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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025 • \$4

U.S. report cites glut of allegations in Gaza

Israel’s potential human rights violations may take years to review

BY JOHN HUDSON

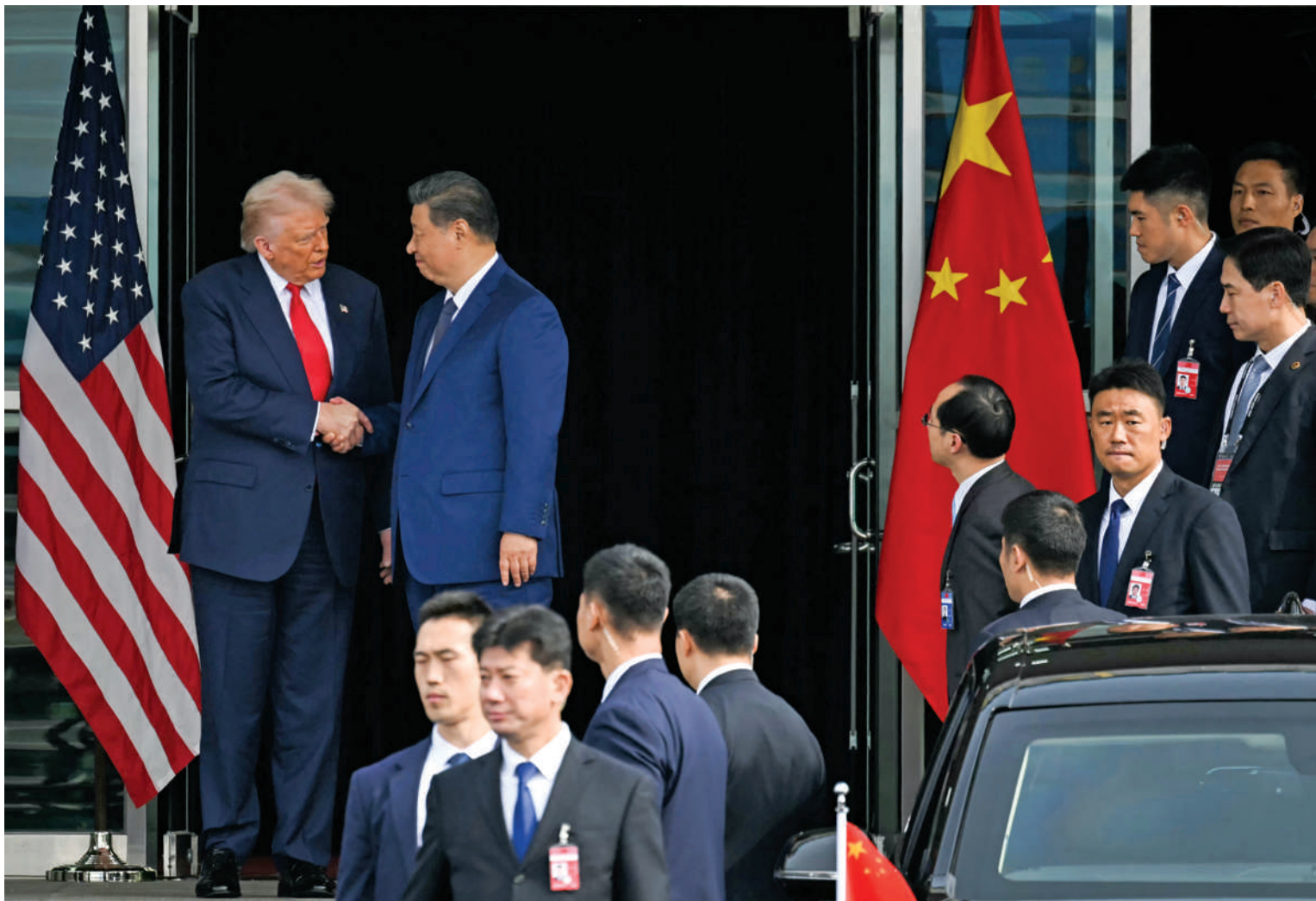
A classified report by a U.S. government watchdog has found that Israeli military units committed “many hundreds” of potential violations of U.S. human rights law in the Gaza Strip that would take the State Department “multiple years” to review, according to two U.S. officials who relayed the details to The Washington Post.

