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President Trump was welcomed on Tuesday by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia at the Royal Court in Riyadh.

OFFICERS SAY GAZA
NEARS STARVATION

Israelis Privately Admit
to Threat to Civilians

By NATAN ODENHEIMER and RONEN BERGMAN

JERUSALEM — Some Israeli military officials have privately concluded that Palestinians in Gaza face widespread starvation unless aid deliveries are restored within weeks, according to three Israeli defense officials familiar with conditions in the enclave.

For months, Israel has maintained that its blockade on food and fuel to Gaza did not pose a major threat to civilian life in the territory, even as the United Nations and other aid agencies have said a famine was looming.

But Israeli military officers who monitor humanitarian conditions in Gaza have warned their commanders in recent days that unless the blockade is lifted quickly, many areas of the enclave will likely run out of enough food to meet minimum daily nutritional needs, according to the defense officials. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to share sensitive details.

Because it takes time to scale up humanitarian deliveries, the officers said that immediate steps were needed to ensure that the system to supply aid could be re-instituted fast enough to prevent starvation.

The growing acknowledgment within part of the Israeli security establishment of a hunger crisis in Gaza comes as Israel has vowed to dramatically expand the war in Gaza to destroy Hamas and bring back the remaining hostages — twin aims that more than 19 months of war have yet to achieve. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel was defiant, and said the military would resume fighting in the coming days “in full force to finish the job” and “eliminate Hamas.”

Mr. Netanyahu’s statement came on the same day that President Trump landed in Saudi Arabia as part of his trip to the Middle East. Mr. Trump, however, is not visiting Israel, underscoring a growing divide between two leaders who increasingly disagree on some of the most critical security

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GAZA BOMBARDED Israel said the military attempted to kill one of Hamas’s top leaders. **PAGE A8**

Trump Will Lift Sanctions on a Devastated Syria

This article is by Ben Hubbard, Jonathan Swan and Erika Solomon.

DAMASCUS, Syria — President Trump said on Tuesday that he would lift U.S. sanctions on Syria, throwing an economic lifeline to a country devastated by nearly 14 years of civil war and decades of dictatorship under the Assad family.

Mr. Trump was expected to meet for the first time with Syria’s new president, Ahmed al-Shara, on Wednesday in Saudi Arabia, where the American leader is making the first major state visit of his second term. Mr. al-Shara led the rebel alliance that ousted President Bashar al-Assad in Syria in December.

The U.S. president made the surprise announcement to end sanctions as he addressed a business forum in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, where the crowd erupted in cheers and gave him a standing ovation.

The decision represents a sea change for Syria, breaking the economic stranglehold on a country seen as critical to the stability

Planning to Meet With
New Leader Who
Ousted al-Assad

of the Middle East.

“There is a new government that will, hopefully, succeed in stabilizing the country and keeping peace,” Mr. Trump said. “That’s what we want to see in Syria.”

Across Syria, people poured into the streets of major cities to cheer the news, hoping the action will alleviate the crushing poverty that the majority of the population faces.

Syria’s foreign minister, Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani, hailed the move as “a new beginning on the path to reconstruction” and praised Saudi Arabia as the “voice of reason and wisdom” in the region. He did not mention the

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ATUL LOKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Picking Up the Pieces in Kashmir

As a degree of normalcy returned to Kashmir, Nishu Devi visited her home on Tuesday, in the part of the region controlled by India, which had been damaged by shelling from Pakistani artillery.

Concert Hall Bursts to Life Deep Below the Frick

Most everything at the Frick Collection, which reopened last month after a nearly five-year renovation, is the same as it was, but better.

Hand-loomed velvet wall coverings have been replaced, making Vermeers and Rembrandts pop with fresh vibrancy. Chandeliers and skylights have been cleaned. It’s the museum we knew, with

A Renovated Museum
Adds a Delight

the grime wiped away.

What a relief. For almost a century, the jewel-box Frick has held a special place in the city’s heart. Why mess with perfection?

But sometimes messing

around is worthwhile. The public can now enter the Frick family’s upstairs living quarters, turned into intimate galleries. And the museum has returned bearing another gift: a superb space for music, which has swiftly become one of the best places to hear chamber performances in New York City.

The Frick’s well-loved concert series has moved from an ovoid

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Emboldened President
Jumps Ethical Barriers

Qatari Jet Deepens Corruption Concerns

By CHARLIE SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — During President Trump’s first term, the idea that special interests and governments were buying meals and booking rooms at his hotels set off legal and ethical alarms about the potential for corruption.

Mr. Trump’s second term is making those concerns look trivial.

The administration’s plan to accept a \$400 million luxury jet from the Qatari royal family is only the latest example of an increasingly no-holds-barred atmosphere in Washington under Trump 2.0. Not only would the famously transactional chief executive be able to use the plane while in office, but he is also expected to transfer it to his presidential foundation once he leaves the White House.

The second Trump administration is showing striking disdain for onetime norms of propriety and for traditional legal and political guardrails around public service. It is clearly emboldened, in part because of the Supreme Court’s ruling last year that granted immunity to presidents for their official actions and because of the political reality that Mr. Trump’s hold on the Republican Party means he need not fear impeachment.

