

## What's News

### Business & Finance

◆ **A new surge in oil prices** amid a widening war in the Middle East helped to sink U.S. stocks, with the S&P 500, Dow industrials and Nasdaq falling 0.6%, 1.6% and 0.3%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **U.S. jobless claims** held steady last week as employers preferred to retain staff rather than implement layoffs. **A2**

◆ **BYD released** a new electric-vehicle battery that can be fully charged in nine minutes in an effort to address slowing demand and falling market share in China. **B4**

◆ **VW said it had** delivered four million all-electric vehicles since it launched its first model in 2013. **B4**

◆ **Six Flags agreed** to sell seven of its regional amusement parks to EPR Properties for total cash consideration of \$331 million, aiming to simplify its portfolio and strengthen its balance sheet. **B1**

◆ **Target said it** planned to open more than 30 locations this year, part of a strategy to drive long-term, sustainable growth by investing in its stores. **B2**

◆ **Meta Platforms said it** would let rival chatbots communicate with users on its WhatsApp messaging platform after a caution by EU regulators. **B2**

◆ **Kroger posted higher** profit and sales for the fiscal fourth quarter while forecasting continued growth in 2026, though at a slower rate than last year. **B3**

◆ **Victoria's Secret reported** strong fiscal fourth-quarter results, beating Wall Street's estimates on both its top and bottom lines. **B3**

### Worldwide

◆ **Trump fired Kristi Noem** as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, saying he would replace her with Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma. **A1**

◆ **Pentagon officials** are drawing up plans to replenish U.S. munitions expended fighting Iran over the past week, in keeping with the administration's efforts to increase the number of missiles manufactured each year. **A1, A6-9**

◆ **The U.A.E. is weighing** freezing billions of dollars of Iranian assets held in the Gulf state, an act that could sever one of Tehran's most important economic lifelines. **A8**

◆ **Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei** apologized for a leaked memo questioning the Trump administration's motives for declaring his AI company a supply-chain risk and halting its government relationships, but said it will fight the move in court. **A3**

◆ **OpenAI believes** elected officials, not tech company executives, should determine the limits of how AI can be used in national defense, Chief Executive Sam Altman said. **A3**

◆ **The SEC moved** to dismiss a civil fraud lawsuit it had filed against crypto billionaire Justin Sun, who became a major investor in Trump's crypto projects as he sought leniency from U.S. law enforcers. **A3**

◆ **Top Republican leaders** asked Rep. Tony Gonzales to drop his re-election bid a day after he admitted to having an affair with an aide who later killed herself. **A3**

◆ **States filed a lawsuit** challenging a new global tariff that Trump imposed. **A2**

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A building in Beirut's suburbs was reduced to rubble on Thursday during waves of Israeli strikes that also hit Tehran. **A7**

## Pentagon Races to Secure Cash For Iran Operations, Munitions

Requests to Congress and push to boost weapons production explored

By MARCUS WEISGERBER AND DREW FITZGERALD

Pentagon officials are drawing up plans to replenish U.S. munitions expended fighting Iran over the past week, according to people familiar with the matter, a step in the Trump administration's efforts to drastically increase the number

of missiles made each year.

Lawmakers in Congress and defense-industry officials are expecting a funding request from the Pentagon to pay for costs associated with the war. The funding would support the purchase of Patriot, Tomahawk and Thaad missile systems, which have been in heavy use since the U.S. and Israel began their strikes, the people said.

Recent fighting in the Middle East burned through stockpiles for some of those weapons. That added a new challenge for the Defense Department, which is wrestling with how to pay for

### War's Path

- ◆ Grief and pride in Iowa as conflict takes lives..... **A5**
- ◆ Pentagon keeps focus on jets, naval ships..... **A6**
- ◆ Kurdish uprising would come with risks..... **A7**

a war with an indefinite end date. It is also facing an industrial base that was stretched to meet current demand and potential threats from China.

The conflict in the Middle East continued to escalate on Thursday, with Israel saying it

started another wave of large-scale strikes on Tehran and struck Hezbollah command centers in Beirut, while Iran fired more missiles toward Israel and hit its northern neighbor, Azerbaijan, the latest nation to be dragged into the war. Azerbaijan promised a response.

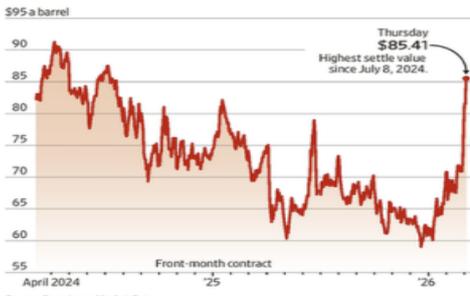
Admiral Brad Cooper, the Central Command chief, said U.S. forces attacked the headquarters of the regime militia that is "targeting the protesters" and urged Iranians to stay inside.

Meanwhile the State De-  
*Please turn to page A6*

## Surge in Oil Prices Hits Stocks

U.S. crude futures rose 8.5% on Thursday, the biggest one-day percentage gain since 2020. The surge sent stocks lower, extending moves that have rippled through the markets. **B1**

### Brent crude-oil futures price



Source: Dow Jones Market Data

## With Fewer Weapons, Iran's Strikes Decline But Targets Broaden

The U.S. and Israel said they have degraded Iran's missile stockpiles and launchers, blunting Tehran's ability to unleash massive barrages like those at the opening of the conflict.

By Jared Malsin in Istanbul and Anat Peled in Jerusalem

Yet Iran is still striking back by widening the war across the Middle East, hitting at least 11 countries in six days and jolting the global economy in a bid to pressure Washington to end the war.

Iran's ballistic-missile launches were down 90% from the first day of fighting, the Pentagon said Thursday. Drone attacks fell 83% from the first days of the campaign.

The U.S. and Israel are betting that crippling Iran's missile arsenal is key to crushing the regime's ability to fight back. But Iran still has other ways to retaliate, most important its arsenal of low-cost drones. It continues to launch drones by the hundreds at Arab neighbors across the Persian Gulf, spreading fear, rolling markets and disrupting  
*Please turn to page A6*

## High Schools Are Losing Fight Against Pot—Even During Class

Legalization makes marijuana culturally acceptable and easy to get for underage students; 'it was a party in the bathroom'

By ANDREA PETERSEN

BRENTWOOD, Calif.—It was 10:09 and 22 seconds on a Friday morning at Liberty High School when an alert dinged on James Geis's phone: "High Vape Index."

He dashed out of the administrative building and jumped into a golf cart, racing across the school's sprawling campus to the

location identified in the alert, the "E" girls' bathroom. Within minutes he was outside the door.

A girl walked out. "Can I talk to you? There's anyone else in there with you?" said Geis, one of the school's campus supervisors tasked with combating marijuana use—or what many Liberty students call "narcs."  
*Please turn to page A10*

## Taylor Swift Tests Her Powers on a London Eyesore

Drab mall started getting rave reviews after pop star's music video

By NATASHA DANGOUR

SOUTH LONDON—This mall has seen better days. The once-bustling complex with all the high-street favorites is largely empty, with over 70

vacant units. Floorboards are loose; buckets collect water from the leaking roof, and the cafes are a mere facade.

It turns out all it needed was a visit from Taylor Swift. The pop star filmed part of

the music video for her latest single, "Opalite," in Croydon's Whitgift Centre—an unremarkable mall in a less remarkable London suburb. When Croydon appears in the  
*Please turn to page A10*

## Trump Removes Noem as Homeland Secretary

Testimony at hearing enraged president; Sen. Mullin is picked for the position

President Trump ousted Kristi Noem as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, saying Thursday he would replace her with Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma.

By Josh Dawsey, Tarini Parti and Michelle Hackman

Noem becomes the first cabinet secretary to be fired by Trump in his second term. Her departure follows a tumultuous tenure that culminated in two high-profile killings of U.S. citizens by federal immigration agents and a pair of congressional hearings that displayed bipartisan frustration with her leadership.

Trump had been telling White House advisers for at least a week that he was tired of the infighting and drama at Homeland Security. The final straw for him was Noem's combative hearing Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The president watched the testimony and was appalled about her performance, telling advisers that evening he would remove her from the job, according to people familiar with the matter. Trump, a Republican, also began calling members of Congress and asking for replacement ideas, the person said.

Trump fired Noem in a phone call minutes before she took the stage in Nashville, Tenn., to deliver remarks on law enforcement and take  
*Please turn to page A4*

### INSIDE



### MANSION

Lifting the veil on New York's most secretive condo project, with sales over \$1 billion. **M1**

## Firms Rush Shipments After Ruling on Tariffs

By RUTH SIMON

Michael Burns made a bet that the Supreme Court would strike down some of the Trump administration's tariffs. Now it is paying off.

Burns, who owns the auto-products maker ValvoMax, decided to hold parts for the company's oil-change kits in India back in October, hoping that a court ruling would lower the tariff bill.

Once the court ruled that some tariffs were illegal, Burns jumped into action, telling the factory to ship the parts as soon as possible, before rates changed again.

"This is a big win for me, even if I don't get the refund," said Burns, who expects to pay \$15,000 instead of \$50,000 in tariffs on the shipment, valued at about \$100,000. "For a small-business owner, that's a lot of money."

Companies that have been feeling the pinch from import

duties over the past year are scrambling to capitalize on the Supreme Court ruling, even as it has sparked a fresh wave of uncertainty.

Some quickly made the decision to accelerate shipments to take advantage of the new, lower tariff rates. Others are looking to speed up production of key items or rethinking pricing strategies. Businesses are also totaling up their tariff bills—and taking steps to boost their chances of securing a refund.

Rapid-fire tariff changes over the past year have fueled economic uncertainty and made planning challenging for companies of all sizes. At ValvoMax, higher tariff bills had forced the company to delay the introduction of a new oil-filter tool and put off plans to hire an additional employee. ValvoMax has four employees who assemble, test, package and fulfill or-  
*Please turn to page A2*

# USA TODAY WEEKEND

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | MARCH 6-8, 2026

ILLUSTRATION BY TRACIE KEETON/  
USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

## Horror classic gets new spin in 'Bride!'

Director Maggie Gyllenhaal pulls monster inspiration from Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." **In Life**

## Lou Holtz's career: Legendary, magical

Column: Iconic football coach put a spell on everything he touched at Notre Dame. **In Sports**



## 2026 tax season a maze of complexity

New rules might mean bigger refunds, but they won't come easy. **In Weekend Extra**

# Trump's actions scramble doctrine

## Venezuela, Iran open 'uncharted territory'

Michael Collins  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — On the night he was elected to a second term, President Donald Trump tried to put to rest concerns raised by his opponents that he would lead the United States into war.

"I'm not going to start a war," he said in his victory speech before a crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in Florida. "I'm going to stop wars."

Yet in his first year back in the White House, he has unleashed U.S. military power on eight other nations. He ordered U.S. forces into Venezuela to capture that country's leader, Nicolás Maduro. And, in the most sweeping military operation of his presidency, the United States and Israel launched a joint attack on Iran Feb. 28 that targeted the Middle Eastern country's missile capabilities and its leadership.



Explosions rock Tehran on March 2 after the United States and Israel attacked Iran. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

Six U.S. service members and more than 1,200 Iranians, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and dozens of his top lieutenants, have been killed in the attacks.

The capture of Maduro and the war in Iran are significant not only because of the scale of those operations but because they appear to signal a new approach to foreign policy under Trump. Both attempted not only to eliminate what Trump asserts are threats to the United States, but they also decapitated the governments of those countries and removed their heads of state.

"We are in uncharted territory," said Alexander Downes, director of the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies at George Washington University.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement to USA TODAY that the president's decision to launch military strikes in Iran was grounded "in a truth that presidents for nearly 50 years have been talking about, but no president had the courage to confront: Iran poses a direct and imminent threat to the United States of America and our troops in the Middle East."

See **TRUMP**, Page 2A

## Follow developments live at [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com)

See how the Iran war is unfolding in maps, graphics and images.



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## WOMEN OF THE YEAR



# Following a dream, from 'trailer girl' to country superstar

## Lainey Wilson built career with fire and faith, 'brick by brick'

Bryan West The Tennessean | USA TODAY NETWORK

**W**hen Lainey Wilson was 9 years old, she wrote a song called "Lucky Me." • She still remembers every word. • That same year, she got her first pair of bell-bottoms, her first horse and her first glimpse of the stage that would indelibly shape her future: the Grand Ole Opry. • "My mom and daddy brought me to Nashville when I was 9 years old," Wilson says on a video call from Brisbane, Australia. "I just remember going to the Opry and watching Bill Anderson, Crystal Gayle, Phil Vassar, Little Jimmy Dickens, and I just thought, 'Man, I want to be part of this community.' I felt like I kind of already was. I just needed to try to convince everybody else that I was, too."

See **WILSON**, Page 3A

## About the Women of the Year project

USA TODAY's Women of the Year is a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country.

Meet this year's honorees at [womenoftheyear.usatoday.com](http://womenoftheyear.usatoday.com).

ABOVE: Lainey Wilson, a USA TODAY Women of the Year honoree, performs around the world, including in Brisbane, Australia. PROVIDED BY ERICK FROST

# Cursive handwriting making its big comeback



A growing number of U.S. schools are returning to teaching cursive handwriting. MANISH GUPTA/GETTY IMAGES

## More states mandating skill be taught in schools

Phaedra Trethan  
USA TODAY

Many people of a certain age remember practicing loops and waves, moving our small hands clutching pencils across pages with light blue dotted and solid lines. But in many schools, that elementary school rite of passage went away as kids turned to computers and keyboards.

A growing number of states, though, are requiring schools to start teaching cursive writing to students once again. New Jersey and Pennsylvania each enacted legislation in 2026 requiring schools to teach kids to read and write the way their grandparents did. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro signed the legislation on Feb. 11; in New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy signed the mandate into law before leaving office in January.

According to Education Week, more than half of U.S. states now require or

See **CURSIVE**, Page 3A



The demographic decline reshaping the world  
BIG READ, PAGE 15

Lessons from the Anthropic-Pentagon face-off  
FT VIEW, PAGE 16

## US to tap Ukraine for Iran interceptors

● Pentagon sets sights on cheaper drones from Kyiv

● Stockpile of expensive Patriot missiles declines

● Zelensky confirms UAE and Qatar defence-led talks

● Tehran's Shahed weapons versatile and easy to conceal

CHARLES CLOVER — LONDON  
CHRISTOPHER MILLER — KYIV

The Pentagon and at least one Gulf government are in talks to buy Ukrainian-made interceptors to fend off attacks by Iranian drones, according to industry figures in Ukraine.

Gulf states have been using expensive Patriot missiles to defend themselves from waves of Iranian Shahed drones since the US and Israel launched their war last weekend. But their stocks are diminishing, and they are looking to Kyiv's experience for cheaper defence against Russian drone barrages.

Iran, which experts say may have stockpiled tens of thousands of Shahed drones, has mainly targeted Gulf states to sow terror and use up adversaries' surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles.

The United Arab Emirates said that Tehran had launched 131 drone attacks on its territory yesterday, bringing the total since the war began to 1,072.

According to the UAE's defence ministry, 1,001 have been intercepted.

As Gulf nations rushed to source more interceptors, Israel and the US continued their attacks against Iran for the sixth day. Heavy bombardment rocked Tehran as local media reported strikes on residential areas. The death toll has risen to 1,250, Iran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veteran Affairs said.

Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday confirmed the FT's report during a briefing in Kyiv, saying his government was in talks with Gulf nations about sharing its expertise on downing drones. The Ukrainian president hopes to receive Patriot interceptor missiles in exchange for Kyiv's cheaper interceptor drones.

"Our appeal is very simple: we would like to fill our deficit of Patriot missiles and supply a certain number of interceptors," he said.

Zelensky said more than 800 interceptor missiles had been launched from US-made Patriot air-defence systems in the Middle East since Saturday to combat Iranian attacks. "Ukraine has never had so many missiles to repel [Russian] attacks" since the start of Moscow's invasion four years ago, he added.

Earlier this week, Zelensky said he had been in contact with the emir of Qatar and the UAE's president about



Israel and the US bombed Tehran for a sixth straight day. Iran's death toll reached 1,250 — Majid Asgarpour/ANA/Reuters

using Ukrainian anti-drone technology, adding: "Ukraine's expertise in countering Shahed drones is currently the most advanced in the world."

Zelensky also said he had instructed officials in Kyiv to "present options" to countries seeking interceptors, adding that Ukraine had the capability to help "restore safe navigation" in the Gulf.

The Pentagon did not respond to a request for comment.

Ukraine has pioneered using mass-produced interceptors costing a few thousand dollars to destroy Russian versions of the Shahed, launched against Ukrainian cities in swarms. Shaheds cost a mere \$50,000, while interceptor missiles such as the PAC-3s used in the Patriot system cost millions.

One Ukrainian official described the discussions with the Pentagon as a "sensitive" topic, adding: "It is obvious that there is a surge in interest in the Ukrainian drone interceptors, which can intercept the Shahed for a very low cost."

A local industry figure said any sales of Ukrainian systems, even those made outside the country, would have to be in co-ordination with Kyiv.

Because they are easy to hide and can be launched from anywhere, the Shaheds are less vulnerable to US and Israeli tactics that rely on destroying launchers and stockpiles of missiles on the ground before they are fired.

In Ukraine, "there are literally a dozen companies that make kinetic interceptors — little bullet-shaped quadcopters or fixed-wing drones — for a few thousand dollars apiece" that can intercept the Shaheds, said one person familiar with the talks.

Iranian Shahed drones were previously judged to be a mere nuisance, and not worth an expensive interceptor, but in some cases have caused real damage.

A video on Saturday showed a Shahed destroying a satellite antenna at a US naval base in Manama, Bahrain.

"The fact that Shaheds are getting through at all, let alone a military base that is the ops centre for the entire Middle East, and in broad daylight, is astounding," said one person who has served at the US Navy's Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain.

Gulf seeks US interceptors page 3

### Inside

● White House overtures to Kurdish militants to join the campaign must overcome a history of betrayal Page 2

● Disruptions to fertiliser production in the Middle East have intensified fears for food production worldwide Page 2

● Fear grips southern Beirut after Israel yesterday issued an evacuation order to hundreds of thousands of people Page 3

● Spanish premier Pedro Sánchez's defiance of Trump has made him the figurehead of European resistance Page 4

● Surging European gas prices and falling stocks reignite fears of another energy crunch for the continent Page 4

● Oil storage in the Gulf is filling fast and producers are racing to resume exports or face cutting output Page 10

### Opinion

● Robert Shrimley: hand-writing over the war is legitimate Page 17

● Burcu Özgelik: Iran is as likely to collapse from its periphery Page 17

● Lex: why an oil price of \$200 a barrel is not unthinkable Page 18

**Citi internal security unit faces 'hit squad' criticism**

An internal division of the Wall Street bank that boasts ex-law enforcement officials equipped to take on serious cases of wrongdoing is facing criticism from staff over the way it is deployed. Some said statements to CSIS were used against them, and two said they were forced out, claims that Citi denies. "Citi's CSIS operates as HR's internal hit squad, highly trained to protect the firm at employees' expense," a staff member who used the bank said.

Report ► PAGE 9

## Europe-to-Asia flights squeezed after attack forces Azerbaijan to close route

PETER CAMPBELL — LONDON

Air travel between Europe and Asia has been squeezed into a narrow corridor just 50 miles across after a drone attack on Azerbaijan closed the country's southern airspace.

The attack, which Azerbaijan blamed on Iran, has put further pressure on western airlines, which are struggling to maintain a viable east-west route while avoiding the war in the Middle East and bans on flying over Russia.

Industry experts said airlines would be forced to turn passengers away to ensure flights to Asia were light enough to make the entire journey if Azerbaijan's northern airspace also shut.

Thousands of flights a day operate between Europe and Asia and are unusually busy with travellers unable to change in Gulf airports, such as Dubai.

Western airlines, which unlike Chinese rivals are barred from flying over Russia, have already warned that closures in Iran, Iraq and Qatar would add time and cost to their flights to Asia.

Virgin Atlantic warned that flights to India and the Maldives would take longer but stressed that its aircraft always carried enough fuel.

The northern sector of Azerbaijan, including its airport at Baku, remains open. Immediately after the attack, flights were hugging the northern border with Russia, FlightRadar24 data showed. But if the country's northern airspace closed completely, planes would be forced to travel thousands of miles around the south of the Gulf.

That might put some of the longest-range services, such as those to Australia, out of range of some aircraft, said Andrew Charlton, a consultant at Aviation

Advocacy. "The chokepoint is hardest for airlines that cannot overfly Russia, just adding to the geopolitical complexity of the situation," he said.

Some planes might need to limit passenger numbers in order to guarantee completing their journeys, he added. "It is fair to say that the Qantas London-Sydney flight would struggle, and Perth, too, perhaps. Sometimes it is the airline, not the state, that makes these calls."

British Airways and Qantas both run services from London to Australia that stop to refuel partway. Many of the most popular services to Australasia have been suspended this week, as many of the flights connect in Doha in Qatar, which remains closed. Air France, KLM and Lufthansa also run frequent services to Asia from their home countries, while Cathay Pacific runs regular London services from Hong Kong.

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				GOVERNMENT BONDS			
	Mar 05	Prev	%chg	Pair	Mar 05	Prev	%chg	Yield (%)	Mar 05	Prev	Chg
S&P 500	6778.41	6803.50	-1.33	\$/£	1.158	1.161	-0.3	US 2 Yr	3.99	3.53	0.47
Nasdaq Composite	22717.48	22907.48	-0.83	\$/€	1.332	1.334	-0.15	US 10 Yr	4.13	4.09	0.04
Dow Jones Ind	47776.04	48770.41	-1.99	€/£	0.858	0.870	-1.4	US 30 Yr	4.76	4.72	0.04
Euro Stoxx 50	5782.89	5870.02	-1.52	¥/£	157.805	157.040	0.5	UK 2 Yr	5.74	5.68	0.06
FTSE Eurofirst 300	2411.63	2444.63	-1.36	¥/€	203.953	205.444	-0.7	UK 10 Yr	4.47	4.37	0.10
FTSE 100	10413.94	10567.95	-1.45	\$/HK	9.939	9.938	0.001	UK 30 Yr	5.76	5.17	0.59
FTSE All Share	5686.55	5664.60	-1.38	\$/INR	73.28	73.89	-1.0	JPN 2 Yr	1.22	1.21	0.01
CAC 40	6925.90	6917.72	-1.19	\$/RUB	73.28	73.89	-1.0	JPN 10 Yr	2.15	2.11	0.04
Nikkei 225	23815.75	24205.36	-1.63	\$/BRL	7.1340	7.1344	-0.7	JPN 30 Yr	3.38	3.38	0.00
Hong Kong	56778.06	54245.54	1.90	\$/AUD	2.0170	2.1437	-2.8	US 2 Yr	2.22	2.12	0.10
MSCI World	4463.00	4425.00	1.54	\$/NZD	1.6242	1.6422	-1.1	US 10 Yr	2.84	2.78	0.06
MSCI EM	1504.00	1483.00	1.42	\$/SGD	0.6782	0.6782	0.0	GER 2 Yr	3.43	3.39	0.04
MSCI ACWI	1654.70	1619.20	1.52	\$/HKD	7.7922	7.7922	0.0	GER 10 Yr	3.43	3.39	0.04
				\$/CNY	7.22	7.22	0.0				
				\$/AUD	0.6782	0.6782	0.0				
				\$/NZD	1.6242	1.6422	-1.1				

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## TRUMP FIRES NOEM AS CHIEF OF D.H.S. AFTER ROCKY TERM

### Criticism Over Handling Ad Contracts — Senator Is Named as Replacement

This article is by Michael C. Bender, Michael Golé, Hamed Aleaziz and Maggie Haberman.

WASHINGTON — President Trump fired Kristi Noem as homeland security secretary on Thursday and announced plans to replace her with Senator Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma, concluding a long and bitter frustration with Ms. Noem that had come to a head this week with her grilling by Republicans at congressional hearings.

Mr. Trump announced the change on social media, along with a new, and previously nonexistent, role for Ms. Noem inside the administration: special envoy for the Shield of the Americas, which he said would be a new security initiative for the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Trump is close with Mr. Mullin, a Republican, and speaks



Kristi Noem is the first cabinet member to be ousted in the president's second term.

with him regularly. Mr. Mullin said that Ms. Noem had "done the best that she could do under the circumstances," but that he hoped to learn from her tenure and "build off things that didn't quite go as planned." Mr. Trump said Ms. Noem would remain in her current role until March 31. She thanked him in her own social media post.

The immediate catalyst for Ms. Noem's firing appeared to be her answers during two congressional hearings this week, particularly her under-thrust-of-perjury statements that Mr. Trump had approved of tens of millions of dollars of government ads in which she was prominently featured. Mr. Trump denied that to Reuters on Thursday, saying, "I never knew anything about it."

Mr. Trump was shown clips of her answers before a Senate panel and was angry that she blamed him for the contentious spots, according to a person with knowledge of what happened who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The ads were part of a \$200 million-plus government-funded campaign that included a subcontractor run by the husband of Ms. Noem's now-former spokeswoman, Tricia McLaughlin.

The uproar over the ads came as recent Wall Street Journal articles detailed Ms. Noem's spending decisions — on private jets, including one with a bedroom and only 18 seats that she said would

Continued on Page A15

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Wielding Emergency Orders, Justices Leapfrog State Courts

By ANN E. MARIMOW

WASHINGTON — When the Supreme Court issued an emergency order this week that protected the congressional district of a New York Republican, it intervened in a voting rights dispute, pre-empting the state's highest court before it had a chance to act.

Since President Trump returned to the White House, the Supreme Court's conservative majority has shown a willingness to short-circuit lower-court proceedings with a slew of emergency rulings in federal cases. But this was a rare instance in which the justices leapfrogged the state courts, too — a sign, legal experts said, that despite intense scrutiny of how the Supreme Court has been using its emergency docket, the conservative justices appear to be expanding its use rather than constraining it.

Unlike the court's traditional

"merits" cases, which arrive after months or years of lower-court consideration, emergency requests are fast-tracked with limited briefing and almost always without oral argument. The emergency docket has exploded in recent years, particularly in the second Trump administration, with the filings accounting for a significant part of the justices' workload. While the quick-turn orders are technically place holders, they can effectively settle significant issues while litigation plays out in the lower courts.

The order in the New York case was unsigned and included no reasoning, as is typical. The three liberal justices joined in a 13-page dissent to assert that the majority had interfered with New York court proceedings in an inappropriate and unorthodox

Continued on Page A19

## Fight Over Climate Law Looms As New York Energy Costs Soar

By HILARY HOWARD

Jake Korolev has written letters to Con Edison, asked the utility to check his meter and filed a complaint with regulators. He is vigilant about turning off his lights and even his breaker when he leaves town. But his power bills are still north of \$400 a month.

"Between rent and energy, I can't save money," said Mr. Korolev, 28, who works in the live music industry and lives in Bushwick, Brooklyn. "It weighs on me every month."

As demand for power has soared in the United States, sky-high electricity bills have followed, contributing to an affordability crisis across the country. Gov. Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey declared a state of emergency on utility costs on her first day in office, and President Trump branched the topic with Mayor

Zohran Mamdani during their first meeting at the White House.

These concerns have prompted Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York to consider drastic changes to the state's 2019 climate law, the implementation of which, her agencies say, could lead to even higher energy bills.

In New York, among the 10 most expensive states in terms of electricity costs, the battle over utility rates is pitting climate activists and like-minded legislators, who believe it's crucial to aggressively ramp up solar, offshore wind and other green energy projects, against supporters of Ms. Hochul's "all of the above" approach, which emphasizes a balanced mix of energy sources, including nuclear.

Continued on Page A19

## After Evacuation Order Unsettles Beirut, Israel Begins Bomb Campaign Near City



LEBANON A highway in the Dahiya, on Beirut's outskirts, after Israel issued an evacuation order.



TEHRAN Azadi Stadium, which hosted Frank Sinatra and big soccer matches, was hit by an attack.



ISRAEL Family members looked over the damage to their home Thursday after a missile barrage.

## Trump Seeks Say on Next Leader in Tehran

This article is by Euan Ward, Aurlen Breeden, Erika Solomon and Thomas Fuller.

BEIRUT, Lebanon — An Israeli order for residents to "save your lives and evacuate your homes immediately" brought chaos to the suburbs of Beirut on Thursday and was punctuated hours later with a bombing campaign by Israeli warplanes that raised fears of a new front in the metastasizing Middle East war.

The Israeli bombings, which rolled across the city like thunder, began just before midnight in a densely populated area outside the capital where Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group, holds sway. The group has received weapons and financial support from Iran for decades and has engaged in multiple wars with Israel.

The strikes in Lebanon were the latest proliferating effects of the nearly weeklong war recently launched by the United States and Israel, a conflict that the United Nations said on Thursday had affected 16 countries.

As questions swirled about possible end games for the war, President Trump earlier told two news outlets on Thursday that he wanted to be involved in picking a new leader for Iran, in his most explicit statement yet about his vision of the U.S. role in creating a new government in Tehran.

In an interview with Axios, Mr. Trump said that Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of the former leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who appeared to be the top candidate to succeed his father, was an "unacceptable" choice.

Mr. Trump won a victory in the House on Thursday when lawmakers voted down an effort to halt the war in Iran and force the president to seek congressional approval to resume it. A small bloc of Democrats joined nearly all Republicans in delivering an early sign of support for the war.

European governments, meanwhile, on Thursday accelerated their deployment of military assets in the Middle East as they found themselves drawn into a conflict that many leaders initially said they opposed.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain said four fighter jets were being sent to Qatar to strengthen "defensive operations" across the region, and military helicopters with counter-drone capabilities were scheduled to arrive in Cyprus.

Continued on Page A7

**DON'T SAY 'WAR'** Republicans are avoiding the term, instead saying mission or operation. PAGE A9

**LONELY FIGHT** Iran has a range of allies, but so far their support is mostly rhetoric. PAGE A8

**GUT CALL** As President Trump follows his instincts, his security advisers try to keep up. PAGE A9

## 'AVALANCHE!'

### An Explosion of Snow, Ice and Debris, Then Came Calls for Help

This article is by Dave Philipps, Dora Erdem, Marco Hernandez and Amy Groff.