The findings by the State Department’s Office of Inspector General mark the first time a U.S. government report has acknowledged the scale of Israeli actions in Gaza that fall under the purview of Leahy Laws, the landmark legislation that bars U.S. security assistance to foreign military units credibly accused of gross human rights abuses.

U.S. officials, who discussed details of the report on the condition of anonymity because the contents were classified, said the watchdog findings raised doubts about the prospects for accountability for Israel’s actions given the large backlog of incidents and the nature of the review process, which is deferential to the Israel Defense Forces.

“What worries me is that accountability will be forgotten now that the noise of the conflict is dying down,” said Charles Blaha, a former State Department official in charge of the office that implements the Leahy Laws, who was told about the report.

SEE ISRAEL ON A12



ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands after their negotiations in Busan, South Korea, on Thursday.

China trade truce avoids open rupture, resolves little

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

The trade truce with China that President Donald Trump secured this week is good news for American farmers and businesses, but it will probably do little for consumers.

Meeting in South Korea this week, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to retreat from a recent exchange of punitive measures that threatened a near shutdown of trade between the world’s two largest economies.

But avoiding escalation is not the same as making progress. And

measured against the commercial relationship that existed before Trump returned to the White House in January, the U.S. and China continue to drift apart.

“We are in a better situation than we were yesterday. But we’re in a much worse situation than we were a year ago,” said Gregory Daco, chief economist at EY-Parthenon.

Each side left the Busan, South Korea, meeting with something it wanted.

Trump got China to delay by one year the Dec. 1 start of restrictions on exports of the rare-earth

minerals that U.S. manufacturers require to produce an array of civilian and military goods. Xi also promised to crack down on illicit shipments of chemicals used to make the deadly drug fentanyl, which has killed tens of thousands of Americans, and to resume purchases of American soybeans that he had halted.

But Xi wrestled concessions from Trump, too. The U.S. president dropped a threatened 100 percent tariff, cut in half the 20 percent charge he had imposed on Chinese goods earlier this year over the fentanyl issue, suspended

port fees for Chinese container ships and delayed new limits on exports of advanced technology to China.

As is his custom, Trump crowed over the outcome, saying the meeting deserved “a 12” on a scale of 1 to 10. Independent observers were less enthusiastic, saying that nine months of the president’s high-decibel trade maneuvering had achieved little.

“There’s been a whole lot of running around and activity with nothing substantive to show for it,” said Scott Kennedy, a China

SEE ECONOMY ON A15

He’s cleared 35,000 pounds of trash. He’s not done.

The Miami man wants his local mangroves to be cleaner — and have more space for birds and fish

BY LORI ROZSA, RESHMA KIRPALANI AND JAVIER ZARRACINA

MIAMI — It’s a steep drop into a mangrove forest brimming with three feet of brackish water over thick, twisty tree roots, but Andrew Otazo has no trouble navigating the descent.

He scrambles down the craggy incline like a camo-clad Spider-Man, using branches and thick vines and footholds in the dirt.

At the bottom, Otazo finds his treasure: trash.

To date, the 38-year-old Miami man has plucked, bagged, heaved and hauled more than 17 tons of trash, mostly from the islands around Biscayne Bay.

“You name it, any item you can name, and I have found it in the mangroves,” he says. “Convection ovens, microwave ovens, mattresses, sofas, sets of plates and dishes. Used diapers. Those

SEE MANGROVES ON A4



RESHMA KIRPALANI/THE WASHINGTON POST

Over the years, Andrew Otazo has removed appliances, shoes and diapers from mangrove forests.

China fears drive proposed U.S. ban of firm’s home routers

BY JOSEPH MENN

More than a half-dozen federal departments and agencies backed a proposal to ban future sales of the most popular home routers in the United States on the grounds that the vendor’s ties to mainland China make them a national security risk, according to people briefed on the matter and a communication reviewed

by The Washington Post.

