



T-storm 87/64 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 80/59 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 • \$4

High court backs hold on wartime act powers

Justices don't address broader question over legality of deportations

BY ANN E. MARIMOW

The Supreme Court on Friday kept a block on the Trump administration's use of a rarely invoked wartime power to deport migrants in Northern Texas and said administration officials had not given those targeted for removal last month sufficient time to challenge their deportations.

The justices called the detainees' interests "particularly weighty" because of the risk of removal to a notorious megaprison in El Salvador where the migrants could face indefinite detention.

President Donald Trump's use of the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to target a Venezuelan gang is one of the most controversial parts of his mass deportation efforts, which are at the center of increasingly tense standoffs between his administration and the courts.

Trump responded angrily to the Friday order in a post on Truth Social, writing "THE SUPREME COURT WON'T ALLOW US TO GET CRIMINALS OUT OF OUR COUNTRY!"

The justices had told the administration in early April that it must give targeted detainees sufficient notice "within a reasonable time and in such a manner" that they can challenge their removal in the jurisdictions

SEE SUPREME COURT ON A2

Abrego García: Judges in D.C., Md. press administration on return. **B1**

Reform UK's surge could mark political 'tipping point'

Recent local-election wins have sparked panic in the two major parties

BY STEVE HENDRIX

STANLEY, ENGLAND — Darren Grimes could have been a grandson to the veterans gathered at a nursing home strung with Union Jack banners for Victory in Europe Day. But the elders in medal-covered blazers treated the 31-year-old as the man of the hour, and maybe the politician of the future.

"I voted for you." "Well done, lad." "First time I ever voted anything but Labour." One after another, they congratulated Grimes, a hairstylist turned conservative TV host, as he attended one of his first events since being elected to the Durham County Council this month.

"We are going to make some changes," Grimes said, as he handed out cups of tea in the dining room of the Stanley Park Care Home.

Grimes's Reform UK — the populist right-wing party founded by anti-Europe, anti-immigration activist Nigel Farage — swept into office in May 1 elections, winning new majorities here on the Durham County Council and on nine other regional councils

SEE REFORM UK ON A16

Withering air campaign in Gaza may presage ground assault



ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

People try to get food from a community kitchen Friday in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, following Israeli strikes this week that have killed hundreds. "We're going all the way," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed. **Story, A9**



BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS

President Donald Trump visits Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue at an interfaith center in Abu Dhabi, the final stop of his Mideast trip.

Trump claims deals that predate his presidency

Of contracts announced in Mideast, half a dozen go back before January

BY CAT ZAKRZEWSKI, ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER AND SUSANNAH GEORGE

The White House this week labeled President Donald Trump "the dealmaker in chief," claiming he has secured more than \$2 trillion in investment agreements during his tour through oil-rich Middle Eastern monarchies.

As Air Force One touched down in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, the White House released daily lists

of the dozens of deals it said Trump had secured during his visits. But at least half a dozen of the contracts were announced before Trump even took office in January, according to a Washington Post review of the announcements.

In Doha, the administration announced \$8.5 billion in projects involving the Texas energy company McDermott, including one focused on Qatar's liquefied natural gas expansion. But the company previously announced contracts for that initiative during Joe Biden's presidency, in 2023 and 2024.

When Trump was in Abu Dhabi on Thursday, the White House

SEE TRUMP ON A8

Personal touch: President casts himself as pitchman for the U.S. **A9**

Fetterman's isolation adds to Democratic disquiet

The senator from Pennsylvania is increasingly withdrawing as the party works to regain its footing

BY LIZ GOODWIN AND THEODORIC MEYER

In June 2023, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Washington) posted a video of her greeting her new neighbor on the first floor of the Russell Senate Office Building, John Fetterman, with a welcome wagon of apples, ginger beer and other Washington state fare.

Fetterman told Murray it was an "honor" to be her neighbor and gifted her a hoodie and a hat emblazoned with the word yinzer, a slang term for someone from Pittsburgh. "Can't wait to see you more and more," the Democrat said to his colleague.