TRUCKEE, Calif. — The blizzard blew so fierce that the skier at the head of the line kept disappearing into a whiteout. The winds were gusting over 50 miles per hour. Almost four feet of fresh powder had piled up and more was falling every minute.

At the back of the line was Anton Auzans, trudging behind 12 other backcountry skiers climbing through a clearing high in California's Sierra Nevada. He had his hood pulled low against the pelting wind.

Then came a single word yelled by a ski guide somewhere ahead: "Avalanche!"

Mr. Auzans looked up in time to see a wall of white dotted with strange blurs of color. In the moment before it reached him, he realized that the colors were the tumbling skis and clothing of the other skiers.

He jumped behind a dead tree for protection, but the snow was surging down the mountain like a raging river. It poured around the trunk, dragged him away and swallowed him in darkness.

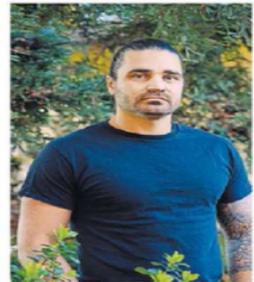
Hundreds of thousands of pounds of snow rushed into the clearing, slowing as it spilled over flatter ground, and settled into a dense pile and a terrible silence. The slide had buried everyone in the group. Almost.

Two men from the group had fallen behind.

Continued on Page A12



Jim Hamilton



Anton Auzans

### INTERNATIONAL A4-10

**Nepal Votes for a New Guard** Six months after a Gen Z revolution led to the overthrow of the government, a millennial rapper turned mayor could become prime minister. PAGE A6

### NATIONAL A11-20

**Measles in a Skeptical County** In South Carolina, a community that is generally distrustful of vaccines has now become ground zero for the largest measles outbreak since 2000. PAGE A11

### OBITUARIES A21

**He Lifted Notre Dame to Glory** Lou Holtz, who coached six major colleges to bowl games, captured a national title in the 1988 season with an undefeated Irish team. He was 89.

### WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

**A Looser Whitney Biennial** This year's presentation has no overarching theme but touches on climate disaster, border policing and other moral anxieties of the moment. PAGE C1

### OPINION A22-23

**Kevin D. Williamson** PAGE A22



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# The Washington Post

Papers may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 • #4

## Trump tries to seed Iran uprising

He pledges U.S. help for Kurds to seize territory and overthrow regime

BY KAREN DEYOUNG, MUSTAFA SALIM, ELLEN NAKASHIMA AND WARREN P. STROBEL

The Trump administration, bracing for more U.S. casualties and considering whether to put troops on the ground in Iran, has begun reaching out to Tehran's domestic opposition as potential allies to foment an uprising against the regime.

In calls this week to Kurdish minority leaders in Iran and neighboring Iraq, President Donald Trump offered "extensive U.S. air cover" and other backing for anti-regime Iranian Kurds to take over portions of western Iran, according to multiple people familiar with the effort.

"The American request" to the Iraqi Kurds is to open the way and not obstruct "Iranian Kurdish groups mobilizing in Iraq," while also providing logistical support, said a senior official of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of two major political parties that govern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region.

"Trump was clear in his call" Sunday to PUK leader Bafel Talabani. "He told us the Kurds must choose a side in this battle — either with America or Israel or with Iran," said the official, one of several Kurdish and U.S. officials who discussed sensitive matters on the condition of anonymity.

A senior official of the Kurdish Democratic Party, the other major Iraqi party whose leader, Masoud Barzani, was also called by Trump, confirmed that account, but said that "it's not about who has more active armed militias" ready to move into Iran, "it's about who has more support from inside."

Trump also spoke Tuesday with Mustafa HSEIRI, head of the

Israel



A site in central Israel struck by a missile Thursday. Iranian retaliatory attacks appeared to lessen in volume in recent days.

LEO CORREA/AP



Funerals are held Thursday in Baghdad for fighters from the Popular Mobilization Forces killed in a strike in Babil province.

## Nations across globe cut off from crucial energy source

BY EVAN HALPER AND ANTHONY FAIOLA

Countries across Europe and Asia are facing a potential energy crisis after an Iranian drone strike shut down Qatar's exports of liquefied natural gas this week, cutting off nations from India to Italy from a crucial energy source and potentially increasing costs for key industries in the United States.

Qatar is a linchpin of a global energy system built on LNG, a fossil fuel less polluting than coal that many countries have embraced because it is easy to ship and store, and was sourced from generally stable countries.

Now consumers and businesses from Seoul to Islamabad

to Brussels may face steeply higher energy costs, after an Iranian drone struck Qatar's largest gas liquefaction plant in Ras Laffan, south of Doha on Monday. The strike was part of attacks by Iran on energy infrastructure in Qatar and fellow U.S. ally Saudi Arabia.

Qatar Energy, which produces and exports LNG, said in a statement Monday that it "ceased production" at the facility. On Wednesday, it announced it would not be able to honor export contracts.

It is unclear how long it will take Qatar Energy to repair the plant. Analysts say returning to full production would take two weeks after repairs are complete.

SEE ENERGY ON A12

Iran



People in Tehran flee an explosion Thursday. Airstrikes have hit 220 locations in the capital, Mayor Alireza Zakani said.

MAJID ADGARPOUR/REUTERS

Lebanon



Residents of Beirut's southern suburbs flee after Israel issued a blanket evacuation order for Dahiyeh, a Hezbollah stronghold.

## Iranian regime maintains its grip despite heavy losses

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE AND JULIA LEDUR

The U.S. and Israeli air campaign against Iran has decimated the highest ranks of political and military leadership, destroyed critical military command-and-control infrastructure and fighting capability, and damaged civilian buildings across the country.

In Tehran, the expanding conflict appears to be frustrating the succession process after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed. Khamenei's funeral was postponed after the group charged with choosing his successor was targeted by Israeli strikes. Following that attack, Iranian state media announced that voting for the next

supreme leader would be conducted remotely.

But so far, some six days into a war that has now touched 12 countries across the Middle East, major military operations have not threatened the Iranian regime's grip on power, according to European and Arab officials briefed on assessments of the regime's standing since the conflict began.

Iran, the officials say, was prepared for this conflict. The command structures built to survive a decapitation strike appear to remain substantially intact, allowing Iranian retaliatory strikes against Israel, Qatar and Bahrain to begin within hours of the initial attacks. And inside the country since the conflict

SEE LEADERSHIP ON A13

## Noem booted as head of DHS

MOUNTING CRITICISM IN A DIVISIVE TENURE

Trump chooses Mullin of Oklahoma to replace her

BY MARIANNE LEVINE, ISAAC ARNSDORF, BRIANNA SACKS AND THEODORIC MEYER

President Donald Trump said Thursday that he is replacing Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L. Noem, a move that came amid mounting bipartisan criticism of her stewardship of the administration's mass deportation agenda and efforts to dismantle the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Trump announced the decision on social media and said Noem would be replaced by Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Oklahoma), effective at the end of this month. Noem, he said, will move into a new role as "Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas," which he described as part of a new Western Hemisphere security initiative that will be unveiled at an event in Florida on Saturday.

In his post, Trump praised Noem as having "served us well" and for her "numerous and spectacular results (especially on the Border)."

Noem has faced increasing uncertainty over whether she would remain in her position as the public soured on her agency's aggressive immigration enforcement and as even some Republicans questioned whether she was fit for the job. Her ouster adds to potential instability to the Department of Homeland Security at a time when the agency remains partially shut down because of an impasse over a funding extension on Capitol Hill, where Democrats are demanding more accountability measures for federal immigration officers.

Noem was attending a conference in Nashville when Trump

SEE NOEM ON A5

## Ballroom vote delayed over 'significant public input'

BY JONATHAN EDWARDS AND DAN DIAMOND

A federal planning commission on Thursday delayed a vote on President Donald Trump's planned White House ballroom until next month, citing "significant public input," including tens of thousands of comments, nearly all of them critical of the project.

The National Capital Planning Commission had planned to review the proposal and vote on it — the final procedural hurdle for an effort to dramatically remake one of the most revered symbols of American power and democracy.

But at the start of the meeting, commission chair Will Scharf said the panel would not discuss or vote on the project on Thursday, and instead would take it up at an April 2 meeting. He cited the expected length of testimony from the more than 100 people who had signed up to say what

SEE BALLROOM ON A5

## Beijing sets five-year strategy



Delegates in traditional dress leave after the opening session of the National People's Congress in Beijing, the country's top annual political gathering, where China lowered its economic growth target and raised defense spending by 7 percent. Story, A14

## A third DHS shooting of a citizen went unnoticed

Year-old records request about the killing was answered last month

BY ROBERT KLEMKO

After the Texas Ranger knocked on her door and delivered the numbing news, Rachel Reyes realized she hadn't thought to ask who shot her son. She figured it had been another Ranger that killed Ruben Ray Martinez, 23, after he allegedly failed to comply with a law enforcement officer's orders.

But a week later, Reyes read an article from a local news outlet in South Padre Island that confused her. The police in that small, South Texas beach community were saying there had been an officer-involved shooting and a man was dead, but a separate, unnamed agency was responsible. Reyes called the Ranger who notified her and was now investigating the shooting: Who shot

Ruben?

A Department of Homeland Security agent assigned to immigration enforcement was responsible, the Ranger said.

Reyes didn't go public, instead deciding to await the results of the investigation by the Rangers, who are part of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The March 15, 2025, killing of Martinez, a U.S. citizen, drew almost no public attention, even as protests erupted over the January shooting deaths of two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis — Renée Good, a mother of three, and Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse. South Padre Island Police put out a press release on Martinez but did not identify the agency responsible for his death. A two-sentence police report described Martinez striking a federal agent with his vehicle but did not mention the shooting that allegedly happened a month later.

Texas officials, citing their ongoing investigation, declined to release footage of the incident. DHS did not publicly acknowledge

SEE SHOOTING ON A4

## IN THE NEWS

**ICE facility protest** A first-ever trial against an alleged "antifa cell" in Texas accused of orchestrating a left-wing terrorist plot could be a playbook for cracking down on critics. A3

**Federal layoffs** The White House proposed a rule to streamline firings after last year's cuts were mired in challenges and confusion. A3

**THE NATION** Allies of the president are growing their roles in planning for the U.S. 250th anniversary. A7  
**Medical schools** will boost training in nutrition, heeding advice from RFK Jr. A8

**THE WORLD** Some in the Kremlin see an upside to the Iran conflict, predicting that a prolonged U.S. war could work in Russia's favor by boosting oil prices and diverting key arms from Ukraine. A11

**THE ECONOMY** Top AI leaders pledged to cover the energy costs created by their data centers at an event with the president amid voter backlash against rising utility bills. A18  
**Stocks** fell sharply after the price of oil surged to its highest level since the summer of 2024. A18

**STYLE** Thirty years after the original, ol' Ghostface is back in "Scream 7," repping horror's most reliable franchise. B1  
**SPORTS** A day before the NHL trade deadline, the Caps swapped center Nic Dowd for a pair of draft picks and a prospect. B7

**THE REGION** Virginia Democrats prepared competing budgets in the Senate and House that disagree on a few key issues. B13

**WEEKEND** In Pixar's "Hoppers," an environmentalist uses a robotic beaver in an effort to save a threatened habitat.

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RESIDENTS of Beirut's suburbs flee after the Israeli army told them to "evacuate your homes immediately." DANIEL CARDE Getty Images

## ISRAEL ATTACKS, BEIRUT AREA A WAR ZONE

BY NABIH BULOS

BEIRUT — The Israeli military issued evacuation orders for entire neighborhoods of Beirut's southern suburbs, sparking pandemonium as hundreds of thousands of people joined a panicked exodus out toward Lebanon's north.

On Thursday afternoon, the Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesman told residents of the Dahiyeh — the Hezbollah-dominated southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital — to "save your lives and evacuate your homes immediately."

The evacuation order was unprecedented in scale, encompassing a 6-square-mile, densely populated section on the capital's southern edge. Although often described as a Hezbollah "stronghold," the Dahiyeh comprises four residential neighborhoods, with highways, commercial thoroughfares and restaurants, that are home to hundreds of thousands of Shiites but also Lebanese of other sects, refugees and migrants.

Soon after the announcement, motorists flooded the roads, with cars, trucks, scooters, motorcycles — anything with wheels. Beirut's traffic — a sham-bolic affair in the best of times — became even more chaotic, with motorists honking and shouting in a [See Lebanon, A3]

## War with Iran widens; Europe allies aid U.S.

Trump vows to select Tehran's next leader; House rejects reining in president's authority

BY GAVIN J. QUINTON, NABIH BULOS AND ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump declared he would be "personally involved" in selecting Iran's next leader as U.S. and Israeli forces continued their bombardment of its government Thursday, even as officials in Tehran insisted they could withstand the war.

In a series of media interviews, Trump rejected the potential rise of Mojtaba Khamenei, son of assassinated Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, calling him a "light weight," and likened his own intended role in Iran's transition to the U.S.-backed installation of Delcy Rodriguez in Venezuela. He said at a White House event that the United States will ensure that "whoever leads the country next will not threaten America."

The statements came after reports

that the Pentagon is preparing for a longer conflict than initially projected by the Trump administration. The deepening crisis sent oil prices soaring Thursday past \$80 a barrel and caused the Dow Jones industrial average to tumble nearly 800 points.

"Iran is hoping that we cannot sustain this, which is a really bad miscalculation," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said at a news conference at U.S. Central Command in Florida. "We have only just begun to fight and fight decisively. ... If you think you've seen something — just wait."

On its sixth day, the conflict continued to draw more nations into the fray, as Israel intensified strikes in Lebanon against Hezbollah militants, while Kurdish forces prepared [See War, A3]

## Paramount deal stokes job fears at CNN, CBS News

BY STEPHEN BATTAGLIO

Paramount's \$13-billion deal to acquire Warner Bros. Discovery will put two of the most storied journalism brands — CNN and CBS News — under one roof.

The combination has been proposed before with the aim of consolidating news-gathering costs. Those plans fell apart largely over who would be in control.

But if the Paramount-Warner transaction is approved by regulators, CNN and CBS News would be

forced into a potentially rocky marriage in which they would have to sort out leadership roles, personnel and editorial direction.

It's still too early to determine what those moves would be and how widely they would be felt.

Last week, CNN Chief Executive Mark Thompson told his troops to avoid "jumping to conclusions about the future."

But what is certain is that every permutation would be scrutinized closely because of the fraught relationships both CNN and CBS News

have with the Trump administration.

"There have been many conversations over the years about combining CBS News and CNN," said Jon Klein, a digital media entrepreneur who previously held leadership roles at both organizations. "But this time, it's different. The business case always made sense — but today you've got the overlay of the political agenda."

Before Paramount prevailed in its bid for CNN's parent, Paramount CEO David Ellison's father, Larry [See Paramount, A12]

## President fires embattled Noem as DHS secretary

Trump says he will replace her with GOP Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma.

BY ANDREA CASTILLO AND ANA CEBALLOS

WASHINGTON — In a major shake-up of the agency at the center of the Trump administration's immigration policies, President Trump announced Thursday that he was replacing embattled Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, who will step down at the end of the month.

Trump said on his social media website that he will nominate Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) to take over the job, two days after Noem was grilled on Capitol Hill by Democrats and some Republicans.

Noem will become a special envoy for the Shield of the Americas, a new security initiative that Trump said would focus on the Western Hemisphere.

