"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, hot, humid, partly cloudy, thunderstorm, high 90. **Tonight**, warm, humid, thunderstorm, low 75. **Tomorrow**, partly sunny, less humid, high 86. Weather map, Page B12.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Unrest in Syria Prompts Israel To Hit Capital

Damascus Is Urged to Exit Druse Region

By EUAN WARD and AARON BOXERMAN

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Israel launched deadly airstrikes on Syria's capital on Wednesday, damaging a compound housing the defense ministry and hitting an area near the presidential palace, according to the Israeli military and Syrian authorities.

The bombardment in central Damascus followed days of bloody clashes involving Syrian government forces in Sweida, the southern region that is the heartland of the country's Druse minor-

The Israeli government, which has pledged to protect that minority, warned on Wednesday it would intensify strikes if Syrian government forces did not withdraw from the region, a strategically important province near Israel and Jordan. Israeli officials have said previously that they want to prevent any hostile forces in Syria from entrenching near their borders.

The escalating tensions between Israel and the Syrian government threaten to derail their tentative steps toward warmer ties after decades of hostility. Syria's new president, Ahmed al-Shara, a former Islamist rebel leader, has tried to stabilize the country since overthrowing the dictator Bashar al-Assad in December. He has also forged closer relations with the United States.

Mr. al-Assad was a loyal ally of Iran and a sworn enemy of Israel. But the rebels who ousted him have opened contacts with Israel in recent months, mediated by the United States, in a bid to ease cross-border tensions.

the Shortly after Israeli airstrikes on Damascus, Syrian authorities announced that a new cease-fire had been reached in Sweida with local leaders. Later, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on social media that the United States had worked with all the parties involved in the clashes that will bring this troubling and horrifying situation to an end tonight."

Soon afterward, the Syrian state news agency, SANA, re-Continued on Page A5



A reception center in the border town of Islam Qala, Afghanistan, for Afghans forced out of Iran, where some had lived for decades.

Uncertainty Confronts Afghans Ousted in a Crackdown by Iran

This article is by Elian Peltier. Farnaz Fassihi and Yaqoob Akbary.

ISLAM QALA, Afghanistan -At the sand-swept border between Iran and Afghanistan, nearly 20,000 are crossing every day - shocked and fearful Afghans who have been expelled from Iran with few belongings in a wave of targeted crackdowns and xenophobia.

More than 1.4 million Afghans have fled or been deported from Iran since January during a government clampdown on undocumented refugees, according to the United Nations' refugee agency. More than half a million have been forced into Afghanistan just since the war between Israel and Iran last month, returned to a homeland already grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis and draconian restrictions on women and girls, in one of the worst displacement crises of the past decade.

They are being dumped at an overcrowded border facility in

western Afghanistan, where many expressed anger and confusion to New York Times journalists over how they could go on with few prospects in a country where some have never lived, or barely know anymore.

"I worked in Iran for 42 years, so hard that my knees are broken, and for what?" Mohammad Akhundzada, a construction worker, said at a processing center for returnees in Islam Qala, a border town in northwestern Afghanistan near Herat.

The mass expulsions threaten to push Afghanistan further toward the brink of economic collapse with the sudden cutoff of vital remittance money to Afghan families from relatives in Iran.

The sudden influx of returnees ready grim unemployment, housing and health care crises. More than half of Afghanistan's estimated population of 41 million relies on humanitarian assistance.

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For Trump, Critics and Rivals Are Not Just Wrong, but 'Evil'

By PETER BAKER

ASPEN, Colo. — When the Pentagon decided not to send anyone to this week's Aspen Security Forum, an annual bipartisan gathering of national security professionals in

WHITE the Colorado mountains, President

Trump's appointees explained that they would not participate in discussions with people who subscribe to the "evil of globalism."

After all the evils that the U.S. military has fought, this may be the first time in its history that it has put globalization on its enemies list. But it is simply following the example of Mr. Trump.

Last week, he denounced a reporter as a "very evil person" for asking a question he did not like. This week, he declared that Democrats are "an evil group of people." "Evil" is a word getting a lot of

airtime in the second Trump term. It is not enough anymore to dislike a journalistic inquiry or disagree with an opposing philosophy. Anyone viewed as critical of the president or insufficiently deferential is wicked. The Trump administration's efforts to achieve its policy goals are not just an exercise in governance but a holy mission against forces

Continued on Page A13

More on the White House

GREEN LIGHT In a series of terse orders, the Supreme Court keeps ruling in the president's favor, without explanation. PAGE A12

FED UNDER FIRE The president waved a copy of a draft letter dismissing Jerome H. Powell at a meeting with lawmakers. PAGE B1

MIGRANTS HELD IN EVERGLADES **DESCRIBE CHAOS**

HASTILY BUILT CENTER

Limited Information and Medication Access at 'Alligator Alcatraz'

By PATRICIA MAZZEI and HAMED ALEAZIZ

OCHOPEE, Fla. — The men at the new immigrant detention center in the Florida Everglades have no pencils, books or television. The lights stay on through the night. When it rains, which is nearly every day during summer, the tents housing detainees spring leaks and bugs crawl in.

In phone interviews, several detainees described infrequent showers, meals that amounted to little more than snacks, other detainees falling ill with flulike symptoms and sleep deprivation. They described unrest over a lack of information, recreation and access to medication.

"It's a tinderbox," said Rick Herrera, one of the detainees, who called a reporter repeatedly over five days, offering a rare window into the chaotic early weeks of what experts say is the nation's only state-run facility for federal immigration detainees.

Florida raced to open the center officially naming it "Alligator Alcatraz" to play up its remote, swampy location - on July 3, eager to help President Trump's immigration crackdown by providing more detention capacity. Kristi Noem, the Homeland Security secretary, said on Sunday that other states want to follow Florida's lead.

Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida, a Republican, has positioned his state as particularly aggressive on immigration enforcement, deputizing state and local law enforcement to act as a "force multiplier" for federal authorities.

But opening the detention center in the Everglades was a move with little precedent that relied on emergency state powers.

Until recently, the federal government nas been responsible for housing immigration detainees, and it has largely detained people who recently entered the country illegally, or who have criminal convictions or outstanding depor-

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A Suicide Attempt as Rikers Guards Stood By



Michael Nieves,

above, was await-

ing trial on Rikers

tried to kill himself

in 2022. Footage of

his suicide attempt

offers a window

crisis. Page A10.

Island when he

Aug. 25, 2022 at 11:30 a.m.

A shaving razor has gone missing, and officers at the jail suspect that Nieves is hiding it.

After a search of Nieves's cell doesn't turn up the razor, officers move to take him for a body scan, but leave him alone for 12 minutes.

They return (top) to discover that Nieves has harmed himself. He bleeds out as officers stand by and wait for medical help.

After 10 minutes, medics arrive; a breakdown in communication means they don't have the equipment to treat Nieves. He is later taken to a hospital and declared brain dead.

into a jail system in 👝 Five days later, Nieves is taken off life support.

Move Over, Curds. Whey Is the New Big Cheese.

By KEVIN DRAPER

MARSHFIELD, Wis. - Ken Heiman is a certified Master Cheesemaker, one of four who ensure that the Cheddar, Gouda and other cheeses made at Nasonville Dairy in Marshfield, Wis., taste

But as proud as he is of his cheese, Mr. Heiman knows that his company's profitability these days is thanks less to Colby than it is to whey, the liquid byproduct of making cheese that helps to satisfy America's seemingly insatiable appetite for added protein.

Nasonville Dairy around 150,000 pounds of cheese a day, but just breaks even on most of it, especially the 40-pound blocks of Cheddar that are a cheesemaker's stock in trade. What increasingly keeps the lights on is whey. "We ought to be thanking peo-

ple who are buying whey protein at Aldi's," said Mr. Heiman, who, in addition to being a Master Cheesemaker, is Nasonville's chief executive. "It definitely enhances the bottom line."

Whey is so valuable because it can deliver a lot of protein in a small caloric package, especially as exhortations to consume more protein have popped up everywhere over the last two decades.



Dairies are profiting off of whey, a liquid byproduct of making cheese that has grown increasingly valuable as a protein source.

Doctors recommend additional protein for healthy aging. Weight lifters often take protein to build muscle, and more women and members of Generation Z are taking up the sport. Popular eating trends like the Keto diet emphasize eating a good amount of protein and fats.

More recently, the demand for whey has been turbocharged by the growing use of GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic. Patients taking those drugs are advised to increase their protein intake to avoid muscle loss.

Whey protein powders, and the increasing number of whey-protein-enhanced products on grocery store shelves, are an expedient way of consuming a lot of protein. Estimates of the size of the whey protein market vary from

Continued on Page A14

Reports Reveal Serious Errors

This article is by Jordan Rau of KFF Health News and Irena Hwang.

At Rehab Sites

Rehab hospitals that help people recover from major surgeries and injuries have become a highly lucrative slice of the health care business. But federal data and inspection reports show that some run by the dominant company, Encompass Health Corporation, and other for-profit corporations have had rare but serious incidents of patient harm and perform below average on two key safety measures tracked by Medicare.

Yet even when inspections reveal grave cases of injury, federal health officials do not inform consumers or impose fines the way they do for nursing homes. And Medicare doesn't provide easy to understand five-star ratings as it does for general hospitals.

In the most serious problems documented by regulators, rehab hospital errors involved patient deaths.

In Encompass Health's hospital in Huntington, W.Va., Elizabeth VanBibber, 73, was fatally poisoned by a carbon monoxide leak

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SPORTS B6-9

The All-Stars Got All Giddy

Players turned into children, and skeptics turned into fans, during M.L.B.'s first tiebreaking swing-off.

Legends Play Here. So Can You.

At Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland, the site of the British Open, anyone can be a member for a day. PAGE B6



BUSINESS B1-5

Immigrant Purge Hits Amazon

The tech giant has quietly shed warehouse employees whose work authorizations were revoked after Trump ended a Biden-era program.

INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Traffic Jams at E.U. Borders

Enhanced checks to keep migrants out have been frustrating drivers and slowing down economic activity.

Moscow Shrugs at Ultimatum

Russia appears unrattled by President Trump's latest demand for an end to the 3-year-old war in Ukraine. PAGE A8 NATIONAL A9-17, 20

Paying Meth Users to Quit

Unlike with opioids, there is no medication to suppress cravings for meth and other stimulants. As use soars, clinics are trying a different approach. PAGE A9

Wait, the Tooth Fairy Is Real?

For 20 years, a Seattle dentist has been answering messages from gaptoothed children and their parents.

OBITUARIES B10-11

Author Behind 'Gorky Park'

Martin Cruz Smith startled critics and readers with his 1981 Soviet Union novel and its antihero. He was 82.

ARTS C1-6

A Barren Zone in New Fiction

The seeming decline of young straight white male novelists is discussed and debated. But does it matter?

Gospel Star's Bold Leap

Tasha Cobbs Leonard reveals more of herself on "Tasha," a new studio album blending gospel and pop. PAGE C1



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Alive and Well in Vermont

The real-life inspiration for the famous toxic bachelor on "Sex and the City" left New York's magazine world. PAGE D1

Couture Shows in Paris

A look at some of the most stylish and unforgettable — designer collections on the runways. PAGE D5

OPINION A18-19

Linda Greenhouse



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