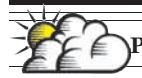


The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Partly sunny 62/49 • Tomorrow: Periods of sun 58/34 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 • \$4

President turns on closest U.S. allies

Critics warn posture of tariffs and threats could embolden China, Russia

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM

Denmark's prime minister is jetting around Europe seeking support as President Donald Trump takes aim at Greenland. Colombia's president is facing Trump's wrath on migration. And Canadian and Mexican leaders scrambled Saturday after their countries were blasted by tariffs from their closest ally, the United States.

Since returning to office last month, Trump has embraced a guns-blazing approach to imposing U.S. power on the world — one in which the friendlier the nation, the greater the leverage he has to break ties, cut trade and force leaders to bow to his demands. Rivals and foes in Moscow and Beijing haven't faced the same threats, partly because Trump doesn't have the same power over them. Canadian and Mexican imports were hit with a 25 percent tax on Saturday, while Chinese goods were slapped with a 10 percent tax on top of current tariffs.

Trump administration officials say that the approach has delivered some quick wins — such as forcing Colombian President Gustavo Petro to back down last month and allow the continuation of deportation flights into his country after turning around two military airplanes. Danish leaders, meanwhile, announced a nearly \$2 billion investment in Greenland's security — a step that is unlikely to satisfy Trump's aim of taking control of the territory but is still an attempt to quell his hunger.

But critics warn that Trump's might-makes-right style could easily backfire. China has fresh arguments in Latin America that it is a more predictable partner than Washington, some critics say. And in Europe, leaders have been forced to focus on a demand for territorial conquest by their closest ally and protector

SEE TRUMP ON A4



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Ahmed Bakr, with his children outside their home in Jubata al-Khashab, Syria, less than 100 yards from a new Israeli-built barrier.

Israeli advance in Syria raises fears

Construction of new outposts, visible in satellite imagery, suggests plans for an extended presence

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, ZAKARIA ZAKARIA AND MEG KELLY

JUBATA AL-KHASHAB, SYRIA — As the Israeli military swept into a string of Syrian villages nearly two months ago, the soldiers assured locals that the presence would be temporary — the aim limited to seizing weapons and securing the area after the collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

But the earthmoving vehicles that followed suggest a more permanent presence.

"They are building military bases. How is that temporary?" asked Mohammed Murawid, the mayor of Jubata al-Khashab, who has watched Israel troops construct a new military outpost on the edge of his village.

Satellite imagery examined by The Washington Post shows more than half a dozen structures and vehicles in the walled Israeli base, with nearly identical construction five miles to the south. Both are linked by new dirt roads to territory in the Golan Heights that Israel captured in its 1967 war with its Arab neighbors. An area of cleared land, which experts say appears to be the beginnings of a third base, is visible another few miles south.

Hours after Assad's grip on his country crumbled in December, Israeli tanks and

SEE SYRIA ON A18



PLANET LABS

A comparison of satellite imagery captured on Dec. 18 and Jan. 29 shows a new Israeli-built road stretching across the Israel-Syria ceasefire line from the Israeli border to the top of a hill near the village of Kodana, Syria.

Temporary protection for Venezuelans to end

BY MARIA SACCHETTI AND YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi L. Noem has decided to end temporary humanitarian protections for approximately 350,000 Venezuelans who sought refuge in the United States in the past few years, putting them at imminent risk of being forced to return to the autocratic regime they left behind in South America.

Noem wrote that conditions in Venezuela "no longer" met the criteria for its citizens to qualify

for temporary protected status, which was set to expire in April for those who became eligible for it in 2023, according to a copy of the unpublished notice that DHS released Sunday.

The Biden administration had extended their protections through the fall of 2026, citing extreme poverty and economic and political crises. But the Trump administration quickly reversed that decision, and now the group that received temporary protection in 2023 could lose it 60 days after the notice is officially published in the Feder-

al Register. Officials did not say when it could publish.

Noem also determined that allowing Venezuelans to live and work in the United States is "contrary to the national interest," she said, citing gang activity — though criminals are generally ineligible for temporary protection — as well as the cost to cities such as New York to shelter migrants and other concerns.

Noem acknowledged that Venezuela is still struggling with many of the issues that the Biden administration raised, but she

SEE DHS ON A12

Migrants in jail and a community on edge

In Newark, arrest of three men at their job pushes some residents into hiding

BY SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU AND MARIANNE LEVINE

NEWARK — David Salinas's day started out like any other.

He was doing inventory of shellfish on the computer in an office at the Ocean Seafood Depot, where he has worked for nearly two years, when he heard loud shouting coming from the warehouse. He stood up.

A co-worker whispered: "I hope that's not what I'm thinking."

They opened the door to the warehouse, he said, and heard a voice asking: "Who speaks Spanish?"

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers appeared beside her. They told workers to drop everything they were doing. The agents started separating the

Spanish-speaking workers from the rest, Salinas and another employee recalled. They demanded to see identification.

Salinas's heart raced as he showed an agent his Ecuadorian ID. Next thing he knew, his hands were behind his back. Handcuffs were tightened around them.

"I never imagined it would happen because we thought that

SEE NEWARK ON A6



JIM COMMENTUCCI/GETTY IMAGES

Ex-MLB commissioner Vincent dies

Fay Vincent, who spent three challenging years leading Major League Baseball and negotiated a lifetime ban of Pete Rose for gambling on games, died at 86. **Obituary, D1**

IN THE NEWS

Brace for impact? Astronomers have detected an asteroid that has a small chance of hitting Earth in 2032, but they say there's no need for panic. **A9**

A head-turning trade The Los Angeles Lakers and Luka Dončić came out the clear winners in a swap of NBA superstars. **D1**

THE NATION
Bernie Sanders and RFK Jr. share much political DNA but have split over health care. **A2**
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Love it or ban it? Issues around Chinese technology are complex, writes tech columnist Shira Ovide. **A15**

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Bishop Mariann E. Budde went viral with her sermon to Trump, but now she says it's time to get back to work. **B1**

STYLE
Butterworth's, a restaurant on Capitol Hill, has become a hangout for MAGA operatives and the far right. **C1**
The Pentagon moved to remove four news organizations from their office space and replace them with other media outlets. **C1**

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