



# N. Korea expanding its nuclear capabilities

Getting Putin’s help, a less risk-averse Kim may turn focus toward Seoul

BY MICHELLE YE HEE LEE

SEOUL — Just three days after President Donald Trump sketched out an idea to meet with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un again, Kim responded by accepting a different kind of invitation — to Beijing, where he will join Russia’s Vladimir Putin and China’s Xi Jinping in a show of defiance against the Western-led global order.

Kim will be among the 26 heads of state attending China’s enormous Victory Day military parade next week to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, Beijing announced Thursday. Xi will showcase his efforts to modernize the People’s Liberation Army to counter the United States — complete with hundreds of increasingly high-tech tanks, missiles and anti-drone systems.

Kim has not been to China since 2019, and the parade could serve as further inspiration for the North Korean leader, who is pursuing a military upgrade of his own — with a considerable amount of help from Putin.

At the start of 2021, Kim announced a five-year plan to build more nuclear-capable weapons, a wish list that seemed

SEE NORTH KOREA ON A12

# Ferocious attack on Kyiv stokes E.U. rage

At least 19 people are killed in onslaught by Russian missiles, drones

BY DAVID L. STERN, SIOBHAN O’GRADY AND SERHHI KOROLCHUK

KYIV — Russian forces pummeled Kyiv overnight into Thursday, sending wave after wave of drones and missiles toward the capital and across the country, killing at least 19, including four children, and damaging the offices of the European Union and the British Council.

The European Commission and Britain summoned Russian envoys in Brussels and London to explain the attacks. The E.U. mission and the office of the British Council, the cultural arm of the British Embassy, were damaged by a shock wave from a missile attack on a nearby building. A top E.U. official called President Donald Trump after the strike to insist Russia engage in serious negotiations to end to the war.

Trump’s special envoy to Ukraine, Gen. Keith Kellogg, warned on X that the attacks “threaten the peace that [Trump] is pursuing.”

It was the most ferocious attack on the Ukrainian capital since the Alaska summit between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin did not yield a ceasefire. The Ukrainian air force said 598 drones and 31 missiles were

SEE UKRAINE ON A13

## A grieving Minneapolis grasps for answers



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Two crosses, one for each child killed in Wednesday’s shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, stand near the scene Thursday as mourners leave notes and flowers. Before the shooting, which injured 18 others, the church’s doors were locked from the inside, a standard practice that probably saved lives, police said. **Story, A6**

# In D.C., narrative depends on who’s behind the lens

BY BRITTANY SHAMMAS, ELLIE SILVERMAN AND JOY SUNG

In the more than two weeks since President Donald Trump declared a crime emergency in D.C., ordered a federal takeover of the police force and sent in the National Guard, the internet has been awash with footage taken on city streets.

The videos tend to fall into one of three categories.

The White House and federal

White House, residents vie to define the city’s image on social media

agencies, through their social media accounts, have posted stylized videos of law enforcement officers in tactical gear looking tough, with rousing music or speeches from administration officials about what they cast as the sorry state of the District playing in the background.

Many residents and visitors, seeking to defend D.C. against the president branding it a “dirty, crime-ridden death trap,” have used his words as a soundtrack for social media reels that show picturesque shots of cherry blossoms, street festivals and storied institutions.

And people passing by scenes of arrests have captured and shared sometimes-shaky phone footage of agents taking people into custody — in some instances with force.

The result is a series of compet-

ing narratives of D.C. that are influencing how people across the country perceive the moment.

In a Washington Post examination of dozens of videos, this much became clear: In the battle over D.C.’s image, what you see depends on who’s behind the camera.

SEE VIDEO ON A20

**Chicago:** ICE asks to use a nearby military base for its operations. **A7**

**Bowser praises surge:** Tone pleases Trump, angers others. **B13**

# The last years of an NFL owner

For the Colts’ Irsay, a decline marked by addiction, deception and a ‘luxury’ recovery doctor

BY WILL HOBSON, ALBERT SAMAHA AND SAM FORTIER

In the final years of his life, Jim Irsay, the owner and chief executive of the NFL’s Indianapolis Colts, spoke proudly about how he confronted his lifelong substance abuse battle with honesty and transparency, even launching a charity to promote openness around mental illness and addiction. He called it Kicking the Stigma.

