

All the News
That's Fit to Print

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, partly cloudy, high 69. To-
night, turning out mostly cloudy, low
54. Tomorrow, breezy, cooler, rain
and drizzle at times, high 57.
Weather map appears on Page A16.

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TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



Sorting through the remains of a home on Saturday in London, Ky. Friday's storm killed at least 19 in Kentucky and nine elsewhere.

AUSTIN ANTHONY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Deal With E.U. Narrows a Gap Brexit Created

By STEPHEN CASTLE and JEANNA SMIALEK

LONDON — Britain and the European Union on Monday struck a landmark deal to remove some post-Brexit trade barriers and to bolster cooperation on security and defense as they reduce their reliance on an unpredictable United States.

The agreement, unveiled by Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain and Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, in Lancaster House, an ornate government building in London, is a significant reset for the two allies.

But the final details of several important policies were not in place, and Britain had to make some concessions that could prove politically costly for Mr. Starmer.

The agreement is designed to help the two sides work more closely together after the Trump administration signaled it was reducing its commitment to European defense and imposed global tariffs.

It also underscores the Labour government's ambition for a "reset" of ties with the 27-nation European Union, almost nine years after Britons voted by a narrow margin to leave the bloc — a decision that has dented Britain's economic growth.

"It's time to look forward," Mr. Starmer said, "to move on from the stale old debates and political fights to focus on delivering common-sense, practical solutions which get the best for the British people."

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Shattered by Tornado, Kentucky City Regroups

This article is by Billy Witz, Tricia Fulks Kelley and Isabelle Taft.

LONDON, Ky. — On Sunday morning in a small Kentucky city, the sun shone and birds chirped.

They provided an incongruent backdrop to a scene that looked like a war zone. Just two days before, a fierce tornado carved a 16-mile path of destruction through Laurel County, Ky., and in its county seat of London, the damage was clear: roofs ripped from homes, tree limbs sheared off, cars left as twisted hunks of metal. And several residents dead.

By the afternoon, the Sunshine

An Army of Volunteers Converges to Clean and Make Repairs

Hills neighborhood of London was filled with the cacophonous beeping of backhoes, accompanied by an army of faith-based volunteers.

Those volunteers were among the many people in London, a city of 8,000 about 80 miles south of Lexington, who worked together this weekend to help not only those in need but also the whole community as it tried to process

the disaster. Amid the grief and devastation, ensuring displaced people got the necessary supplies and assistance was top of mind for many.

"It didn't seem right to be sitting at home with our property being untouched with so many people struggling," said Hannah Clark, who lives in neighboring Pulaski County but came to London to volunteer.

The tornado was part of a storm system that tore through the central United States starting Friday, killing at least 28 people. Of those, 19 died in Kentucky, all but two in

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OKSANA PARAFENIUK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Breaking Military Stereotypes in Ukraine

The country's only female combat pilot flies helicopter missions against Russian troops. Page A4.

Israel Is Wavering on Aid and Strategy in Gaza

By PATRICK KINGSLEY

JERUSALEM — For months, Israel has tried to pressure Hamas by threatening a major new ground offensive in Gaza and simultaneously cutting off aid to the territory.

On Monday, Israel made a U-turn on aid, allowing a few trucks of food to enter Gaza. And despite escalating its rhetoric and its airstrikes

Netanyahu Reassessing Clashing Interests

on Gaza in recent days, the Israeli military had yet to begin the long-awaited major advance that would involve thousands of ground troops. The lack of strategic clarity reflects disagreements within its leadership about Israel's national priorities.

On aid, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must balance right-wing political allies who oppose sending food to Gaza, and foreign allies — including the Trump administration — who feared the blockade would lead to famine. The equivocation over the ground invasion reflects Mr. Netanyahu's need to satisfy far-right cabinet ministers, who are pushing for the full re-occupation of Gaza, and Israel's top

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Inside the Effort to Crush the Palestinian Cause

By KATIE J.M. BAKER

In late April, the Heritage Foundation dispatched a team to Israel to meet with power players in Israeli politics, including the country's foreign and defense secretaries and the U.S. ambassador, Mike Huckabee.

The conservative Washington-based think tank is best known for spearheading Project 2025, a proposed blueprint for President Trump's second term that called

Justices Permit Trump to Undo Migrant Shield

350,000 Venezuelans Could Be Deported

By ABBIE VANSICKLE and ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday let the Trump administration, for now, remove protections from nearly 350,000 Venezuelan immigrants who had been allowed to remain in the United States without risk of deportation under a program known as Temporary Protected Status.

The court's brief order was unsigned and gave no reasons, which is typical when the justices rule on emergency applications. No vote count was listed, although Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson noted that she would have denied the administration's request.

The justices announced they would allow the Trump administration to end the protections pending appeal of the case, potentially allowing the administration to move ahead with deportations. The justices also appeared to suggest that some of the Venezuelans who had been able to receive documentation of their legal status before the Trump administration terminated the program could sue to challenge their deportations.