Noem, the former South Dakota governor, is the first Cabinet secretary to leave during Trump's second term as president. Her departure comes amid intense scrutiny over immigration enforcement tactics since last year that intensified after the shooting deaths of two protesters in Minneapolis by immigration agents, which she called domestic terrorism without evidence.

Those killings led to demands for more accountability within the agency, and disagreement over how to rein in the tactics deployed by federal immigration agents has led to a weeks-long standoff over the agency's funding.

Since the shutdown, lawmakers from both parties have used a series of contentious oversight hearings to question Noem's management of the agency. During a hearing Tuesday, the criticism from Republicans was particularly blunt.

"We are an exceptional nation, and one of the reasons we are exceptional is because we expect exceptional leadership, and you've demonstrated anything but that," Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) told Noem.

When Trump announced the shake-up on social media, Noem was speaking at a conference in Nashville. She answered questions from local law enforcement organizations, and did not offer hints she knew her departure was imminent. She was not asked about her firing.

After the conference ended, Noem thanked Trump on X for her special envoy appointment, a diplomatic position she said will have her working to prevent drugs from coming into the United States.

"I am super excited about this opportunity. It came as not a complete surprise but it came as a little bit of a surprise," Mullin told reporters. [See Noem, A6]



BEFORE her dismissal, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem faced a grilling from lawmakers.

## No thinning out in governor's race

Democratic Party head's call for some candidates to bow out goes unheeded.

BY NICOLE NIXON AND SEEMA MEHTA

SACRAMENTO — Despite a plea from the head of the California Democratic Party for underperforming candidates to drop out of the governor's race, all but one of the party's top hopefuls spun the request.

Party leaders fear the growing possibility that the crowded field will split the Democratic electorate in the state's June top-two primary election and result in two Republicans advancing to the November ballot, ensuring a Republican governor being elected for the first time since 2006.

His advice largely unheeded, state party Chairman Rusty Hicks on Thursday said the fate of a Democratic victory now rests squarely on the gubernatorial candidates who flouted him.

"The candidates for Governor now have a chance to showcase a viable path to win," Hicks said in a statement Thursday.

Eight top Democratic candidates filed the official paperwork to appear on the June ballot after Hicks released a letter on Tuesday urging those "who cannot show meaningful progress towards winning" to drop

out. Friday is the deadline to file to appear on the primary election ballot.

"I would be like someone who has his head in the sand," former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said of Hicks' open letter. "Most of us" filed within 24 hours of getting that letter. It created some press but not much else. It didn't impact [most] of the candidates and it certainly didn't impact my candidacy."

Democratic strategist Elizabeth Ashford said it was appropriate for Hicks and other Democrat leaders to make a public plea as opposed to keeping such discussions solely behind closed doors.

But the response showed the limited power of the modern-day party bosses.

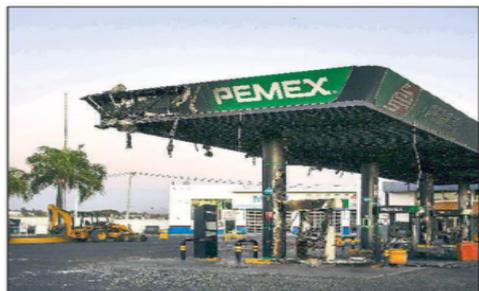
"It's definitely not Tammany Hall," said Ashford, referring to the storied Democratic political machine that had a grip on New York City politics for nearly a century. "The party and Rusty are influential and they are helpful and that is their role. I don't think anyone would be comfortable with outright public strong-arming of specific candidates."

Ashford, who worked for former Govs. Jerry Brown and Arnold Schwarzenegger, along with former Vice President Kamala Harris when she served as state attorney general, added that the minimal power of the state GOP is likely a factor in the dynamics of Democrats' decision to stay in the race. [See Primary, A6]

## Town scarred by day of terror

Etzatlán, Mexico, picks up pieces and seeks answers after retaliatory attacks for killing of 'El Mencho'

By Keegan Hamilton



A BURNED PEMEX gas station along the highway connecting Guadalaajara and Etzatlán in Mexico. FELIX MARQUEZ For The Times

ETZATLÁN, Mexico — There are two sides to the town on Jalisco's tequila trail.

One is the charming pueblo in foothills lined with neat rows of agave cactus. In the central plaza you'll see swaths of handwoven fabric draped like canopies over the cobble streets — splashes of pink, blue, yellow and green offering welcome shade from the afternoon heat. Locals boast that their *ciclo lejido* is world-famous, and once even went on display in Dubai.

The other version of Etzatlán is one most people are scared to talk about.

It's the place where cartel foot soldiers torched the gas station last week, along with the bus depot, a state-run bank and dozens of vehicles, leaving residents hiding in their homes during a 24-hour reign of terror.

Many remain fearful in the aftermath, left wondering whether a sense of normalcy will ever return and venting frustration with lo [See Etzatlán, A4]

### Possible help for water crisis

Carlsbad desalination plant key to proposal that would give states access to more river water. CLIMATE, A9

### Authorities take on street gang

Indictment targets alleged members of 18th Street, one of whom is said to be its No. 2. CALIFORNIA, B1

### Stocks plummet as oil costs soar

Because of war in Iran, the price of crude has spiked to its highest level since summer 2024. BUSINESS, A12

### Weather

Lots of sun. L.A. Basin: 77/57. B6

### Markets

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# EL MUNDO

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**PAPEL** Encuentro entre un donante de récord y quien más sangre necesita: "Si estoy vivo es por gente como tú" **Pág. 41**

**FÚTBOL** Crece la desconfianza entre el vestuario y los jefes de preparación del Real Madrid en plena crisis médica **Pág. 40**



**ESTADOS UNIDOS HA UTILIZADO LAS BASES DE ROTA Y MORÓN EN EL CONFLICTO**

## Más de 20 aviones de guerra salieron desde España para atacar Irán

El Gobierno envía a la zona de conflicto la fragata más moderna de la clase F-100, con 190 efectivos

Trump vuelve a situar a España como «hostil a la OTAN» e Israel critica que «está en un juego extraño»

*Cómo la respuesta de Irán puede sacudir la economía europea*

POR ALICIA CORONIL JÓNSSON **Pág. 14**

Sondeo: los votantes del PSOE se vuelcan con el 'no a la guerra' y ven mejor aliado a China que a EEUU

POR MARINA PINA, CARMEN VALERO, PABLO R. SUANZES, RAÚL PIÑA, MARISA CRUZ, SAL EMERGUI, JAVIER ESPINOSA, LARA VILLALÓN Y PABLO PARDO **PRIMER PLANO**



ALBERTO DI LOLLI

**LOS REYES EN EL ESTAND DE EL MUNDO EN ARCO**

Los Reyes Felipe VI y Doña Letizia y el ministro de Cultura, Ernest Urtegas, inauguraron ayer en Madrid la feria de arte Arco 2026. Juntos completaron la tradicional visita institucional del primer día de feria, que los llevó por los stands de galerías, instituciones culturales y medios de comunicación especializados. En la imagen, el Monarca conversa con el artista venezolano Elías Crespin, en el espacio de EL MUNDO. **Pág. 44**

**La Guardia Revolucionaria iraní alcanza con un misil un petrolero de Estados Unidos**

La embarcación estaba fondeada cerca del puerto Khor al Zubair en Irak; otro petrolero sufrió una explosión frente a Kuwait

Barcos gaseros con destino a Europa desvían su rumbo a países de Asia para vender su carga al mejor postor

POR LARA VILLALÓN PAULA MARÍA **Páginas 10 a 12**

**«Salvad vuestras vidas»: huida en masa en Líbano tras el aviso de Israel de arrasar parte de Beirut**

POR JAVIER ESPINOSA **Pág. 9**



**BAD GYAL**

**"SOY UNA CHICA COQUETA, PRESUMIDA, FEMENINA, FUERTE, LIBRE Y TAMBIÉN SEGURA DE MÍ MISMA"**

La reina española del 'dancehall' lanza su segundo álbum de estudio, 'Más cara', y habla sobre el mensaje que transmite (o no) su proyecto artístico **POR SARA POLO**

**EXTREMADURA**

**Vox no apoyará hoy a Guardiola y el PP se lanza contra Abascal**

Los 'populares' extremeños asumen que tendrán que esperar a mayo/ «Nunca pensamos que uniría sus fuerzas al partido de Sánchez» **POR D. V. P. 22**

## FALSO 'NO A LA GUERRA'

El Gobierno sí colabora en el ataque contra Irán a través de operaciones militares de la UE y la OTAN

P. Muñoz, P. de la Cuesta y A. Calero P10 y 11



La fragata Cristóbal Colón pertenece a la clase F-100, la más moderna y potente de la Armada. ABC

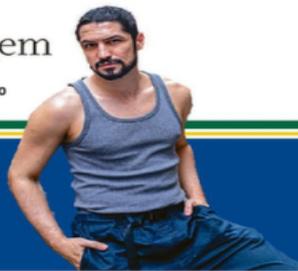
- Envío de la fragata Cristóbal Colón a Chipre en el grupo naval de un portaaviones francés
- Participación de buques españoles en las maniobras lideradas por el portaviones USS George H. W. Bush
- Batería antimisiles Patriot desplegada en la frontera de Turquía
- Los aviones de EE.UU. hacen escala en las bases españolas, pero no figuran en su plan de vuelo para esquivar el veto

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## 'CONSEGUIU BLOQUEAR?'

# Vorcaro falou a Moraes sobre salvar Master antes de ser preso em 2025

Banqueiro detalhou passo a passo da súbita tentativa de venda do banco no dia em que foi detido pela PF. Ministro nega ter recebido mensagens

MALU GASPAR

O conteúdo do celular do banqueiro Daniel Vorcaro, apreendido com ele pela PF ao prendê-lo em 17 de novembro de 2025, mostra que ele manteve durante todo aquele dia uma conversa por WhatsApp com o ministro do STF Alexandre de Moraes. Os dois se falaram no modo de visualização única, em que a mensagem é apagada depois de vista pelo interlocutor. Como Vorcaro escrevia as mensagens no bloco de notas do celular e fotografava para enviar a imagem a Moraes, a PF conseguiu resgatar o que ele disse ao ministro, mas não o

conteúdo das respostas. Às 7h19, Vorcaro conta que anunciaria "ainda hoje" a nova venda do Master. Às 17h22, enviou a Moraes: "Fiz uma correria aqui pra tentar salvar. Fiz o que deu, vou anunciar parte da transação." — minutos depois, o Grupo Fictor divulgou ter feito pro-

### Mensagens expõem conexões políticas e assustam Congresso

Celular mostra relação próxima com Ciro Nogueira e Rueda, pressiona cúpula do Legislativo e tem citação a encontro com Lula. [PÁGINA 8](#)

posta para a compra do banco. Às 17h26, duas perguntas ao ministro: "Alguma novidade? Conseguiu ter notícia ou bloquear?". Àquela altura, sua prisão já havia sido decretada no inquérito que corria sob sigilo na Justiça Federal do DF e seria efetivada no fim da noite, quando Vorcaro tentava embarcar em Guarulhos. Pouco antes, às 20h48, a última mensagem para Moraes: "Io indo assinar com os investidores de fora e estou online". Em nota, o gabinete do ministro declarou que "Moraes não recebeu essas mensagens referidas na matéria. Trata-se de ilação mentirosa no sentido, novamente, de atacar o STF". [PÁGINA 4](#)

**EDITORIAL**  
PEC DA SEGURANÇA TRARÁ AVANÇOS CONTRA O CRIME [PÁGINA 2](#)

**BERNARDO MELLO FRANCO**  
Vorcaro agia como um miliciano na Faria Lima [PÁGINA 3](#)

**VERA MAGALHÃES**  
Toffoli e Moraes devem explicações à sociedade [PÁGINA 2](#)

**JANAÍNA FIGUEIREDO**  
O encontro de Trump com presidentes alinhados [PÁGINA 24](#)

**PABLO ORTELLADO**  
Caso Master revela um sistema que está todo apodrecido [PÁGINA 3](#)

**RUTH DE AQUINO**  
O que você faz para conter onda de ódio, estupros e feminicídios? [SEGUNDO CADERNO](#)

## Dino anula quebra de sigilo de Lulinha aprovada pela CPI do INSS

Ministro invalidou quebras aprovadas em bloco na CPI. Antes da decisão, medida revelou que filho de Lula movimentou R\$ 19 milhões em quatro anos. [PÁGINA 9](#)

## PGR pede que STF archive inquérito de joias presenteadas a Bolsonaro

Por vácuo jurídico sobre o tema, Gonet sustenta que não houve cometimento de crime por ex-presidente e aliados na venda de joias dadas ao governo. [PÁGINA 12](#)

## Petrobras tem salto de 200% no lucro, mas dividendos serão menores

Lucro líquido de R\$ 110 bilhões em 2025 é atribuído ao aumento da produção e da venda de derivados. Dividendos, porém, ficarão abaixo da quantia de 2024. [PÁGINA 15](#)

## Desemprego aumenta para 5,4% em janeiro, e renda bate novo recorde

Para economistas, fim dos contratos temporários de final de ano explica elevação. Ainda assim, é o menor índice para o mês na série histórica. [PÁGINA 16](#)

## VIVI PARA CONTAR 'Via da janela mísseis rasgando o céu de Dubai'

Repórter do GLOBO, Filipe Vidon conta seu tenso périplo para sair do Oriente Médio em meio à guerra. "Aprendi da pior forma que, em zonas de conflito, o cenário muda a cada hora." [PÁGINA 24](#)

## Atacado, Azerbaijão promete retaliação, e guerra se amplia

Pais acusou pelo ataque o Irã, que bombardeou múltiplos alvos na região, mas nega que Azerbaijão tenha sido um deles. Europeus se mobilizam. [PÁGINA 21](#)

## Após embate público entre TJRJ e Polícia Civil, menor tem apreensão decretada

Depois de críticas mútuas sobre atuação no caso de estupro coletivo, Justiça expede mandado de apreensão de menor acusado de ser mentor, que está foragido. [PÁGINA 28](#)



## Patrimônio cultural saindo do forno

Assediada por construtoras numa esquina supervalorizada do Leblon, a Confeitaria Rio-Lisboa, aberta em 1943, virou Patrimônio Cultural de Natureza Imaterial por iniciativa da prefeitura. Decreto, que vale por dez anos, congela as negociações. [PÁGINA 30](#)



### CONTEÚDOS DO ANO

## O que O GLOBO publicou de melhor em 2025

Premiação interna do jornal apontou como hors-concours a histórica edição dos 100 anos, com 14 cadernos especiais. Os furos de Lauro Jardim e Malu Gaspar sobre a crise do Master venceram a categoria principal, e a foto do ano foi de Márcia Foletto. Veja todos os premiados. [PÁGINAS 10 e 11](#)



## Celebração do samba

Festa de premiação do Estandarte de Ouro teve emoção e euforia, com destaque para a Viradouro do Mestre Ciça, vencedora em cinco categorias. [PÁGINA 31](#)

## Con el inicio de clases, ya están entre los chicos los virus respiratorios

—sociedad

Aunque el impacto aún es bajo, circulan, sobre todo, la influenza y el Covid; hay casos de virus sincicial; qué aconsejan los expertos. **Página 22**



## Los reyes de España, otra vez cautivados por una artista argentina

—cultura

Felipe VI y Letizia inauguraron la feria Arco, en Madrid; se interesaron por la obra de Agustina Woodgate. **Página 24**



# LA NACION

VIERNES 6 DE MARZO DE 2026 | LANACION.COM.AR

## Apenas asumió, Mahiques desplazó al funcionario que pedía veedores en la AFA

**GIRO.** El ministro de Justicia separó de la IGJ a Vítolo, que investigaba los manejos de la entidad

Apenas horas después de asumir al frente del Ministerio de Justicia, Juan Bautista Mahiques pidió la renuncia del titular de la Inspección General de Justicia (IGJ), Daniel Vítolo, quien hasta ahora era la cara visible de la decisión del Gobierno de revisar los manejos de dinero de la AFA y que había solicitado incor-

porar veedores en la entidad rectora del fútbol argentino.