But behind the scenes, Irsay, who died in May at 65, spent the last two years of his life in the throes of a relapse that he and Colts executives repeatedly hid from the public, a Washington Post investigation found.

This relapse, and his death, came as he was under the care of a “luxury” recovery doctor prescribing Irsay opioids — and, eventually, ketamine — at amounts that worried people close to him, The Post found. This doctor signed Irsay’s death certificate, stating the cause was cardiac arrest, and no autopsy or toxicology testing was performed.

The Post’s investigation is based on interviews with five people with direct knowledge of Irsay’s relapse, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation from the Colts, who are now owned by Irsay’s three daughters. All five

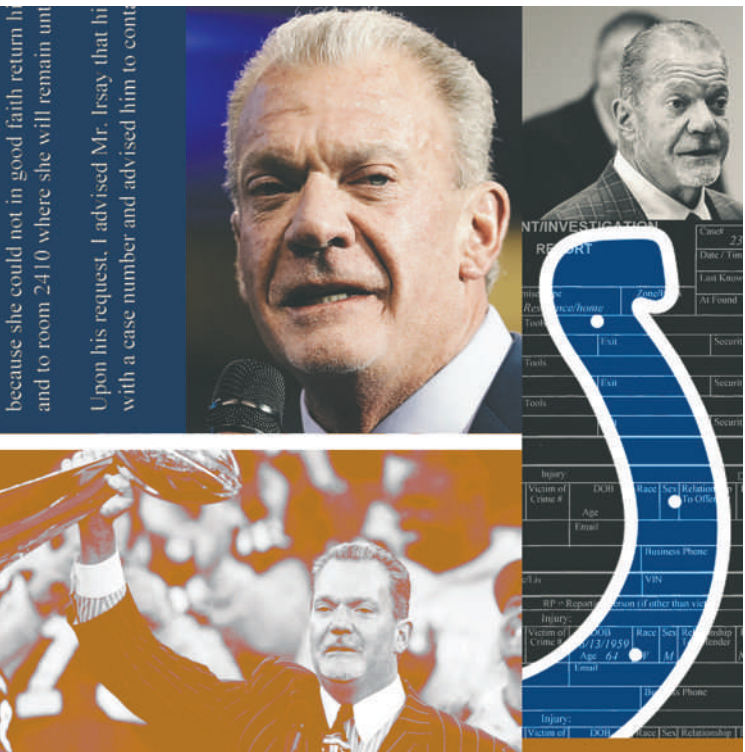


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said they witnessed Irsay consuming opioid pills. Four said they witnessed Irsay receiving ketamine injections.

Post reporters also interviewed several other people close to Irsay and obtained previously unreported prescription records, flight data and law enforcement records from California, Indiana and Florida.

The account of Irsay’s relapse

that emerges from The Post’s reporting is at odds with public explanations that Irsay and the Colts gave for his rapidly declining health, and raises questions about how authorities investigated his death.

The Post found evidence that Irsay suffered three overdoses in the last five years of his life: in February 2020 in Turks and Caicos; in December 2023 at his

home in suburban Indianapolis; and then again 12 days later at a beachfront resort near Miami.

Two days before the Florida overdose, Irsay fired one of his nurses and asked police to escort her away because she tried to hide his pills, concerned he was taking them too fast, a police report shows. This overdose left him hospitalized for nearly four months.

And while Irsay and the Colts publicly touted the importance of transparency in addressing addiction, he and team executives repeatedly misled the public about his relapse, The Post found.

When Irsay overdosed at his home in 2023, a Colts executive who called 911 said nothing to the dispatcher about pills or drug use, stating only that Irsay may have been suffering from heart failure. When news outlets uncovered this incident, Irsay disputed the police description of it as an overdose.