The proposal, which arose from a months-long risk assessment, calls for blocking sales of networking devices from TP-Link Systems of Irvine, California, which was spun off from a China-based company, TP-Link Technologies, but owns some of that company’s former assets in China. The ban was proposed by the Commerce Department and

supported this summer by an interagency process that includes the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and Defense, the people said.

“TP-Link vigorously disputes any allegation that its products present national security risks to the United States,” Ricca Silverio, a spokeswoman for TP-Link Systems, said in a statement. “TP-Link is a U.S. company commit-

ted to supplying high-quality and secure products to the U.S. market and beyond.”

If imposed, the ban would be among the largest in consumer history and a possible sign that the East-West divide over tech independence is still deepening amid reports of accelerated Chinese government-supported hacking. Only the legislated ban

SEE ROUTER ON A14

More blame GOP than Democrats for shutdown

Post poll finds a plurality of Americans — 45% — fault Trump, his party

BY JACOB BOGAGE, RILEY BEGGIN AND SCOTT CLEMENT

More Americans blame President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress than Democrats for the nearly month-long government shutdown, according to a Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll.

More than 4 in 10 U.S. adults — 45 percent — say Trump and the GOP are mainly responsible for the shutdown that may lead the government to cut off anti-hunger benefits, has caused air traffic delays and has furloughed hundreds of thousands of federal workers.

Yet the share saying Democrats are at fault has grown slightly, from 30 percent in a Post flash poll when the shutdown began to 33 percent in the latest poll.

Among registered voters, 37 percent now blame Democrats, while 46 percent blame Republicans.

Americans are generally worried about shuttered government agencies, the poll found. Three-quarters of U.S. adults say they are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about the shutdown, including 87 percent of voters who described themselves as “liberal” and 62 percent of those who said they are “conservative.”

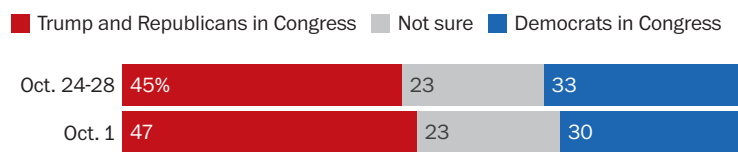
But concern has grown as the shutdown has continued, with 43 percent saying they are “very concerned” today, up from 25 percent when the shutdown began.

High-level concern has grown across party lines, although Democrats are still more than twice as likely as Republicans to be very concerned about the closure. A 56 percent majority of people with household incomes under \$25,000 are very concerned, the highest of any income group.

More broadly, 63 percent of Americans disapprove of Trump’s management of the federal government, up from 57 percent in April and 54 percent in February.

SEE SHUTDOWN ON A7

Who do you think is mainly responsible for the federal government shutting down?



Source: Oct. 24-28, 2025, Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll of 2,725 U.S. adults with an error margin of +/- 1.9 percentage points. Oct. 1 Washington Post poll among 1,010 U.S. adults with an error margin of +/- 3.5 points.

IN THE NEWS

Covid-19 and autism Children born to mothers infected with the coronavirus during pregnancy faced a higher risk of the disorder, an analysis of over 18,100 births found. A2

Troops in cities The Pentagon is readying 23,500 members of the National Guard for missions to counter civil unrest. A2

THE NATION Democrats in California are exploiting anger at the president to drive redistricting support. A3
Casey Means, nominee for surgeon general, went into labor, delaying her confirmation. A3

THE WORLD Albania hopes humor can help its E.U. bid as a comedian runs for mayor of its capital. A9
The U.S. will let South Korea build a nuclear-powered submarine, the president said. A9

THE ECONOMY The Education Department moved to block some public servants from student loan forgiveness, tightening eligibility on ideological grounds. A15
The Senate rebuked the president’s tariff policy in a symbolic vote for the third time this week. A15

STYLE At Halloween gatherings in Washington this year, the costumes are very much inside the Beltway. B1

SPORTS The Washington Nationals are finalizing a deal to make 33-year-old Blake Butera their new manager. B7

THE REGION Maryland state Sen. Dalia Attar has been charged with extorting a former consultant over an affair. B13
A Washington Post reporter tells the ghost story of Mrs. Kyle, twice buried but still very much alive in Virginia lore. B13

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