Al mismo tiempo, Mahiques también impulsó el reemplazo de los titulares de la Unidad de Información Financiera (UIF), la Oficina Anticorrupción (OA), la Procuración del Tesoro y la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos. La llegada del

nuevo ministro, impulsado por Karina Milei, recortó el poder del asesor Santiago Caputo y exacerbó la interna en la cúpula del Gobierno. Para contener el malestar, Mahiques le ofreció ayer la Procuración del Tesoro al desplazado viceministro de Justicia, Sebastián Amerio, un leal a Santiago Caputo. **Página 11**

**EL ESCENARIO**

Ahora, Karina: la nueva era K

**Claudio Jacquelin**

**Página 14**

## Fuerte gesto de River para despegarse de Tapia

**RUPTURA.** El club ya no integrará el Comité Ejecutivo; impacto político

En desacuerdo con la conducción de la AFA, River tomó una medida de impacto que promete tener réplicas en el fútbol argentino: el club de Núñez anunció que ya no participará de las reuniones del Comité Ejecutivo. El cimbronazo político abre las puertas para un nuevo escenario. **Deportes**



**Trump recibió a Messi en la Casa Blanca: "¿Quién es mejor: él o Pelé?"**

A. CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP

En medio de la convulsión por la guerra en Medio Oriente, Donald Trump recibió ayer, en la Casa Blanca, a Lionel Messi y los campeones de Inter Miami. El presidente de Estados Unidos bromeó con el auditorio: "¿Quién es mejor: él o Pelé?". Y reconoció: "Creo que es él [por Messi]". **Deportes**

## Trump quiere tener voz y voto en la elección del líder iraní: "El hijo de Khamenei es inaceptable"

**INFLUENCIA.** El presidente norteamericano declaró que buscará imponer "a alguien que traiga armonía y paz"

WASHINGTON (AP).—Mientras Estados Unidos mantenía las operaciones militares en Medio Oriente e Israel amenazaba con arrasar un bastión de Hezbollah en Beirut, el presidente norteamericano, Donald Trump, dijo ayer que debería estar involucrado en la elección del

próximo líder supremo de Irán, tras calificar de inaceptable el presunto ascenso al poder de Mojtaba, el hijo del asesinado Ali Khamenei. El gobierno de Teherán, por su parte, mantuvo su respuesta militar contra territorio israelí, bases estadounidenses y países en toda la región.

Los comentarios de Trump al portal estadounidense Axios renovaron las preguntas sobre si Estados Unidos e Israel buscan la caída de la República Islámica o únicamente un cambio en sus políticas, en momentos en los que el fin del conflicto luce cada vez más incierto.

En tanto, el ministro de Finanzas israelí, el político de ultraderecha Bezalel Smotrich, advirtió a los residentes de Dahiyeh, en los suburbios del sur de Beirut, enclave de Hezbollah, que el distrito se enfrentará a una devastación similar a la de Gaza. **Página 2**

**DESDE ADENTRO**

## El cisne negro no solamente puede llegar desde Irán

**Florencia Donovan**

—PARA LA NACION—

En economía y en política, a veces los acontecimientos que cambian el clima no nacen en casa. Llegan de afuera, inesperados, con la fuerza de esos "cisnes negros" que desordenan todos los cálculos previos. La guerra de Estados Unidos e Israel con Irán, que volvió a sacudir el tablero internacional, es uno de esos eventos que ningún funcionario argentino tenía en su hoja de ruta para 2026. Y, aunque los efectos por ahora apenas se sienten, ya muchos han decidido elevar sus alertas. **Continúa en la página 19**

## Los líderes de la Banda del Millón, presos sin celulares

**EN LA PLATA.** Por pedido de la Justicia los trasladaron al penal de Melchor Romero, donde estarán todos en el mismo pabellón. **Página 26**

A sus 18 años debutó como titular y brilló en la goleada ante Lanús. P.40



El director estrena docuserie que muestra como nunca a quienes fueron los dueños de la Tierra. P.44



# Asumió Mahiques y saca al funcionario que iba a auditar cuentas de Tapia y Tovigginio

Es Daniel Vítolo, titular de la Inspección General de Justicia.

Tras jurar como ministro de Justicia, Juan Bautista Mahiques pidió la renuncia a todos los funcionarios de esa cartera. Además de Vítolo de la IGJ, a Ernesto Gaspari, hombre de Santiago Caputo en la Unidad de Información

Financiera, y al jefe de la Oficina Anticorrupción, entre otros. Vítolo le había pedido al saliente ministro de Justicia Mariano Cúneo Libarona dos veedores para auditar los millones de dólares por ingresos que maneja la AFA. Sin

embargo, aún no había obtenido respuesta y ahora deberá dejar su cargo. Sebastián Amerio, el desplazado número 2 de Cúneo que respondía a Santiago Caputo, asumirá como procurador del Tesoro. P.8

**River** Se bajó del Comité Ejecutivo de la AFA con duras críticas a su presidente.



Entrega. Una pelota del color del Inter Miami. La guerra sobrevoló el encuentro.

## “¿Quién es mejor, Pelé o Messi?”

“Es un honor decir lo que ningún presidente ha dicho antes: bienvenido a la Casa Blanca, Lionel Messi”. Así recibió Donald

Trump al argentino, junto a todo el plantel del Inter Miami campeón. Lo elogió y se permitió bromear con la eterna rivalidad

futbolística. El presidente de EE.UU. aprovechó para destacar a los militares que pelean contra Irán y hablar sobre Cuba. P.22

## Trump quiere elegir al nuevo líder de Irán

Rechaza que sea el hijo del asesinado Khamenei, ya que lo considera “un peso ligero insignificante”. Reiteró que quiere hacer en Irán lo que hizo en Venezuela con la presidencia de Delcy

Rodríguez. El líder supremo es elegido por la asamblea de 88 expertos del Islam chiíta. La guerra se extiende al Cáucaso en Azerbaiyán, golpeado por drones, y se intensifica el bombardeo

contra Teherán y el interior del país persa. Al mismo tiempo, Israel golpea la capital de Líbano, Beirut, y ya hay más de cien muertos en cuatro días de ataque. P.20

## En enero y febrero, la producción de autos cayó un 30%

Es en comparación a igual período del año anterior. Acumula ocho meses consecutivos de retroceso. El principal motivo está asociado a las menores exportaciones, ya que la mayor cantidad de autos que se producen en la Argentina se venden en el mercado externo. Durante el primer bimestre se produjeron 50.630 vehículos, un 30,1% menos respecto de igual período de 2025. P.16

## “Era un modelo prebendario”

El ministro Luis Caputo dijo que “el modelo de Argentina no tenía nada que ver con algo industrial; era prebendario”. P.17

## Secundarios: en Ciudad prohíben el celular hasta para los docentes

Los teléfonos no se podrán utilizar en clases e incluso, cada escuela podrá prohibir su uso también en los recreos. Una resolución publicada ayer endureció la restricción que se había aplicado en agosto de 2024. Es para escuelas públicas y privadas. Cualquier actividad pedagógica digital deberá realizarse con equipos de la escuela. Cinco de cada 10 alumnos dicen que quieren dejar el celular y no pueden. P.3

## Un chico de 14 años causó un triple choque, con un muerto

Fue en Chivilcoy, en la ruta 40. Un chico de 14 manejaba un VW Gol, acompañado por un amigo de la misma edad y otro de 16. El auto chocó con otro vehículo y después también quedó involucrada una camioneta. Su conductor, un peón rural de 51 años, padre de una nena de 11, murió poco después del choque. Uno de los chicos está ileso y los otros, internados pero fuera de peligro. P.31

37-32 MINUTO

Almacenes subterráneos de misiles en Irán, el blanco de EE.UU. e Israel



18-17

AC/DC alista larga estadía en Chile y recibe elogios por shows en Brasil



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4 POLÍTICA

## Kast viaja a EE.UU. a cumbre con Trump en medio de controversia por cable submarino chino

► Presidente electo aterrizará este viernes en Miami, para participar de la cumbre "Shield of the Americas". También tendrá una cena con el secretario de Estado, Marco Rubio.

► Mientras, Fernando Barros, futuro ministro de Defensa, participó en la "Conferencia Inaugural contra los Carteles en las Américas", invitado por la Casa Blanca.



26 NACIONAL

Reabren Plaza Italia sin la estatua de Baquedano

► Alcalde Jaime Delfino afirma que "solo faltan algunas voluntades" para retorno.

2 JURIS

Retail gana a la Subtel en la Suprema disputa por uso de prefijos en llamadas de cobranza

► Máximo tribunal acogió recurso de amparo económico

16 NACIONAL

Ejército: investigan muerte de cabo en Punta Arenas durante ejercicio militar

16 NACIONAL

Tras los fugados de la ex Penitenciaría: las huellas que persigue la Fiscalía



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## President seeks role in picking Iran leader

US, Israel and Iran keep up attacks, escalating war's scope in region

By Jon Gambrell, David Rising, Elena Becatoros and Samy Magdy  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — President Donald Trump said Thursday he should be involved in choosing Iran's next supreme leader as the U.S. and Israel hammered the country for a sixth day. Iran kept up retaliatory attacks on Israel, American bases and countries around the region.

Trump ruled out Mojtaba Khamenei, a front-runner to replace his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in the opening strikes of the war.

Trump's comments to the American news website Axios were likely to renew questions about whether the U.S. and Israel seek the overthrow of the Islamic Republic or just a change in its policies, as the conflict has appeared increasingly open-ended.

The war has escalated each day, affecting an additional 14 countries across the Middle East and beyond. On Thursday, Azerbaijan accused Iran of drone attacks, which Tehran denied. Iran said the U.S. would "bitterly regret" torpedoing an Iranian warship near Sri Lanka a day earlier.

Israel issued a mass evacuation warning for all of Beirut's southern suburbs as the fighting escalated with Iran-allied Hezbollah militants. U.N. peacekeepers reported ground combat in southern Lebanon as more Israeli troops crossed the border.

All the while, the U.S. and Israel have battered Iran with nationwide strikes, targeting its military capabilities, leadership and nuclear program.

Iran's attacks have targeted their Arab neighbors, disrupted oil supplies and snarled global air travel. The war has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 100 in Lebanon and around a dozen in

See **IRAN** on Page A20



Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem arrives for a House Judiciary Committee hearing on oversight of the Homeland Security Department on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday. SALWAN GEORGES/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Illinois officials cheer Noem's ouster at DHS

'Don't let the door hit you on the way out,' Pritzker says; Trump will nominate Sen. Markwayne Mullin of Okla. as replacement

By Gregory Royal Pratt and Caroline Kubzansky  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says he's replacing his embattled Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and will nominate in her place Oklahoma Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin.

Trump made the announcement on social media on Thursday, two days after Noem faced a grilling on Capitol Hill from GOP members as well as Democrats.

Trump says he'll make Noem a "Special Envoy for The Shield

of the Americas," a new security initiative that he said would focus on the Western Hemisphere.

In a post on X, Noem thanked Trump for her new role and said she looked forward to working with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to "dismantle cartels that have poured drugs into our nation and killed our children and grandchildren."

Noem's ouster as head of the department that oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement was celebrated by local officials and activists, who said good riddance to the woman who

oversaw unprecedented immigration raids in the Chicago area last fall and early winter.

But even as they celebrated, they warned that the Trump administration is likely to continue aggressive actions in the coming years.

"Hey Kristi Noem, don't let the door hit you on the way out," Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker said in a video posted to social media immediately after her firing. "Here's your legacy: corruption and chaos. Parents and children tear gassed. Moms and nurses — U.S. citizens getting shot in the face. Now that you're gone, don't

think you get to just walk away. I guarantee you, you will still be held accountable."

One of the citizens shot during those operations was Marimar Martinez, a schoolteacher who had been on her way to drop off a basket of donations when she joined a car caravan of Operation Midway Blitz protesters tailing agents through Brighton Park.

Border Patrol Agent Charles Exum shot Martinez five times and later bragged about it in a series of bombshell text messages to fellow agents, saying he was up for another round of "(expletive) around and find out."

Martinez, who was charged with assaulting federal agents

See **NOEM** on Page A4

### INSIDE



PHIL MASCIONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Racehorse spotting at Hawthorne Race Course

Spectators watch the track at Hawthorne Race Course in Stickney on April 20, 1972. The course, which bills itself as the oldest horse-racing venue in Illinois, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Feb. 27. Take a look back at Hawthorne's history. **Chicagoland, Page A2**

## Moore heading to Buffalo

The Bears are trading wide receiver DJ Moore and a 2026 fifth-round draft pick to the Bills in exchange for a 2026 second-round pick. NFL Network and ESPN reported Thursday. **Sports**

## Heartfelt family thriller

A story of community cooperation is at the core of "Hoppers," the latest Disney-Pixar film. It embraces the weird, wacky and witty and it unfurls a thriller about merging of the human and animal worlds. **Arts & Entertainment**

## A new take on the old adage: 'It takes a village'

A fresh approach to fostering youth in Illinois carries hope

By Darcel Rockett  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

At a glance from the street, this Rockford home is nothing out of the ordinary.

Sitting atop 5 acres, deer and wild turkeys frolic amid autumnal foliage on the property, giving the feel of a Norman Rockwell poster.

A telescope stands in the living room in case anyone wants to look at the stars; a gym and sauna are in an adjacent room where one can work out; and across the way sits a kitchen large enough to have a number of sous chefs when the meal dictates. Bedrooms are sanctuaries, with the basement a place to gather for fun, thanks to a three-in-one pool/ping-pong/air hockey table.

Welcome to Hope House, a model of fostering children and teens developed by the Chicago-based nonprofit One Hope United. The premise: A stable household with a built-in support team to help those in foster care thrive. The twist: It's a new take on the adage "It takes a village."

Four boys ages 13 to 17 live with their foster parents, a full-time therapist and nurse, and two youth-care workers who help them with homework, drive them to school and chaperone outings.



Dennis Delgado, the executive director of One Hope United in Illinois, hangs wall art in the dining room of a One Hope United foster home on Nov. 20 in Rockford. **STACEY WESCOTT/TRIBUNE**

Hope House is designed to be ordinary — a place where normalcy reigns — like other caring households with children, according to Executive Director Josie Bayona.

It's where parents are concerned about their children's well-being and invest in their rearing. Where movie nights are held, video games played and schoolwork and housework are juggled. It's where families debrief their days around the dinner table, whether it's taco Tuesday or pizza Friday. And where rewards follow completed

See **HOPE** on Page A5

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Presidente reaccionó en medio de fuerte pulseada de oficialistas

# Hambre Cero: Peña pide cuidar programa estrella ante puja en el cartismo

● Manejo de millonarios fondos desata fuego cruzado en plena campaña electoral.

