8. **Tomorrow**, very cold, some clouds, breezy, high 18. Weather map is on Page A17.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

TRUMP SHARPENS TEHRAN THREATS, POSING DEMANDS

WARNS OF NEW ATTACK

Evokes Maduro Capture,
Cites ‘Armada’ in Area
and Calls for Deal

This article is by **David E. Sanger, Tyler Pager and Farnaz Fassihi.**

WASHINGTON — President Trump sharply intensified his threats against Iran on Wednesday, suggesting that if it did not agree to a set of demands the administration had made of the country’s leaders, he could soon mount an attack “with speed and violence.”

Mr. Trump’s threat of a second direct attack on Iran by U.S. forces in eight months came as the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, along with other naval ships, bombers and fighter jets, took up positions in the region in striking distance of the country. Mr. Trump explicitly compared the buildup to the forces he amassed near Venezuela late last year, just ahead of the operation that seized Nicolás Maduro and his wife in the middle of the night early in January.

Mr. Trump gave no specifics about the deal he was demanding, saying only that a “massive Armada” was heading toward Iran and that the country should make a deal. But U.S. and European officials say that in talks, they have put three demands in front of the Iranians: a permanent end to all enrichment of uranium and disposal of its current stockpiles, limits on the range and number of their ballistic missiles, and an end to all support for proxy groups in the Middle East, including Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis operating in Yemen.

Notably absent from those demands — and from Mr. Trump’s post on Truth Social on Wednesday morning — was any reference to protecting the protesters who took to the streets in Iran in December, convulsing the country

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Breach Reveals Cheats Cracked The Digital SAT

By **STEPHANIE SAUL**

Three years ago, after nearly a century of testing on paper, the College Board rolled out a new digital SAT.

Students who had long relied on No. 2 pencils to take the exam would instead use their laptops. One advantage, the College Board said, was a reduced chance of cheating, in part because delivering the test online meant the questions would vary for each student.

Now, however, worries are growing that the College Board’s security isn’t fail safe. Fueling the concerns are what appear to be copies of recently administered digital SAT questions that have been posted on the internet — on social media sites as well as websites primarily housed in China.

The SAT leaks dominated the conversation in November at an international education conference in Seville, Spain, according to Angel B. Pérez, the head of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

“It was the talk of cocktail parties at the international high school conference,” Dr. Pérez said in an interview. “I had a few counselors come up to me to say, ‘we are very concerned.’”

The College Board was alerted to the cheating efforts by an SAT tutor, according to emails ob-

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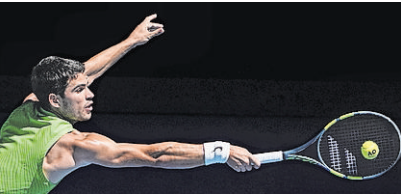
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A Snub, and a Statement

Pro Football Hall of Fame voters showed their petty side by rejecting Bill Belichick, our columnist writes. PAGE B10

No. 1 but Never Satisfied

Already the dominant force in men’s tennis, Carlos Alcaraz is always looking for ways to improve his game. PAGE B7



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A court found Kim Keon Hee guilty of corruption, making her the first former presidential spouse in South Korea to be convicted of a crime. PAGE A6

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In war-ravaged Myanmar, all-night traditional theatrical shows are providing fleeting moments of relief. PAGE A7

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Gladys West was a mathematician whose modeling of the Earth’s shape had a key role. She was 95. PAGE B11

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Powerful Help Revive a Slur

A term, long considered a slur for those with intellectual disabilities, is seeing a resurgence on social media and across the political right. PAGE A19

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Disaster assistance has been slowed by added layers of review ordered by the homeland security secretary. PAGE A18

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Answering the Call at ‘The Pitt’

Four of the stars of the hospital show on HBO Max discuss the development of their characters in Season 2. PAGE C1



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Rug Maker Weaves In Tariffs

Loloi stockpiled carpets from India, Turkey and other countries in advance, but inventory is running low. PAGE B1

The Fed Decides to Pause

The central bank held interest rates steady after a series of reductions in the latter half of 2025. PAGE B1

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Worried Allies and Fox Softened Trump’s Tone After Backlash on ICE

A Personnel Shift Instead of Tough Talk

This article is by **Tyler Pager, Katie Rogers, Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Hamed Aleaziz.**

WASHINGTON — The crisis in Minneapolis was not dying down. The government’s account of the killing on Saturday of Alex Pretti, a U.S. citizen with no criminal record, was unraveling. Stephen Miller, the mastermind of President Trump’s hard-line immigration policy, had called Mr. Pretti a “terrorist” and told other administration officials, including Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary, to call him an “assassin.”

