

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, more sunshine than clouds, dry, high 42. **Tonight**, mainly clear, dry, low 34. **Tomorrow**, clouds and sun, becoming windy, dry, high 42. Weather map appears on Page A19.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



ADRIANA LOUREIRO FERNANDEZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela has taken to showing up unannounced at political rallies, as he did in Caracas on Monday.

## Maduro, Fearing Attack by U.S., Changes Beds and Bodyguards

**By ANATOLY KURMANAEV**

President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela has tightened his personal security, including changing beds, and leaned on Cuba, a key ally, amid a growing threat of a U.S. military intervention in the country, according to multiple people close to the Venezuelan government.

They described an atmosphere of tension and concern gripping the president's inner circle while adding that Mr. Maduro believed he remained in control and could ride out the latest and gravest threat to his 12-year rule.

Mr. Maduro has tried to protect himself from a potential precision strike or a Special Forces raid by frequently changing sleeping locations and cellphones, the people said. Those precautions have ac-

### Venezuelan Strongman Is Upbeat in Public as He Clings to Power

celerated since September, some of the people said, when the United States started amassing warships and striking boats the Trump administration claimed were smuggling drugs from Venezuela.

To reduce the risk of betrayal, Mr. Maduro has expanded the role of Cuban bodyguards in his personal security detail and attached more Cuban counterintelligence officers to Venezuela's military, one of the people said.

In public, however, Mr. Maduro

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## Trump’s A.I. and Crypto Czar Benefits Himself and His Allies

*This article is by Cecilia Kang, Tripp Mickle, Ryan Mac, David Yaffe-Bellany and Theodore Schleifer.*

WASHINGTON — In July, David Sacks, one of the Trump administration's top technology officials, beamed as he strode onstage at a neo-Classical auditorium just blocks from the White House. He had convened top government officials and Silicon Valley executives for a forum on the booming business of artificial intelligence.

The guest of honor was President Trump, who unveiled an “A.I. Action Plan” that was drafted in part by Mr. Sacks, a longtime venture capitalist. In a nearly hour-long speech, Mr. Trump declared that A.I. was “one of the most important technological revolutions

### Holding a White House Role While Working in Silicon Valley

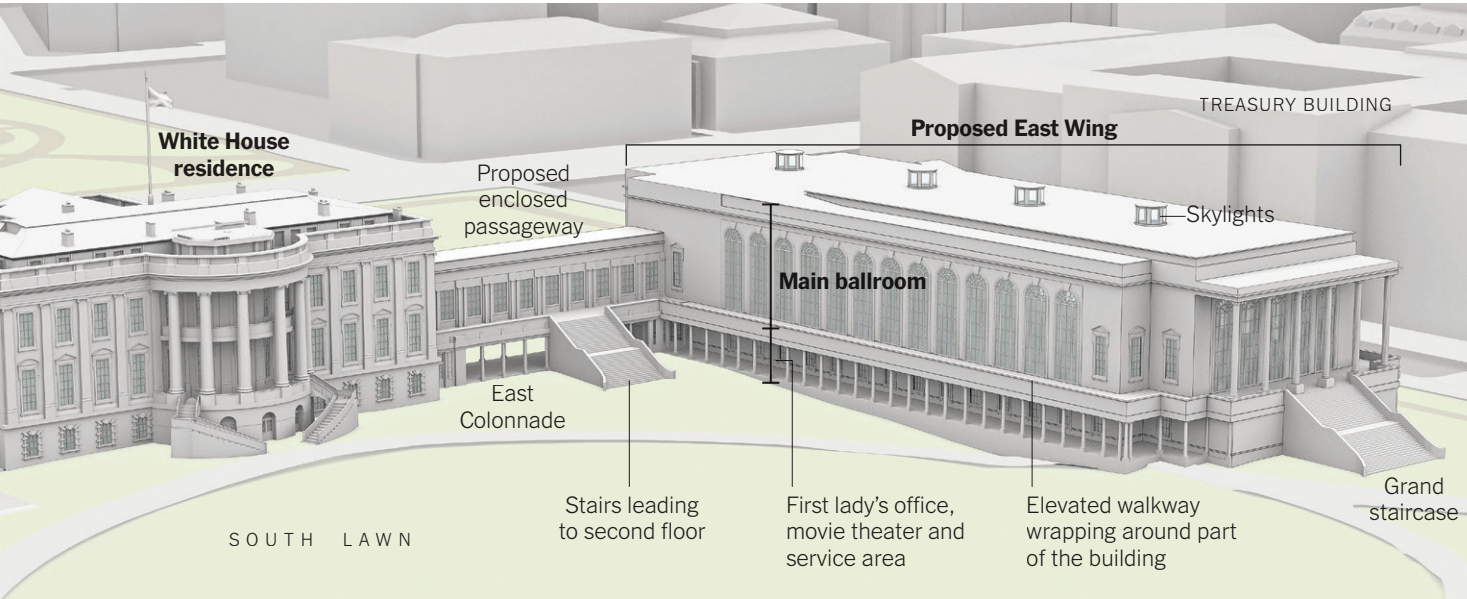
in the history of the world.” Then he picked up his pen and signed executive orders to fast-track the industry.