Mr. Trump’s inaugural commit-

tee raked in \$239 million from wealthy business interests hoping to curry his favor or at least avoid his wrath, more than doubling the previous record, \$107 million, set by his inaugural committee in 2017. There is no way to spend a quarter of a billion dollars on dinners and events, and the committee has not said what will happen to leftover funds.

Before returning to office, Mr. Trump also started a meme cryptocurrency, \$TRUMP, which allows crypto investors around the world to enrich him. His family has already made millions on transaction fees, and its own reserve of the digital coin is worth billions on paper.

This month, Mr. Trump went further by auctioning off face-to-face access to himself through sales of the coin, announcing that top buyers would get a private dinner at one of his golf courses and that the largest holders would get a tour of the White House. The contest injected new interest in the coin, even though it has no intrinsic value.

The removal of such constraints extends to law enforcement.

In April, the Trump administration disbanded a Justice Department unit dedicated to inves-

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More on the White House

CHILD CARE As the administration shrinks funding, some Republicans are pushing for more parents to stay home. **PAGE A12**

STATE FEARS Some governors say that their budgets cannot absorb billions of dollars in new costs if federal aid is slashed. **PAGE A14**

M.L.B.’s Mercy
For Rose Clears
Path to the Hall

By TYLER KEPNER
The Athletic

In an extraordinary twist, Major League Baseball removed Pete Rose and other deceased players from its “permanently ineligible” list on Tuesday, ending a saga that has gone on for more than three decades.

The decision, announced by Commissioner Rob Manfred in a letter to the Rose family’s lawyer, Jeffrey Lenkov, makes the sport’s career hits leader eligible for election to the Hall of Fame.

Rose, who died from a heart condition in September at 83, was placed on M.L.B.’s permanently ineligible list in 1989 for gambling on his team, the Cincinnati Reds, while he managed it. Rose, who collected a record 4,256 hits, has never been considered for the Hall of Fame because of a 1991 rule change that barred players on the ineligible list from election.

According to a statement from Major League Baseball, in a letter to Lenkov, Manfred wrote:

“In my view, a determination must be made regarding how the phrase ‘permanently ineligible’ should be interpreted in light of the purposes and policies behind Rule 21, which are to: (1) protect the game from individuals who pose a risk to the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the participation of such individuals; and (2) create a deterrent effect that reduces the likelihood of future violations by others. In my view, once an individual has passed away, the purposes of Rule 21 have been served.

“Obviously, a person no longer with us cannot represent a threat to the integrity of the game. More-

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LIA TOBY/GETTY IMAGES

Casandra Ventura testified on Tuesday at Sean Combs’s trial.

Dark Journey
From Stardom
To Star Witness

By JOE COSCARELLI

The identity of the individual referred to in waves of dramatic legal filings as Victim-1 — the woman at the very center of the racketeering conspiracy and sex-trafficking case against Mr. Combs without the testimony of Casandra Ventura.

But when she took the witness stand at a Manhattan courthouse under her own name on Tuesday, there was little doubt that there would not have been a criminal indictment against Mr. Combs without the testimony of Casandra Ventura.

A singer and model known mononymously as Cassie, she was Mr. Combs’s on-and-off girlfriend — and employee — almost from the time they met in 2005, when she was 19, until she finally severed ties from his storied record label, Bad Boy, in 2019.

After months of preparation and anticipation, Ms. Ventura, now 38, is expected to recount for the jury how Mr. Combs instituted

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NATIONAL A11-17

Culture Wars at West Point

Pete Hegseth’s order led to canceled classes, book bans and an argument about American greatness. **PAGE A11**

New York’s Congestion Pricing

An informal survey of Bleecker Street businesses found that most are making do, even if they don’t like it. **PAGE A16**

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

French Actor Is Convicted

Gérard Depardieu was found guilty of sexually assaulting two women on the set of a movie in 2021. He was given a suspended sentence. **PAGE A4**

Intriguing Family History

The revelation that Pope Leo XIV has roots among New Orleans Creoles has stirred curiosity and joy. **PAGE A6**

Shaping Hitters the Mets Way

An organization’s newfound stability is reflected in the prowess up and down the Brooklyn Cyclones’ lineup. **PAGE B6**



ARTS C1-8

An Egyptian Show of Hands

A new “Antony and Cleopatra” opera, with Julia Bullock as Cleopatra, has been trimmed since a 2022 premiere. **PAGE C1**

Our Pal, the Kiss Legend

A father-son pair ponied up for a very expensive V.I.P. experience at a concert featuring Gene Simmons. **PAGE C1**

BUSINESS B1-5

Late-Night TV’s Last Gasp?

The traditional talk show format is one of the few television genres that hasn’t made the leap to streaming services. Its future may instead look a lot like a podcast studio. **PAGE B1**

Two Chinas to Contemplate

The technological success that has captured the attention of many in the United States is one aspect of the Chinese economy. But there’s another, gloomy one. **PAGE B1**

OPINION A18-19
Joseph E. Stiglitz **PAGE A18**



FOOD D1-10

Telling Us How to Cook Italian

The cookbook author Marcella Hazan, who died in 2013, changed the way that Americans think about the cuisine, Pete Wells writes. **PAGE D6**



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