● Diputado Figueredo apuntó contra gobernadora Zárate, de Paraguari.

● Hay malestar interno por la decisión de excluir a Concepción y Alto Paraná.

PÁGINAS 2 y 3

Más ataques de Irán Guerra ya se extiende más allá de límites del Medio Oriente

PÁGINAS 38 y 39

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Deuda supera USD 400 millones  
**Constructoras insisten en elevar tope fiscal para financiar obras**

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Tras condena por lavado  
**Oposición afirma que Erico Galeano debe renunciar y Peña evita opinar**

PÁGINA 6

Denuncian ocupaciones ilegales  
**San Bernardino: Vecinos rechazan invasiones con patrocinio político**

PÁGINA 20

## Casi 200 fármacos están en falta en el IPS



"No hay". La falta de medicamentos en la previsual dejó de ser una denuncia aislada para convertirse en una realidad para miles de asegurados.

PÁGINA 16



Empresas y Negocios

Telebingo Triple ya tiene a su primer ganador de "Un Mundo de Premios"

Página 5



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Continúa en **PETROBRAS LUBRAX** **GRUPO TOYOTOSHI**

## Quadrilha na Polícia Civil de SP praticava extorsão, diz MP

Nove pessoas foram presas em ação da Polícia Federal e do Ministério Público de São Paulo para desbaratar um esquema de extorsão e corrupção na Polícia Civil paulista. Entre os presos estão um contador e um doleiro visados na Operação Lava Jato. A Secretaria da Segurança Pública afirmou que a corporação não compactua com desvios e tomará as medidas cabíveis se comprovadas irregularidades. **Cotidiano A42**

## EUA ensaiam apoio a curdos no Irã para incitar guerra civil

O governo de Donald Trump avalia se aliar a milícias curdas iranianas baseadas no norte do Iraque para provocar uma guerra civil no Irã. Um plano da CIA para armar os milicianos e incentivá-los a cruzar a fronteira veio à tona, mas o líder do curdistão iraquiano teme por seu território. **Mundo A38**

## Trump demite Kristi Noem após crise com migrantes

O presidente Donald Trump demitiu ontem Kristi Noem, secretária de Segurança Interna dos EUA e responsável pelo serviço de imigração do país, o ICE, que matou dois cidadãos americanos em meio à campanha contra imigrantes. O sucessor será o senador Markwayne Mullin. **Mundo A41**



Douglas Magno/AFP

## Desabamento em prédio onde funcionava asilo em Belo Horizonte mata ao menos 8

Um edifício de quatro andares, onde havia uma casa de idosos, uma academia, uma clínica de bronzeamento e uma residência cedeu parcialmente na madrugada de ontem deixando 8 mortos, entre eles o dono do imóvel; outros 4 seguiam sob os escombros **Cotidiano A46**

# Filho de Lula movimentou R\$ 19,5 milhões em 4 anos

Defesa diz que todo recurso é declarado; CPMI recebeu dados após quebra de sigilo

Dados bancários enviados à CPMI (Comissão Parlamentar Mista de Inquérito) do INSS mostram que o empresário Fábio Luís Lula da Silva, filho do presidente Lula (PT), movimentou R\$ 19,5 milhões em suas contas de janeiro de 2022 a janeiro deste ano.

A defesa do empresário, chamado de Lulinha, disse que todos os movimentos e bens são declarados à Receita Federal e resultam de atuação legítima, mas que não teve acesso aos dados para avaliar a veracidade. A quebra de sigilo foi pedida pela CPMI.

**Flávio Dino suspende quebra de sigilo de Lulinha** **A8**

Ao todo, foram R\$ 9,774 milhões em entradas e R\$ 9,758 milhões em saídas em quatro contas bancárias no Banco do Brasil e na Caixa Econômica Federal, sendo os maiores montantes referentes a rendimentos de duas empresas de que ele é dono. **Política A6**

## Vorcaro enviou mensagens a Moraes no dia em que foi preso, diz jornal

O dono do Banco Master, Daniel Vorcaro, enviou mensagem de WhatsApp ao ministro Alexandre de Moraes, do Supremo Tribunal Federal, no dia em que foi preso, afirma reportagem do jornal O Globo. "Consegui ter notícia ou bloquear?", diz o texto de 17 de novembro de 2025.

O ministro teria então respondido com três mensagens de visualização única. A assessoria de Moraes nega que ele tenha recebido os textos citados pelo jornal: "Trata-se de ilação mentirosa no sentido, novamente, de atacar o Supremo Tribunal Federal", afirma. **Economia A14**

## Banqueiro preparou explicação de laço com ministro

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O celular de Vorcaro fará a República ruir ou haverá um acordo? **A3**

**Marcos Augusto Gonçalves**  
Cada vez mais suspeitos de sempre do centrão surgem no escândalo do Master **A12**

## Dono do Master quis se livrar de imóvel de R\$ 60 milhões

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**Riscos econômicos da guerra** A respeito de impactos potenciais dos ataques de Estados Unidos e Israel ao Irã.

**PEC da Segurança fica melhor sem tratar de maioria** Sobre proposta de emenda à Carta aprovada pela Câmara.

ilustrada

**MORRE AOS 83 ESCRITOR ANTÔNIO LOBO ANTUNES**  
Autor de 32 romances e vencedor do Camões, português está entre os lusófonos mais lidos no mundo **B14**

**Artistas fundem o público e o privado em peças que exploram exposição** **B1**

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Violência ganha luz na Mostra Internacional de Teatro **C1**

**JHSF**  
SURPREENDENTE

**RESERVA**  
CIDADE JARDIM

NO CIDADE JARDIM, A REGIÃO ONDE TUDO ACONTECE, NASCE O EMPREENDIMENTO MAIS ICÔNICO DA JHSF.

VEJA NA PÁG. A7

IMAGEM ILUSTRATIVA PRODUZIDA COM IA.

**CORRIDA FOLHA**  
105 ANOS

**GARANTA SUA VAGA AGORA:**

QUANDO LARGADA  
29/3 ANHANGABAU

REALIZAÇÃO  
FOLHA DE S. PAULO



9773141072055

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais



**MICHEL-ANGE**  
UNE NOUVELLE PIETÀ  
DU GÉNIE ITALIEN :  
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Toulon, l'élection test du RN avant la présidentielle de 2027 **PAGE 10**

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Approuvez-vous la décision d'Emmanuel Macron d'envoyer le porte-avions Charles de Gaulle en Méditerranée ?

**OUI 73% NON 27%**  
VOTANTS : 105 617

Guerre en Iran : l'État a-t-il raison de refuser de compenser la hausse du prix des carburants ?

**Téléchargez l'appli du Figaro pour voter**

FREDRIK JOHANSSON - LE MONDE, TIME, LIBERATION // ILLUSTRATION CHARLOTTE PAROELLE/LE FIGARO

## PS-LFI : des accords malgré les outrances de Mélenchon

Le Parti socialiste dit avoir coupé les ponts avec les mélenchonistes au plan national, tout en laissant l'union se faire par la base dans plusieurs dizaines de villes avant les municipales.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, le nouveau Jean-Marie Le Pen ? C'est ainsi que Raphaël Glucksmann a qualifié le leader de La France insoumise après ses propos teintés d'antisémitisme. Le Parti socialiste lui a embôité le pas, en excluant tout accord national avec les mélenchonistes dans l'entre-deux-tours des municipales. Un alignement avec l'hostilité des Français (76 %) et même d'une écrasante majorité des sympathisants socialistes (84 %) aux alliances entre LFI et le PS, comme le révèle un sondage Odoxa-Backbone Consulting pour *Le Figaro*. Le PS n'a cependant pas exclu des accords locaux sous conditions ni remis en cause les unions réalisées avec les Insoumis avant le premier tour dans une

soixantaine de villes. Un double jeu condamné par le président des Républicains, Bruno Retailleau, qui appelle la gauche à dénoncer ce qu'il qualifie d'« accords de la honte ».

→ MÉLENCHON « LEPÉNISÉ », LA GAUCHE PIÉGÉE → RETAILLEAU PRESSE VERTS ET SOCIALISTES DE DÉNONCER LES « ACCORDS DE LA HONTE » AVEC LES INSOUMIS → MILO LÉVY-BRUHL : « EN SE MOQUANT DE NOMS JUIFS, MÉLENCHON A ACTIVÉ LA DIMENSION XÉNOPHOBIE DE L'ANTISÉMITISME » **PAGES 8, 9 ET L'ÉDITORIAL**



**Reza Pahlavi :**  
« La chute du régime est à portée de main »

Le fils du dernier chah d'Iran assure que des dizaines de milliers de soldats, de gardiens de la révolution et de civils employés par le régime sont prêts à faire défection, et se dit décidé à diriger la transition. **PAGE 2**

**Trump tenté de jouer la carte kurde contre les mollahs**

Le président des États-Unis s'est entretenu au téléphone avec deux des principaux dirigeants kurdes. Se refusant à envoyer des troupes américaines pour mener des opérations terrestres en vue de renverser le régime iranien, il envisage de s'appuyer au sol sur les forces armées des groupes kurdes. Le pari est incertain. Ces groupes sont difficiles à unifier et opérationnels essentiellement dans leur région d'origine. Une coalition de plusieurs minorités est tout aussi complexe et pourrait aboutir à un éclatement du pays. **PAGES 4 ET 5**

**ÉDITORIAL** par Yves Thérard

### La gauche soumise

**P**lus jamais d'accord avec La France insoumise, jurent-ils en chœur. Les dernières sallies aux relents antisémites de Jean-Luc Mélenchon auraient fini de décourager ses alliés. Chez les communistes et les écologistes, on reste, certes, encore discret. Mais, chez les socialistes, plusieurs voix l'affirment désormais haut et fort : il faut rompre les liens avec le chaos. La direction du PS a décidé, en début de semaine, qu'aucun accord national ne serait passé pour les municipales. Sauf que le diable se cache dans les détails.

Dans de nombreuses communes, dont Briançon, Chartres et Épinal, des alliances ont été conclues en vue du premier tour. Et, pour le tour suivant, on a beaucoup de mal à imaginer que la promesse sera tenue, si la gauche devait en faire les frais. À Paris, le socialiste Emmanuel Grégoire admet que « Mélenchon fait mal », mais répète surtout que, son adversaire, « c'est Dati ». À Marseille, où le Rassemblement national pourrait lui ravir la municipalité, on peine à croire que le maire sortant ne fasse pas les yeux doux à LFI dans la dernière ligne droite. Même le député PS Jérôme Guedj, qui tire à

boulets rouges sur Mélenchon, avoue qu'il voterait LFI en toutes circonstances pour faire barrage au RN.

Ridiculisé, humilié, insulté à longueur de discours par celui qui veut sa mort, le PS se soumet quand même, par lâcheté et pleutellerie, en l'absence d'un chef digne de ce nom. De crainte de perdre des sièges et des financements, ses membres, à de très rares exceptions près, vont continuer à pactiser avec le diable. Les mêmes qui, pendant des décennies, ont fait la leçon à la droite, confrontée à la montée de Jean-Marie Le Pen, puis à celle de sa fille. Dieu sait s'ils l'ont accusée de tous les maux. Elle n'a pourtant jamais perdu « son âme », pour reprendre l'expression consacrée, dans un quelconque pacte faustien. Il est, en revanche, plus que probable que le pitoyable spectacle offert par des Insoumis en pleine dérive et cette gauche « morale », incapable de couper le cordon avec eux, fasse le jeu du Rassemblement national. Aujourd'hui, LFI et le reste de la gauche sont une formidable « blanchisseuse » pour le RN. ■

Elle va continuer à pactiser avec le diable

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DES PRIX TRÈS RÉDUITS SUR LA NOUVELLE COLLECTION

**rochebobois** PARIS

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# The Dallas Morning News

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CITY HALL

## Council strikes compromise



Photos by Juan Figueroa/Staff Photographer

The council listened to open mic about the City Hall building during the city council meeting on Wednesday at City Hall in Dallas. The council was prepared to consider a resolution directing the city manager to move emergency operations out of City Hall.

### Members OK resolution to explore relocation, order repair plans

By DEVYANI CHHETRI  
Staff Writer  
devyani.chhetri@dallasnews.com

A deeply divided Dallas City Council is hedging its bets on City Hall, exploring relocation while also ordering plans to repair the aging building.

After hours of scrutiny, debate and amendments, the council voted 9-6 to approve a compromise resolution that forces the city to pursue those two tracks and bars consultants that recently assessed the building's conditions bidding on contracts related to the project.

The action came just after 1 a.m. Thursday, a major step in deciding the fate of the nearly 50-year-old City Hall and the prime downtown site developers covet but preservationists want to keep.

The nine council members who supported the measure described it as a pragmatic compromise. They said Dallas needs more concrete information before deciding whether to repair the aging building or abandon it.

The backers were Mayor Eric Johnson and council members Gay Donnell Willis, Chad West, Jesse Moreno, Zarin Gracey, Maxie Johnson, Jaime Resendez, Lorie Blair and Kathy Stewart, a coalition spanning North Dallas, Oak Cliff and southern sectors of the city.

Several said studying both paths at once protects taxpayers and positions the city to make a clearer long-term decision about the future of the I.M. Pei-designed building and the valuable



Members of the audience showed support for a speaker who spoke in favor of keeping Dallas City Hall during the open mic session of the city council meeting on Wednesday.

downtown land it occupies.

Six council members opposed the approach, warning the city is moving too quickly toward a costly and uncertain relocation strategy.

Adam Bazaldua, Laura Cadena, Paula Blackmon, Bill Roth, Cara Mendelsohn and Paul Ridley argued the city has not fully vetted repair costs or considered the budget impact of leasing new office space while Dallas is already facing fiscal pressures.

They questioned if the deliberations had anything to do with building a new arena to retain the Dallas Mavericks.

Some also criticized the process that produced the estimates, saying the council should slow down and focus first on determining whether the building can be responsibly repaired and modernized.

See COUNCIL Page 4A

POLITICS

## Trump fires Noem

Criticism on the rise over the Homeland Security secretary's leadership and recent decisions

By MICHELLE L. PRICE  
and REBECCA SANTANA  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday fired his embattled Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, after mounting criticism over her leadership of the department, including the handling of the administration's immigration crackdown and disaster response.

Trump, who said he would nominate Oklahoma Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin in her place, made the announcement on social media after Noem faced a two-day grilling on Capitol Hill this week from GOP members as well as Democrats.

See NOEM Page 4A

DALLAS

## Y'all Street turf war heating up

Now open for business: Nasdaq Texas announces SEC approval and planned listings

By SASHA RICHIE  
Staff Writer  
sasha.richie@dallasnews.com

Nasdaq Texas has an announcement to make.

"We're open for business!" said Rachel Racz, the Nasdaq executive in charge of its new Lone Star State listings venue.

Nasdaq Texas, announced in November, is debuting approval from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and its first cohort of expected dual listings Thursday.

In a ceremony at the Alamo in San Antonio, executives from five companies expected to dual-list on Nasdaq Texas will join the exchange in ringing the closing bell, on the 190th anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo.