Almost everyone in the high-powered audience — which included the chief executives of the chip makers Nvidia and AMD, as well as Mr. Sacks's tech friends, colleagues and business partners — was poised to profit from Mr. Trump's directives.

Among the winners was Mr. Sacks himself.

Since January, Mr. Sacks, 53,

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Note: This rendering is based on a preliminary drawing and images of a model of the proposed East Wing released by the White House.

JUNHO LEE AND LAZARO GAMICO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Trump Puts His Imprint on Ballroom’s Ever-Expanding Blueprint

**By LUKE BROADWATER**

WASHINGTON — As President Trump took a stroll on the White House roof in August, generating headlines and questions about what he was up to, the man walking beside him was little noticed.

Wearing his signature bow tie, James McCrery, a classical architect who runs a small Washington firm known for its work building Catholic churches, was discussing

how to execute Mr. Trump's vision for a ballroom on the White House grounds.

Mr. McCrery's work has been embraced by conservatives who believe federal buildings should be designed with an eye toward the grandeur of ancient Greek and Roman structures. He often talks of how his design work is carried out in service of God and the church, according to people who have worked with him.

It might have seemed an odd

### Inside the Push to Erase Obstacles to His Plan

pairing: a man who designs cathedrals working for a man who once built casinos, and is now president of the United States.

But McCrery Architects got to work on the initial drawings for the project, sketching out a design with high ceilings and arched win-

dows reminiscent of Versailles's Hall of Mirrors. It would have the latest security features, including bulletproof glass. Gold furniture, known to please the president, was added to the renderings.

It was flashy enough to impress a man of Mr. Trump's tastes, while largely matching the style of the historic White House without overshadowing it.

That's when things got tricky.

In offering up his initial design,

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## Sweeping Policy Changes Block Paths for Migrants

### Pause on Asylum, Reviews of Green Cards and Threats to Strip Citizenship

*This article is by Hamed Aleaziz, Jazmine Ulloa and Allison McCann.*

The sweeping crackdown President Trump declared last week after an Afghan national was accused of shooting two National Guard members is poised to radically curtail immigrants from legally entering and living in the United States, putting up roadblocks unparalleled in recent history.

Within a matter of days, the administration rolled out a series of far-reaching policy changes: pausing all asylum decisions for migrants currently in the United States; halting immigration applications and reviewing the green cards of people from 19 countries subject to the president's travel ban; reassessing the asylum approvals issued during the Biden administration; indefinitely halting immigration applications filed by Afghan nationals; and barring Afghans from entering the country.

The new rules are poised to potentially upend the status of as many as 1.5 million migrants with pending asylum cases in the country, the more than 50,000 who gained asylum from the Department of Homeland Security under the Biden administration and untold more who had been hoping to seek refuge in the United States.

Taken together, the moves represent some of the most significant changes to immigration policy since Mr. Trump regained office on a platform of substantially curbing the number of people entering the United States and deporting record numbers of migrants.

Mr. Trump has hinted that further action could come as a result of the attack, floating the possibility of stripping people of citizenship. On Monday, Kristi Noem, the secretary of homeland security, said on social media that she recommended Mr. Trump enact “a full travel ban on every damn country that's been flooding our nation with killers, leeches, and entitlement junkies.” She echoed some of the demonizing language her boss has used; on Tuesday, he referred to Somali immigrants as “garbage.” [Page A13.]

It remains to be seen how the administration will conduct large-scale reviews of people already living legally in the country, and the federal government cannot easily strip people of their status. But the threat that people could see their cases reopened provoked alarm in a wide array of migrant communities now grappling with the fallout.

“The U.S. government has never halted such a broad slice of the immigration system or devoted this level of resources to rechecking its own work,” said Sarah Pierce, a former Department of Homeland Security official who is now director of social policy at the center-left think tank Third Way.