But videos clearly contradicted that story. Mr. Pretti was pinned down when immigration agents opened fire and killed him. Protests and a palpable sense of outrage were growing across the country. Even the president’s allies were alarmed. Many of them wanted to see changes on the ground, and several made a recommendation directly in calls to the president: Send Tom Homan, the White House border czar, to Minneapolis.

Early Monday, Brian Kilmeade, the co-host of “Fox & Friends,” of which Mr. Trump is a loyal viewer,

repeated the message three times in two hours.

Twenty minutes later, the president announced on social media that he was sending Mr. Homan to Minneapolis, a tacit acknowledgment that he was losing control of a situation that posed one of the most serious political threats of his second administration.

Gregory Bovino, a Border Patrol official who had been directing on-the-ground operations in Minneapolis, and who was known for aggressive tactics, was out. “Bovino is pretty good, but he’s a pretty out-there kind of guy,” Mr. Trump told Fox News. “Maybe it wasn’t good here.”

And while there is no sign that Mr. Trump is repudiating the tactics used by the federal agents in Minnesota or the core tenets of his immigration policies, the moment was a rare example of the president moving to mitigate the harsh optics associated with a crackdown his administration has oth-

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ICE INQUIRY Local police are inverting the usual dynamic in policing the police. PAGE A12

Attack on Omar at a Town Hall Followed Years of Trump’s Vitriol

By **ANNIE KARNI**

WASHINGTON — As President Trump riled up a rally crowd on Tuesday night describing immigrants bent on harming and killing Americans, he singled out one person in particular as an example of a bad actor.

Foreigners coming into the United States, he told his audience in Iowa, “have to show they can love our country; they have to be proud — not like Ilhan Omar.”

The crowd booed. They recognized the name of the Democratic congresswoman from Minnesota, whom the president has demonized and dehumanized for years with racist and xenophobic attacks, venting that she should “go back” to her country, referring to her as “garbage,” and mocking her hijab by calling it a “little turban.”

Not long afterward, at her own event in North Minneapolis, Ms. Omar was attacked by a man who rushed the lectern where she was speaking, spraying her with a



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Representative Ilhan Omar, Democrat of Minnesota, before an assailant rushed at her.

strong-smelling liquid.

The scene, which unfolded as Ms. Omar was calling for the resignation of Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary who has carried out Mr. Trump’s immigration crackdown, was shocking but hardly surprising.

It was exactly the type of situa-

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F.B.I. Search of Election Center Deepens 2020 Fight in Georgia

This article is by **Devlin Barrett, Richard Fausset and Nick Corasaniti.**

WASHINGTON — F.B.I. agents executed a search warrant on Wednesday for an election center in Fulton County, Ga., seeking to seize ballots in a significant escalation of the administration’s efforts to investigate a jurisdiction that President Trump has continued to criticize over his 2020 defeat in the state.

The move harnesses the investigative power of the Justice Department and the F.B.I. behind baseless claims by Mr. Trump and his supporters that the 2020 election was stolen from him. State and local officials and election experts have repeatedly refuted those assertions.

The search warrant authorized F.B.I. agents to search for all “physical ballots from the 2020 general election” in the county, according to a copy viewed by The

New York Times, as well as all ballot images produced by scanning ballots, all voter rolls from that year, and all tabulator tapes, which serve as a kind of voting machine receipt for election results.

The warrant, signed by a magistrate judge, Catherine M. Salinas, said the records were sought as part of an investigation into possible violations of a federal law against destruction of election-related records, and another statute that makes it a crime to knowingly procure fraudulent voter registration or fraudulent votes.

In an unusual twist, the prosecutor listed on the warrant is not from Georgia, but the interim U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, Thomas Albus. It is unclear what would connect prosecutors in Missouri to Mr. Trump’s longstanding complaints about

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