See Y'ALL Page 4A

ELECTIONS '26

## Paxton refuses to step back

Despite president's demand, Texas AG resolved to push on

Trump's demand that the candidates wrap up the fight. "I'm staying in this race," Paxton said.

Cornyn was on track to narrowly edge out Paxton in Tuesday's primary results, but neither candidate was close to the majority required to avoid a May 26 runoff.

Trump on Wednesday posted on Truth Social he would soon be endorsing one of the candidates and said the

other must drop out so Republicans can turn their attention to defeating the Democratic nominee, state Rep. James Talarico of Austin.

Paxton was asked about Trump's post Wednesday night during an appearance on the conservative outlet Real America's Voice.

He said he would continue

See PAXTON Page 5A

## Switch-up confused voters

Moving to precincts caused hundreds to go to wrong polling sites

By TRACEY McMANUS  
Staff Writer  
tracey.mcmamus@dallasnews.com

The local Republican Party's decision to revert Dallas County to precinct-based voting caused hundreds of voters to go to the wrong polling sites on Tuesday — but it also trig-

gered a cascade of problems within county operations that further derailed voters.

Some Democrats and Republicans within the same precinct, or the same household, were required to report to different polling sites due to being the GOP's push for a separate primary.

The county stationed navigators at the doors of 75 polling locations with party-specific tablets to look up voters'

See Gives: Victory 'built by the people' on 1B

precincts and redirect them accordingly. Election workers at more than 270 locations without navigators were provided with the same Democratic and Republican tablets for that purpose.

But if navigators failed to ask for a voter's party affiliation

See HUNDREDS Page 5A

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Breezy; storms possible



INSIDE

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NATION & WORLD

War continues  
The House narrowly rejected a war powers resolution Thursday to halt President Donald Trump's attacks on Iran. The vote was a slim margin of 212-219. 2A

METRO

More rain to come  
After record rainfall swept across North Texas on Wednesday, the region could see a renewed threat of severe thunderstorms as weather system moves into the Plains. 1B

BUSINESS

Oil prices surge  
Stocks sank on Wall Street Thursday after the price of oil spiked to its highest level since the summer of 2024 because of the continued war with Iran. 3B



My nanny flirts with my husband, but I can't sack her



Peakier Blinders the movie Shelby's daftest mission yet



The Daily Telegraph

Starmmer: US must negotiate with Iran

PM calls for de-escalation talks with regime despite it bombing allies in the Middle East

By Daniel Martin, Charles Hymas and Nick Gutteridge... SIR KEIR STARMER has told Donald Trump to negotiate with Iran despite the regime firing missiles at allies across the Middle East.

At a press conference in Downing Street, Sir Keir announced that Britain would send four additional Typhoon jets to Qatar to bolster the country's defences. But discussing the ongoing US strikes, the Prime Minister said: "The long-standing British position is that the best way forward for the region and the world is a negotiated settlement with Iran where they give up their nuclear arsenal."



Pro-Iran protesters in Manchester mourned the death of Ayatollah Khamenei and burned images of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, on Wednesday night

Images of Benjamin Netanyahu and clashed with counter-protesters. A major pro-Iran march is scheduled to be held in London this month, sparking fears of serious public disorder. Organisers say they expect thousands of people to attend the annual Al Quds march and rally on March 15, which has been linked to the Iranian regime.

INSIDE Reports Pages 4-7 Editorial Comment Page 15 Ambrose Evans-Pritchard Page 21

counter-demonstration will be on a scale never seen before. We need action now to prevent violent clashes on our streets. "We cannot allow the streets of London to become a place for the Iranian regime to spread their propaganda, or to descend into chaos and violence."

by Britain's response. Mr Trump also reiterated his disappointment in Sir Keir, telling the New York Post: "He should be giving us, without question or hesitation, things like bases where we can use others. We should [be able to] certainly count on them. I was very surprised at Keir. Very disappointed."

Labour MP quits over husband's spy arrest

By Martin Evans and Simon Johnson... A LABOUR MP has been suspended from the party whip after her husband was arrested on suspicion of spying for China.

Joani Reid's husband, David Taylor, was detained by the Metropolitan Police on Wednesday and held under the National Security Act before being released on bail. "I understand that speculation and gossip is fevered at a time like this. I do not want the circumstances that I and my family find ourselves in to be a distraction for this Government, of which I am proud and in whom I believe. I also

do not want my children - who have nothing to answer for and who deserve privacy and compassion - to find themselves subject to intrusion." She issued the statement after Anas Sarwar, the Scottish Labour leader, said she had been referred to the party's governance and legal unit for investigation. Mr Sarwar said the allegations against her husband were "deeply concerning" and the unit would consider whether she would be suspended and if she should continue serving on the Commons home affairs committee.

Householders feel pinch from Trump's war

By Zachariah Sharif and Madeleine Ross... THE first major lenders have raised mortgage rates as the war in the Middle East pushes up the price of borrowing. HSBC, Natwest, Nationwide and Coventry Building Society announced their fixed rates would increase from this week.

Ed Miliband also admitted yesterday that household bills would be "exposed" to rising global energy prices after a drop-off in oil and gas traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Before the outbreak of the war last weekend, markets had been expecting the Bank of England to cut the bank rate - which is 3.75 per cent - this month and again before the end of the year.

they could force the Bank to push interest rates back up above 4 per cent when it announces its decision on March 19. Holidays are also expected to become more expensive as the cost of jet fuel hit a four-year high. Fares to Australia have already jumped £600, with projections suggesting that prices could stick at 30 to 40 per cent higher through the summer.

Table with 2 columns: Category (Puzzles, Obituaries, TV listings, Weather) and Value (16, 25, 26, 28)

NEWS Hamilton: Africa must take back control Sir Lewis Hamilton said that Africa needs to unite and take itself back from the British, the French, the Spanish and the Portuguese. The British seven-time world champion, who described himself as "half-African", vowed to carry on racing in Formula One until there was a grand prix in Africa. Sir Lewis, 41, said he had been "fighting for the past six, seven years" to get a race in Africa back on the calendar. "There's one on every other continent, why not Africa?"

NEWS BBC would back tax to replace licence fee The BBC would support replacing the licence fee with a tax as it battles to make more people pay for its services. The corporation said that it was up to the Government to decide on a new funding model, but raised the idea of a "levy" in its 100-page response to a Government green paper on the future of the BBC. The corporation did not call directly for a household levy, but said it was "instructive" to look at how other European countries funded their public service broadcasters.

MATT comic strip featuring a man in a hat and a dog, with a caption: "When you're finished with that boat, could the Royal Navy borrow it?"

Tottenham turmoil Spurs dragged into relegation battle Sport

WORLD ICE Barbie axed for former MMA fighter Donald Trump has sacked Kristi Noem, his homeland security secretary, longtime ally and one of the most senior members of his cabinet. Mr Trump announced Markwayne Mullin, a former MMA fighter, would replace Ms Noem at the end of the month. Ms Noem, who has earned the nickname ICE Barbie for her glamorous displays during immigration missions, faced intense questioning from senators over the administration's controversial immigration crackdown.

## Fallout ripples across Mideast, beyond as Iran war escalates



Displaced residents from the southern suburbs of Beirut gather in the Lebanese capital's Martyrs' Square on Thursday after the Israeli army issued a warning to evacuate. The Israel-Hezbollah war that began Monday is the third such conflict in 20 years. KHALIL ASHAWI/REUTERS

### Anger mounts against Hezbollah after Lebanon pulled into another fight

MARK MacKINNON  
SENIOR INTERNATIONAL  
CORRESPONDENT

There was a time when Fatima Daoud supported Hezbollah and saw the group as defending Lebanon's sovereignty. But her affection for the "Party of God" expired as it dragged her country into war after war, driving her family from one home to another.

The Israel-Hezbollah war that began Monday — just one front in the widening Middle East war — is the third such conflict in 20 years and the second in 15 months. The fighting has forced Ms. Daoud and her family to move seven times, from their destroyed home in southern Lebanon, via a succession of rented apartments and temporary shelters, to the high school where she and her family were camped Thursday.

Hezbollah's decision to launch a volley of rockets at Israel on Monday — an attack it said was retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli strike on Iran, which has supported Hezbollah since its founding in 1982 — has provoked the predictably harsh Israeli military response, but also a firestorm of

criticism within the country.

Opposition to Hezbollah had been hardening for years among Lebanon's Christians, Sunni Muslim and Druze. What's different this time is that many in the group's own Shia Muslim community are expressing bafflement and anger at the decision to pull the country into yet another war. Many feel that Hezbollah, which has always professed to put Lebanon's interests first, had shown that its ultimate loyalty has always been to Tehran.

"This was between Israel and Iran — so why did we launch rockets from south Lebanon?" Ms. Daoud asked. "We got displaced for what reason? Is this life, what we're living now?"

It wasn't clear whether she and her husband and four children would be safe spending the night on the floor of the high school or if they would have to flee to an eighth location. Shortly before dusk, the Israeli military warned all residents of Beirut's southern suburbs, an area collectively known as the Dahiya and home to about 400,000 people, to evacuate ahead of expected heavy attacks.

■ HEZBOLLAH, A6

### Conflict poised to reshape UAE's role in Africa

GEOFFREY YORK  
AFRICA BUREAU CHIEF  
JOHANNESBURG

As they voiced their sympathy for the victims of Iranian air strikes this week, two African governments made the curious decision to omit a key country from their commiseration list: the United Arab Emirates.

The reluctance of Sudan and Somalia to condemn the attacks on the UAE, even as it struggled to fight off hundreds of Iranian missiles and drones, was the latest sign of the oil-rich Gulf state's controversial and expanding role in some of Africa's biggest conflicts.

The UAE's financial and military support has fuelled wars in Sudan and Ethiopia and bolstered a secessionist movement in Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland, according to widespread reports from the region. The Gulf state has also invested billions of dollars in commercial projects across Africa in a bid to boost its political and economic influence.

Now, those same African countries are trying to calculate the impact of the UAE's sudden involvement in the Iran conflict.

Some believe the steep cost of the war could force the Emirates to pull back from Africa to conserve its financial and military resources. Others say the Iranian assault on the UAE could generate enough international sympathy to discourage any Western pressure to scale back its role in Sudan and elsewhere.

■ AFRICA, A5

### Border agency suspects 28 regime officials are in Canada despite ban

MAURA FORREST MONTREAL

Canadian border authorities have identified nearly 30 suspected senior Iranian officials who they believe should be barred from remaining in the country under a federal ban, amid a widening conflict in the Middle East that could see more regime officials seek refuge.

The Canada Border Services Agency has been investigating 95 cases involving possible high-ranking members of the Iranian regime, up from 66 last June, according to figures provided by the agency.

Of those 95, the CBSA has identified 28 people it believes are inadmissible since senior Iranian officials were banned from the country in November, 2022. That number is up from 20 last year.

But the CBSA has so far removed only one official from Canada — a number that remains unchanged from last year.

While the cases wind their way through Canada's immigration system, there are concerns the war in Iran could drive more officials to try to enter the country, despite Canada's efforts to keep them out.

"The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) closely monitors all international developments which could give bad actors a greater motive to seek safe haven in Canada, so that we may anticipate and thwart unauthorized travel attempts," spokesperson Luke Reimer said in a statement.

■ CBSA, A5

### Court order links police corruption investigation, Wedding case

COLIN FREEZE  
SARA MOJTEHEDZADEH

A central figure in the Project South police corruption probe has been linked in court documents to an alleged accomplice of accused cocaine kingpin Ryan Wedding, connecting for the first time the two sprawling investigations into organized crime in Canada.

Brian Da Costa, an alleged drug trafficker accused of bribing Toronto police officers and leaking computer data later used in organized crime intimidation campaigns, has been ordered not to contact Gurpreet Singh — a Toronto-area man who allegedly conspired to transport hundreds of kilograms of cocaine into Canada for the Wedding network.

Mr. Da Costa was released Wednesday on the condition that he not contact more than 30 individuals, including Mr. Singh, according to the release order, signed by Justice of the Peace Anne Finn.

Mr. Singh, who is fighting extradition to the United States, where he faces drug-trafficking charges, has been jailed at Toronto South Detention Centre since October, 2024.

■ DA COSTA, A19

NEWS Trump seeks say on next supreme leader; Azerbaijan accuses Tehran of drone attacks ■ A3



WEEKEND WATCHING  
Electric direction and performances give life to gonzo Frankenstein riff *The Bride!* ■ A16

NIKO TAVENISE/  
WARNER BROS  
ENTERTAINMENT VIA AP

TORONTO  
Ford mulling creation of artificial island for massive new convention centre ■ A8

REPORT ON BUSINESS  
Canadian Natural halts oil sands expansion, citing lack of clarity on carbon policy ■ B1

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PODCAST Canada lags Alabama on GDP per capita. Tim Kiladze talks what we could learn from the southern state [tgam.ca/TheDecibel](https://www.tgam.ca/TheDecibel)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

## IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACTION



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STAFF

Spring is sort of here, if you know where to look. The birds are back, the sun has some oomph at last, and Daylight Saving Time is coming Sunday. That's not to say winter is completely in the rear view, and if you want to play basketball outside, like a few kids outside the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, you have to make some allowances. **As I See It, B1.**

## As war intensifies, vets stress human cost

### Concerns about an open-ended commitment

By Brian MacQuarrie  
GLOBE STAFF

American military veterans are voicing strong reactions about the intensifying war in Iran: support for confronting a brutal regime, wariness about the long-term consequences, and questions about government transparency and trust.

In interviews, veterans from Vietnam to Iraq expressed anger about hundreds of past American casualties from Iranian-backed militias and mu-

nitions, while also calling for a public explanation of why US service members are being put in harm's way.

By Thursday, six American service members had been killed.

"There's no love lost with Iran in this, but on the other side, you're worried about a new forever war," said Jack Hammond, a retired Army brigadier general who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. "What worries us is going back to those two previous wars, where we didn't have very clearly de-

finied objectives or withdrawal criteria."

Hammond recounted Iran's role in the 1983 truck bombing of a Marine barracks in Beirut, where 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers were killed. The Iranian regime also was responsible for introducing armor-piercing roadside bombs to Iraq, killing and wounding hundreds of US service members there.

"Just remember the history here," said Micah Jones, a Republican congressional candidate from Essex and

VETERANS, Page A4

### Chaos in Beirut

An Israeli order for residents to evacuate immediately was followed by a bombing campaign that raised fears of a new front. **A4.**

### Still in control

So far, major military operations have not threatened the Iranian regime's grip on power, officials said. **A5.**

**Plymouth County Sheriff Joe McDonald moved to lay off 33 employees as he and other sheriffs navigate widespread scrutiny of their spending. B1.**

**A commercial fishing boat overturned off Provincetown and its two crew members are presumed dead. B1.**

**Jayson Tatum is expected to return to the court tonight, months after rupturing his Achilles tendon in May. C1.**

## Housing boom gives Lexington pause

### Change happening too quickly for some

By Andrew Brinker  
GLOBE STAFF

LEXINGTON — For centuries, one of the tallest points in this town's historic center has been Belfry Hill, where a replica of the old wooden tower whose bells rang out at the start of the battles that began the Revolutionary War has long stood.

Soon, the belfry may have a more modern neighbor, almost as tall: a four-story mixed-use development

that will include more than 50 new homes.