While security reviews are responsible, Ms. Pierce said, “this isn't a calibrated security response; it's a sweeping disruption of the legal immigration system at a moment when the administration is looking for someone to blame.”

Amanda Baran, a former senior official at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during the Biden administration, said she had never heard of the agency pausing asylum requests wholesale in the way the president had ordered.

“This is blunt force in a way that I have not seen before,” she said.

Administration officials said the measures were necessary in the wake of Wednesday's shooting, pointing to the fact that the 29-year-old suspect, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, entered the United States in 2021 under a program established by the Biden administration to give quick access to Afghan allies after the Taliban retook their country.

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### More on the White House

**PLEA ENTERED** A man accused of shooting two members of the National Guard pleaded not guilty remotely from a hospital. **PAGE A19**

**OFFICIALLY FREED** Juan Orlando Hernández, ex-leader of Honduras, formally received a pardon from President Trump. **PAGE A9**

## Mamdani, Foe Of Surveillance, Set to Oversee It

**By MARIA CRAMER**

When Zohran Mamdani, the mayor-elect, announced that he would retain New York City's police commissioner, Jessica S. Tisch, it meant he would be holding onto one of the architects of the department's pervasive surveillance network.

The network, called the Domain Awareness System, is used to track crime and help identify suspects by synthesizing vast amounts of data from video, license plate readers, audio gunshot detectors, 911 call logs, criminal histories, summonses, arrests, warrants and more. It stores feeds from thousands of cameras across the five boroughs that record New Yorkers as they shop, grab pizza or rush into subway stations.

Law enforcement officials say it is a key tool to help solve crimes and defuse terrorist threats. Civil libertarians see it as an unconstitutional intrusion.

Now it belongs to Mr. Mamdani. The mayor-elect, whose views were shaped by the department's heavy-handed spying on Muslim communities after the Sept. 11 attacks, has made it clear that he is generally wary of police surveillance.

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## \$6 Billion Gift From the Dells To Aid Children

**By NICHOLAS KULISH**

Michael and Susan Dell announced on Tuesday that they would deposit \$250 in individual investment accounts for 25 million children, an amount totaling \$6.25 billion. It is one of the largest philanthropic gifts ever to go directly to Americans.

The money expands the number of children who will receive seed money for the investment accounts, known as “Trump accounts.” The federal government will give \$1,000 to babies born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028. The Dells' gift extends to children up to 10 years old, though it limits eligibility to those who live in a ZIP code where the median household income is below \$150,000.

The federal government is expected to set up the accounts next summer, but many details of how they will work are still to be determined. There is no system in place yet for registering, and it is unclear where the accounts will reside.

Mr. Dell, the chairman and chief executive of Dell Technologies, first made his fortune by selling personal computers directly to

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**NATIONAL A10-20**

**Mamdani Revives a Debate**

New York City's next mayor has spoken forcefully about integrating America's largest school system. **PAGE A10**

**Vaccine Schedule Shift on Tap?**

Trump officials have signaled that major changes are probably coming to the childhood schedule. **PAGE A20**

**INTERNATIONAL A4-9**

**No Breakthrough With Putin**

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met with the president of Russia for five hours in the Kremlin to discuss ending the war with Ukraine. **PAGE A7**

**Pope Visits Beirut Waterfront**

Leo celebrated Mass near the site of a 2020 blast that rocked the city, capping his three-day visit to Lebanon. **PAGE A7**

**SPORTS B6-9**

**Inside a Triumphant Week**

A reporter had full access to the Michigan men's basketball team as it rolled to a tournament title. **PAGE B6**



**ARTS C1-6**

**Making Himself Clear**

Puzzled by avant-garde dance? The choreographer Tere O'Connor, seated, has a knack for explaining it. **PAGE C1**

**Country Music's Sweetener**

At the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Diana McBride is known for her lemonade, and much more. **PAGE C1**

**BUSINESS B1-5**

**Boeing's 'War on Defects'**

Two years after a panel flew off a 737 Max, the aircraft manufacturer is doing more inspections, completing work in its intended order and making other changes. **PAGE B1**

**India Mandates Tracking App**

The government said the app must be installed in all cellphones to prevent theft and other crime. Its opponents and privacy activists regard it as a tool of mass surveillance. **PAGE B1**

**OPINION A22-23**

**Bret Stephens** **PAGE A22**



**FOOD D1-8**

**Refined Japanese Fare**

At Yamada, which offers the height of kaiseki cuisine in New York, there is a commitment to the smallest details. Above, chawanmushi. **PAGE D1**