And when the public learned of Irsay’s lengthy hospitalization in 2024, the team claimed he was being treated for a “severe respiratory illness,” while Irsay later said he had been recovering from back surgery.

Irsay’s daughters, Carlisle Irsay-Gordon, Casey Foyt and Kalen Jackson, declined to be interviewed. In response to an email summarizing the contents of this story, they provided a statement

SEE IRSAY ON A8

# Ex-CDC officials blast RFK Jr.

STAFF REVOLTS AGAINST SECRETARY

He undermines vaccine science, say 3 who quit

BY LENA H. SUN, LAUREN WEBER AND DAVID OVALLE

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reeled from the ousting of its director, three senior leaders who resigned in protest told The Washington Post they were asked to participate in an unscientific vaccine recommendation process that they believe could harm the health of Americans.

The officials spoke shortly before security officials escorted them off the CDC’s Atlanta campus Thursday morning. Staff and leaders of the agency are openly revolting against the Trump administration and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime critic of the CDC and anti-vaccine activist, after months of tension over vaccine policy and staffing cuts. The White House selected Jim O’Neill, Kennedy’s top deputy at HHS, to also serve as the acting CDC

SEE CDC ON A5

**CDC tensions:** The times Kennedy, scientists clashed before firing. **A5**

# Fed’s Cook files lawsuit to challenge her ouster

Complaint says Trump’s efforts endanger the central bank’s autonomy

BY ANDREW ACKERMAN AND RACHEL SIEGEL

Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook on Thursday sued to prevent President Donald Trump’s attempt to oust her from office, setting up a legal clash that could determine the Fed’s ability to continue operating outside White House control.

In her complaint, Cook asked the U.S. District Court in Washington to issue an injunction to block the dismissal, which her lawsuit characterized as “unprecedented and illegal.” She also stated the allegations of mortgage fraud cited by the White House fall short of the legal standard for her removal.

The Fed was designed to be insulated from political pressures, and Cook argues a president’s ability to dismiss a sitting governor over allegations of misconduct from before her tenure in government would effectively eliminate those protections.

“An independent Federal Reserve is essential for a stable economy, as the short-term political interests of a president often clash with sound monetary policy,” her complaint said.

SEE COOK ON A4

**Mortgage fraud:** Though rare, convictions could lead to prison. **A4**

## IN THE NEWS

Cracker Barrel logo The sharecroppers’ son behind the original design would be thrilled the chain kept his version, his wife said. **A7**

‘Impostor’ nurses States begin to crack down on caregivers who lack credentials, a growing problem since the onset of the pandemic that experts say is endangering patients. **A3**

**THE NATION** President Trump proposed a Republican convention ahead of the 2026 midterms. **A2**  
**A battle looms** over a Texas law requiring the Ten Commandments in all public classrooms. **A7**

**THE WORLD** Britain’s full-time canalboat residents fear new rules will sink their way of life. **A11**  
**Trump’s stake** in Intel, a rarity in the U.S., looks more ordinary from a global perspective. **A13**

**THE ECONOMY** The AI chatbot built into Instagram and Facebook coached users with teen accounts about self-harm, according to a new study. **A15**  
**Online shopping** from sellers abroad will get more expensive as the U.S. ends the “de minimis” exception. **A15**

**STYLE** Why, exactly, did we collectively freak out over Taylor Swift’s engagement? **B1**  
**SPORTS** The Cowboys ended a camp drama by trading Micah Parsons to the Packers, who agreed to a new \$188 million deal with the pass rusher. **B7**

**THE REGION** Over two decades after murdering his former girlfriend’s mother in Chevy Chase, Eugene Gligor was sentenced to 22 years in prison. **B13**  
**WEEKEND** Whether ballpark basic or dressed up, hot dogs are having a moment in D.C. nightlife.

BUSINESS NEWS.....A14  
COMICS.....B4  
OBITUARIES.....B16  
OPINION PAGES.....A17  
TELEVISION.....B6  
WORLD NEWS.....A11

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