In a separate case, the justices on Friday criticized the Trump administration for seeking to provide only a day's warning to a different group of Venezuelan immigrants in Texas it had been trying to deport under the expansive powers of the Alien Enemies Act, an 18th-century wartime law. The Trump administration has accused that group of migrants of being members of the violent gang Tren de Aragua.

Monday's order affects a much broader swath of Venezuelans living in the United States legally under the terms of a Biden-era program.

The court has been inundated with applications arising from President Trump's blitz of executive orders, many of them seeking to pause or limit trial court rulings blocking the administration's aggressive agenda, notably in immigration.

Ahilan Arulanantham, a lawyer representing the immigrants challenging the Trump administration, called the court's decision "truly shocking," especially that it was announced "in a two-paragraph order with no reasoning."

"This is the largest single action stripping any group of noncitizens of immigration status in modern U.S. history," Mr. Arulanantham said. "The humanitarian and economic impact of the court's decision"

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More on the White House

FORCED OUT Wendy McMahon, the president of CBS News, departed after months of tension amid a Trump lawsuit. PAGE B1

GLOOMY FORECAST National Weather Service cuts are derailing a plan to modernize. PAGE A10

WARNING The president recently attacked Walmart, saying it should "eat" tariff costs. PAGE B3

G.O.P. SCRAMBLING TO SAVE HUGE BILL AS FACTIONS DUEL

SPEAKER ON TIGHTROPE

Demands Reflect Party's Ideological, Regional and Political Splits

By CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON — Speaker Mike Johnson, short of the votes for a megabill to deliver President Trump's agenda, looked around the conference table in his ornate office in the Capitol on a recent morning and faced a pack of disgruntled Republicans — each demanding something different.

There was Representative Chip Roy, the Texas congressman who was insisting the bill include steep cuts to Medicaid. And there was Representative Andrew Garbarino, the New Yorker who has pledged to tank any bill that would reduce Medicaid coverage for his constituents.

Representative Nick LaLota of New York, who has said the legislation's rollback of Biden-era clean energy tax credits goes too far, was also on hand. So was Representative Andy Harris of Maryland, who is urging Republican



AL DRAGO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Speaker Mike Johnson, right, can't afford to lose many votes.

leaders to repeal those tax breaks completely.

The tableau of attendees, summoned by Mr. Johnson late last week as he sought to gather support for what Mr. Trump has called the "big, beautiful bill," encapsulated the precarious seesaw the speaker faces as he labors to shepherd the sprawling tax and budget legislation through the House. The factions hold vastly different, competing priorities for major pieces of the domestic policy package, and encompass the divergent ideological, political and regional interests at play inside the G.O.P.

For every bloc with one demand that must be met before its members agree to support the measure, there is another demanding the opposite.

And with his tiny margin of control, Mr. Johnson can afford to lose only three Republicans on the bill, which is expected to be uniformly opposed by Democrats, if all members are present and voting. The predicament helps explain why the legislation faltered in a key committee last week, how difficult it will be for Republicans to push it through the House in time

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Detained Student Graduates

Mohsen Mahdawi, who led pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia, was allowed to travel to get his diploma. PAGE A15

Leo's Classmates Drew Rebuke

A protest at the future pope's divinity school in Chicago called for the church to ordain women as priests. PAGE A18

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Centrists Win in East Europe

Presidential elections on Sunday in Romania and Poland halted, or at least slowed, hard-right breakthroughs that many liberals had feared. PAGE A7

Russia Beefs Up Near Finland

Tents, shelters for fighter jets and warehouses for military vehicles reflect an increased Russian presence. PAGE A6

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Lifesaver of Apollo 13 Crew

Ed Smylie and his team of engineers helped three astronauts avoid carbon dioxide poisoning. He was 95. PAGE B11

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Military Spending for Towns?

Britain is directing billions more to defense than it used to but wants the money to go beyond nuclear submarines to revive towns. PAGE B1

Filing Early for Social Security

An additional 276,000 retirees claimed benefits this fiscal year, a 13 percent increase from a year ago. PAGE B1

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A Former Knick Blooms

Once viewed as a player who shrank in the N.B.A. playoffs, Julius Randle has helped fuel the Timberwolves. PAGE B7



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Dwelling With the Dead

Benoît Gallot tells of running a famed French cemetery, where he lives with his family, and, he says, no ghosts. PAGE C1

Actress Is Now Filmmaker, Too

Kristen Stewart's directorial debut has earned good notices, but she wouldn't mind a battle with reviewers. PAGE C1

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A Battle Against Armageddon

Richard Garwin, who helped design the hydrogen bomb, devoted his life to undoing the danger he created. PAGE D1

When Quitting Is Agony

Benzodiazepines treat anxiety, insomnia and more, but stopping them abruptly can compound symptoms. PAGE D7

OPINION A20-21

Todd S. Purdum

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