Recently, the two senators had a very different interaction. In late January, Fetterman angrily confronted Murray off the Senate floor, accusing her of sabotaging him by releasing a proposed resolution condemning Donald Trump's pardon of Jan. 6 rioters without his knowledge, according to two people with knowledge of the incident, who spoke on the

SEE FETTERMAN ON A6



TOM BRENNER/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pennsylvania) enters an elevator ahead of a vote on May 7 at the U.S. Capitol.

Trump's budget package is blocked

FISCAL HAWKS WANT CUTS TO SPENDING

Moody's cites debt as it lowers U.S. credit rating

BY JACOB BOGAGE AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

Republican budget hard-liners rebelled Friday to block President Donald Trump's massive tax and immigration package over concerns the legislation does not impose deep enough spending cuts.

Five fiscal hawks on the House Budget Committee joined Democrats to sink a procedural vote that would have advanced the measure — formally called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — to the House floor, where Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) hoped to push it through the chamber next week.

The vote is a rebuke of the speaker and Trump, who earlier Friday insisted on social media that the "grandstanders" against the legislation "MUST UNITE behind, 'THE ONE, BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL!... STOP TALKING, AND GET IT DONE!'"

The vote is a significant, but not fatal, setback to the legislation that Trump hopes will define his second term. The bill includes trillions of dollars in tax cuts; ends taxes on tips, overtime wages and auto loan interest, which was one of Trump's campaign promises; and designates hundreds of billions of dollars of spending on the administration's immigration

SEE BUDGET ON A4

Pell Grants: Most recipients will get less under GOP bill, CBO finds. **A4**

DOGE's own errors thwart its efforts to remake SSA

Many changes by Musk's agency unravel; others hurt customer service

BY HANNAH NATANSON, LISA REIN AND MERYL KORNFIELD

The U.S. DOGE Service arrived at the Social Security Administration this year determined to slash staff and root out what it claimed was widespread fraud and wasteful spending — a mission Elon Musk's cost-cutting team has pursued across the government.

But as of this week, many of the major changes DOGE pushed at Social Security have been abandoned or are being reversed after proving ineffective, while others are yielding unintended consequences and badly damaging customer service and satisfaction. The problems come as the agency struggles to cope with a record surge of hundreds of thousands of retirement claims in recent months.

DOGE, which stands for Department of Government Efficiency but is not a Cabinet-level agency, had to cancel a plan to cut phone service for retirement and disability claims after drawing outrage from lawmakers, seniors and advocates. Staff reductions and reassignments led by DOGE

SEE DOGE ON A5

IN THE NEWS

Boeing prosecution The Justice Department plans to drop its case, according to lawyers for plane crash victims, a reversal after the company agreed last year to plead guilty. **A12**

Social media controversy A newly arrived Afrikaner refugee denied allegations that posts he made on X are antisemitic. **A16**

THE NATION Georgia's Medicaid work requirements may present a cautionary tale for the House GOP. **A3**
James B. Comey faces an investigation over accusations he threatened the president online. **A4**

THE WORLD Pakistan celebrated its army after a truce with India, but political unity is elusive. **A7**
Russia took a hard line in Ukraine talks, and the Istanbul meeting ended quickly. **A10**

THE ECONOMY Zeppelin start-ups want to revive airships, saying they would be safer than before and climate-friendly. **A11**
Shoppers report being surprised with new fees long after making online purchases, as tariffs on Chinese goods hit consumers in the U.S. **A12**

THE REGION In Adams Morgan, housemates are fostering community by publishing a print-only magazine. **B1**
Utility officials are planning an emergency repair to a Northwest Washington sewage tunnel that is at risk of collapse. **B1**

STYLE Smartmatic said evidence shows Fox News executives didn't believe 2020 election claims. **C1**

SPORTS The Preakness is about to move (temporarily) from Baltimore after to-day's race. Should it also move its date on the Triple Crown calendar? **D1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A11
COMICS.....C5
OBITUARIES.....B4
OPINION PAGES.....A13
TELEVISION.....C4
WORLD NEWS.....A7

CONTENT © 2025
The Washington Post
Year 148, No. 54219