The new building still requires approvals from a few municipal boards, including the town's historic districts commission. But if all goes to plan, it would pave the way for a building that, to many, symbolizes the change suddenly sweeping through a community whose identity is tied to events of 250 years ago, and the preservation of it.

Lexington is set to add around 1,600 new apartments and condominiums in the coming years, turning this community of 35,000, which has built little in decades, into

the state's new housing boomtown.

All of those new homes are the result of the ambitious plan Lexington passed in 2023 under the state's MBTA Communities Act. Even as other towns mulled rebellion, affluent, liberal Lexington became the first place to pass new zoning rules under the law — allowing tall, dense buildings in key parts of town — and won plaudits from advocates, state officials, and even a glowing article in *The New Yorker*.

But the reality of so much growth so quickly is, well, complicated.

Once-enthused residents are

LEXINGTON, Page A7

## RFK Jr. not exactly sweet on Dunkin'

By Tal Kopan  
GLOBE STAFF

AUSTIN, Texas — As Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. ticked through a list of ways the Trump administration is trying to clean up the nation's food supply before an appreciative Texas crowd last week, he previewed more to come, including potentially pulling certain ingredients from the market if they can't be proven safe.

And then he singled out a Massachusetts staple.

"We're going to ask Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks, 'Show us the safety data that show that it's OK for a teenage girl to drink an iced coffee with 115 grams of sugar in it,'" Kennedy told the applauding audience. "I don't think they're gonna be able to do it."

It's unclear if the administration will follow through on such demands and restrict sugary beverages at Dunkin' and similar chains, despite Kennedy's declarative comments at the Austin food-focused

DUNKIN', Page A7



GLOBE STAFF ILLUSTRATION WITH IMAGES FROM DUNKIN' AND AP

## Trump fires Noem after GOP grilling

### Homeland security chief at center of controversies

By Michael C. Bender, Michael Gold, Hamed Aleaziz, and Maggie Haberman  
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Trump fired his embattled homeland security secretary, Kristi Noem, on Thursday and announced plans to replace her with Senator Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma, after she was grilled by Republican lawmakers this week at congressional hearings on a variety of topics, including her knowledge of a contract with a politically connected firm.

Trump announced the change on social media, along with a new, and previously nonexistent, role for Noem: special envoy for the Shield of the Americas, which he said would be a new security initiative for the Western Hemisphere.

Trump is close with Mullin, a Republican, and speaks with him regularly. Mullin said that Noem had "done the best that she could do under the circumstances," but that he hoped to learn from her tenure and "build off things that didn't quite go as



Kristi Noem had a key role in the mass deportation effort.

NOEM, Page A6

## Haitian living in Boston dies in ICE custody, family says

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio and Shannon Larson  
GLOBE STAFF

A Haitian man who had been living in Dorchester died in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody this week after an untreated tooth infection led to sepsis, according to his family.

Emmanuel Damas, 56, had been held at the Florence Correctional Center in Arizona since around October, after his arrest in Boston on a domestic incident involving his son.

In mid-February, Damas told personnel at the Florence facility that he had a toothache, but he was not sent to a dentist, his brother Presly Nelson said in an interview.

Damas was seeking asylum and had entered the country legally through a Joe Biden-era humanitarian parole program for Haitians in 2024, Nelson said.

Damas died Monday at a Scottsdale hospital, af-

ICE, Page A6

### The big sleet

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Weather and Comics, G6-7.

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**Movie review:** 'Hoppers,' Pixar's newest animated film, is a wild visit to the animal kingdom.



**WORLD:** Europe commits to expanding Iran campaign as Israel strikes targets in southern Lebanon, 6A

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# Miami Herald



PHOTO BY MATIAS J. OCNER [mocner@miamiherald.com](mailto:mocner@miamiherald.com)  
Rabbi Rachel Greengrass speaks during an iftar dinner welcoming Muslims and Jews to discuss the role of fasting in both traditions at Temple Israel of Greater Miami.

## Miami Jewish and Muslim communities unite over shared values — and dinner

BY LAUREN COSTANTINO  
[lcostantino@miamiherald.com](mailto:lcostantino@miamiherald.com)

Plates of challah bread and bowls of dates sat in the center of each table. Manischewitz wine — a staple of Shabbat — was replaced with grape juice to accommodate those who don't drink alcohol. Faith leaders of various religions gathered around the table to discuss fasting — not just as a religious ritual, but a way to build empathy for people who go without food because of their circumstances, not by choice.

At an uncommon merging of holy days,

Jews and Muslims came together in Miami on Friday for a family-style dinner to celebrate Shabbat, the weekly Jewish day of rest, and Ramadan, Islam's holiest month marked by daily fasting from sunrise to sunset.

The event, hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, highlighted a shared tradition between the two faiths: fasting as both a spiritual discipline and a reminder of responsibility to the



PHOTO BY MATIAS J. OCNER [mocner@miamiherald.com](mailto:mocner@miamiherald.com)  
Guests light candles during an interfaith iftar dinner at Temple Israel of Greater Miami.

SEE DINNER, 2A

## How UF's law school got faculty to 'bend the rules' for James Uthmeier

BY GARRETT SHANLEY  
[garrett.shanley@miamiherald.com](mailto:garrett.shanley@miamiherald.com)

Leaders at the University of Florida's law school sidestepped internal rules to rush Attorney General James Uthmeier into a part-time teaching role, granting unusual leeway to a politically powerful adjunct earning a \$100,000 salary.

Internal emails reviewed by the Herald/Times show that Uthmeier began teaching at UF's Levin College of Law more than a month before his first course was formally approved, submitted incomplete syllabi and never received the full faculty sign-off required under law school protocols.



MATIAS J. OCNER [mocner@miamiherald.com](mailto:mocner@miamiherald.com)  
From left to right: Florida Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia, Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier and Florida Lt. Gov. Jay Collins attend the first day of the 2026 legislative session at the Florida State Capitol on Jan. 13 in Tallahassee.

also captures mounting frustration from the professor tasked with overseeing the attorney general's course review, who warned the dean he was willing to "bend the rules" — but not ignore them altogether.

The apparent corner-cutting illustrates how top brass at Florida's flagship law school relaxed longstanding safeguards to fast-track the state's top legal official into its class-

SEE UTHMEIER, 12A

## After backlash, Trump fires Noem from Homeland Security

BY ANTONIO MARIA DELGADO  
[Adelgado@tlnuovoherald.com](mailto:Adelgado@tlnuovoherald.com)

President Donald Trump announced Thursday that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem will step down from her position to become special envoy for a new regional security initiative called the "Shield of the Americas," a program aimed at strengthening security cooperation across the Western Hemisphere. Noem's reassignment comes after mounting political pressure in Washington over her response to a controversial immigration enforcement operation in Minnesota that ended with federal agents fatally shooting two U.S. citizens.

The announcement, made in a post on Trump's Truth Social platform,

comes just days before a summit in Doral, where the president is expected to unveil on Saturday the initiative alongside several Latin American leaders. Noem is expected at the event.

"Kristi Noem, who has served us well, and has had numerous and spectacular results (especially on the Border), will be moving to be Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas, our new Security Initiative in the Western Hemisphere we are announcing on Saturday in Doral, Florida," Trump wrote. "I thank Kristi for her service at 'Homeland.'"

The "Shield of the Americas" initiative is designed to promote closer coordination between the



Kristi Noem

United States and countries across Latin America and the Caribbean to confront transnational threats, including drug trafficking, organized crime and irregular migration.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Wednesday that the summit aims to promote "freedom, security and prosperity in our region" and described the gathering as a historic effort to build a regional coalition.

"These countries have really formed a historic coalition to work together to address criminal narco-terrorist gangs and cartels and counter illegal and mass migration into not only the United States but the Western Hemisphere,"

SEE NOEM, 8A

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# The Guardian

## Israel tells 500,000 to flee Beirut ahead of airstrikes

**IDF warns residents of southern suburbs to 'evacuate immediately'**

**William Christou**  
Beirut

The Israeli military ordered the entire population of Beirut's southern suburbs to evacuate yesterday, as it continued to bomb Lebanon and Iran, while Tehran launched retaliatory airstrikes against Israel and US bases across the region.

The Israel Defense Forces told all 500,000 residents of Beirut's southern suburbs to "save your lives and evacuate your homes immediately", before launching airstrikes on what it described as Hezbollah targets in the area. The area covered by the order included several hospitals and government ministries.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump said he should be involved in choosing Iran's next supreme leader to replace Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in a US-Israeli airstrike. Trump said that Mojtaba Khamenei, the 56-year-old son of the late supreme leader - the country's head of state and commander-in-chief - would be an "unacceptable" choice.

"We want to be involved in the process of choosing the person who is going to lead Iran into the future," Trump told Reuters. "We don't have to go back every five years and do this again and again ... Somebody that's going to be great for the people, great for the country."

Iran expanded its campaign of airstrikes, firing



▲ The road out of southern Beirut yesterday. There were fears for those people unable to flee PHOTOGRAPH: BILAL HUSSEIN/AP

**Starmer urges US to reach deal with Iran**

**Pippa Crerar**  
Political editor

Keir Starmer said yesterday that the Iran conflict engulfing the Middle East could continue "for some time" and told Donald Trump that the "best way forward" in the longer term was a negotiated settlement with Tehran.

The prime minister said the UK was doing "everything we can" to de-escalate the situation. In contrast, the US president is focused on regime change and has said it is "too late" for the Iranian regime to negotiate.

Starmer defended his decision to not involve the UK in initial offensive strikes by the US and Israel at the weekend, saying he stood by his judgment and denying that it had damaged the "special relationship".

The prime minister has faced some criticism from Gulf states and Cyprus for not doing enough to protect regional allies and British citizens in the area from Iranian strikes. He has also been subject to personal attacks from Trump, including a comment that he was "not Winston Churchill".

But the prime minister has urged the US president to de-escalate the conflict and

## Migrant plans mimic Trump, say Labour MPs

**Kiran Stacey**  
**Diane Taylor**

Shabana Mahmood has put herself on a collision course with Labour MPs after announcing a set of changes to the immigration system that one backbencher said mimicked Donald

Trump and another claimed would inevitably lead to a Windrush-style scandal.

The home secretary announced her plans yesterday, including an end to permanent refugee status and the removal of government support from asylum seekers who are deemed not to need it or who break the law.

She also launched a pilot project to pay 150 families whose asylum claims had been rejected up to £40,000 each to voluntarily leave the country or face forcible removal. The families have been contacted and have seven days to decide whether to accept or refuse the offer.

In a speech in central London, Mahmood said: "The generosity of the British people will become conditional on those seeking asylum following the law, living by our rules and not working illegally."

"Taxpayer-funded accommodation will be reserved for those who

have no right to work and will otherwise be destitute, such as for any British citizen. Rights must come with responsibilities, and British taxpayers cannot be expected to fund the lives of those who refuse."

She said the proposals were needed to restore control at the borders and combat the rising appeal of hard-right parties such as Reform UK. "If we don't resolve these problems, others with none of our values will be given the chance to do so instead," she said.

But they risk a damaging fight with her own

**Musicals lead charge for Olivier awards**

Paddington and Sondheim's Into the Woods dominate the nominations

News Page 13 →

Literatura



Muere Lobo Antunes, el coloso de las letras portuguesas —P40 Y 41

## ENCUESTA DE 40DB. SOBRE LA ESCALADA BÉLICA EN ORIENTE PRÓXIMO

## Dos de cada tres españoles se oponen a la guerra contra Irán

● El 61,5% respalda el envío de una fragata a Chipre ante los ataques de Teherán

● El 53,1% secunda la decisión de no permitir el uso de las bases militares a EE UU

● Un 42,2% apoya la actuación de Sánchez, un 18,7% la de Feijóo y un 12,7% la de Trump

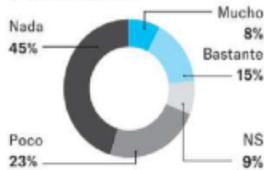
XOSÉ HERMIDA  
Madrid

El 68,2% de los españoles está en desacuerdo con los ataques que Estados Unidos e Israel iniciaron el pasado sábado contra Irán, frente a un 23,2% que sí apoya esta ofensiva, según una encuesta de 40dB para EL PAÍS y la Cadena SER. Las respuestas sobre la actuación del Gobierno no son tan

concluyentes. El 61,5% secunda el envío de una fragata a Chipre como muestra del compromiso con la defensa de la UE; el 56,9% avala la decisión de no apoyar militarmente a EE UU en la guerra y el 53,1% respalda el rechazo a que el presidente de EE UU, Donald Trump, utilice las bases militares de Morón de la Frontera (Sevilla) y Rota (Cádiz) para los ataques.

## ¿Está de acuerdo con el ataque?

En % de encuestados



El 42,2% de los encuestados considera que el presidente del Gobierno, Pedro Sánchez, ha actuado bien ante el inicio de la guerra, por un 18,7% que valora positivamente el papel del líder del PP, Alberto Núñez Feijóo. Solo el 12,7% respalda a Trump y el 10,7% apoya la actuación del primer ministro israelí, Benjamin Netanyahu. —P16 Y 17

Europa estrena con el apoyo militar a Chipre la defensa común —P2

Azerbaiyán acusa al régimen iraní de un ataque con drones —P4

Israel hunde a Líbano en el caos ante la impopular ofensiva de Hezbolá —P6

La Casa Blanca incita a los insurgentes kurdos a intervenir —P7

## La gasolina experimenta la mayor subida de los últimos ocho meses

La previsión apunta a otro fuerte aumento la próxima semana

ÁLVARO SÁNCHEZ  
Madrid

La guerra en Oriente Próximo ya se está notando en el bolsillo de los conductores. La gasolina se ha colocado en un precio medio de 1,486 euros por litro, lo que supone un incremento del 1% respecto a la semana anterior. Se trata de la mayor subida desde finales de junio, hace poco más de ocho meses. La previsión es que la próxima semana las tarifas europeas vuelvan a sufrir un importante aumento. —P26



SAMUEL SÁNCHEZ

## ARCO 2026 Barceló muestra su obra a los Reyes en el stand de EL PAÍS

Los Reyes visitaron ayer Arco, que se celebra en Ifema (Madrid) hasta el domingo. En su recorrido por los stands, hicieron una parada en el espacio de EL PAÍS, donde Miquel Bar-

celó les explicó sus intervenciones sobre páginas de periódicos. Junto a Felipe VI y doña Letizia escucharon los comentarios del artista el ministro de Cultura, Ernest Urtegasun;

Pilar Gil, vicepresidenta del consejo de administración del Grupo Prisa; Maribel López, directora de Arco, y Joseph Oughourlian, presidente de Prisa. —P44

## Un error del juez Peinado deja al borde del archivo una causa sobre un parque solar

M. PLANELLES / R. RINCÓN  
Madrid

Un error del juez Juan Carlos Peinado ha dejado en el aire una investigación sobre irregularidades en un megaparque solar en Cáceres. La Fiscalía, pese a apreciar delito, ha pedido el archivo de la causa porque Peinado no amplió la instrucción a tiempo. —P32

## Trump releva a la responsable de la política contra los inmigrantes

PAOLA NAGOVITCH  
Nueva York

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Donald Trump, destituyó ayer a Kristi Noem como secretaria de Seguridad Nacional. Noem era la responsable del temido ICE, el brazo ejecutor de la campaña contra la inmigración emprendida por la Casa Blanca. —P9