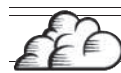


The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025 • \$4

Zelensky will discuss peace plan with Trump

Meeting in Florida raises hopes that Ukraine, U.S. are close to agreement

BY SIOBHÁN O'GRADY
AND ANASTACIA GALOUCHKA

KYIV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he will meet President Donald Trump in Florida on Sunday to discuss the latest draft of a peace plan, including security guarantees for Ukraine and prospects for future economic development amid Russia's continued strikes on the country.

The meeting suggests that Washington and Kyiv are closing in on a joint position to end the war, which comes after the White House initially threatened to cut off all assistance to Ukraine if Kyiv did not sign onto an initial 28-point draft plan that made major concessions to Russia.

Washington ultimately backed off that threat, and Zelensky said this week that the United States and Ukraine had since jointly developed most of a 20-point peace plan, which on Friday he said is "90 percent done."

"Our task is to make sure that everything will be 100 percent finished," he said in voice notes to journalists Friday.

Finalizing the document "is not easy, and no one is saying it will definitely be achieved instantly," he said. "But nevertheless, with every such meeting and every such conversation, we must

SEE UKRAINE ON A13

Inflation, tariffs yield tough year for farmers

Bailout points to effect of price hikes tied to Biden, Trump's China trade war

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.

Mike Phillips has spent the past year reconciling his vote for Donald Trump with the uncertain future of his farm in central Iowa.

The 72-year-old has been farming for five decades and tills 2,000 acres of soybeans and corn. Trump's tough talk on trade has always appealed to Phillips, who thinks China's relationship with American farmers desperately needs a reset. He voted for Trump in each of the past three presidential elections. He believes in GOP farming policies because "we've been burned so bad by the Democrats."

But the tariff war Trump started has been eating into Phillips's bottom line and clouding his decisions about the best path forward. Thirteen months after Trump won a second term with wide support in farm-dependent parts of the country, Phillips wonders what will come first: Trump's promised farm resurgence or his own retirement.

"For the most part, farmers — we've been willing to kind of go along. But I don't know about now," Phillips said. "I know [Trump is] a more practical person. He's trying to do something.

SEE FARMERS ON A7



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

Speech-language therapist Corinne Zmoos works with Ellis Easton, 6, at his Baltimore home.

New science identifies 4 distinct types of autism

In challenge to traditional notions, data hints at condition's complexity

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA

When Marc and Cristina Easton's son was diagnosed with autism at 20 months, the Baltimore couple left the doctor's appointment in confusion. Their toddler — who was very social — didn't resemble the picture of the condition they thought they knew. And the specialists could offer little clarity about why or what lay ahead.

It wasn't until four years after their child's diagnosis that the Eastons finally began to get

answers that offered them a glimmer of understanding. This summer, a team from Princeton and the Flatiron Institute released a paper showing evidence for four distinct autism phenotypes, each defined by its own constellation of behaviors and genetic traits. The dense, data-heavy paper was published with little fanfare. But to the Eastons, who are among the thousands of families who volunteered their medical information for the study, the findings felt seismic.

"This idea that we're seeing not one but many

SEE AUTISM ON A10

Leaked documents reveal Instagram plan

Firm pursued strategy to win back teen users despite safety concerns

BY NAOMI NIX

Two weeks after dozens of state attorneys general sued Meta for allegedly getting adolescents addicted to its platforms and jeopardizing their safety, Instagram head Adam Mosseri posted an internal memo pushing his employees to pursue one overarching goal: bring more teens to Instagram.

"As you are building out your 2024 plans, I'm asking that the business teams stay laser focused on 1) teens, particularly in developed markets and 2) Threads, and in that order," Mosseri wrote in the Nov. 6, 2023, memo.

Mosseri's memo is part of a multiyear plan by Meta, which owns Instagram, to bring more teens onto the photo-sharing app and increase their activity there, according to internal documents written between 2023 and 2025 and viewed by The Washington Post. They show that Instagram staffers considered the mandate to boost teen metrics their top goal last year. It ranked even above efforts to build out Threads, its breakout text-based social media rival to X, formerly known as Twitter.

Outwardly, Meta executives projected confidence in the success of its social media apps, presenting statistics year after year depicting overall user growth. But behind the scenes, the internal documents show, Instagram has waged an aggressive campaign to win back teenagers it was losing to competitors, roll-

SEE INSTAGRAM ON A18

In Nigeria strike, Trump steps into a bloody history

HE'S RISKING A QUAGMIRE, ANALYSTS WARN

Anti-ISIS offensive is only beginning, officials say

BY RACHEL CHASON,
ABIODUN JAMIU
AND TARA COPP

Top Nigerian officials said Friday that U.S. attacks in the country on what President Donald Trump called "ISIS Terrorist Scum" could mark the opening salvo in a campaign against militant groups there. But security analysts warned that Trump administration officials appeared to be stepping into a complex, long-running conflict that they might not fully understand.

Trump has in recent months repeatedly warned that he would intervene in Nigeria — which is afflicted by widespread violence — if the killing of Christians does not stop. He made good on that promise Thursday, announcing "numerous perfect strikes" on Christmas night and promising more if the "slaughter of Christians continues."

Western and Nigerian security analysts said the attacks marked the first time in decades that the

United States had launched such strikes in Nigeria, a country of more than 230 million people split about equally between Muslims and Christians. The analysts said that violence, particularly by Islamist militants in the north, has sometimes targeted Christians but that Muslims have also been affected.

Neither Trump nor the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) specified who was killed in the strikes, which the U.S. and Nigeria's government said were conducted with the approval of Nigeria's government. Daniel Bwala, an adviser to Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, said the strikes on Thursday marked only the beginning. Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister Yusuf Tuggar told Nigerian broadcaster Channels Television that his country provided intelligence to the U.S. for the strikes and that cooperation was ongoing.

"There will be more, I can assure you of that," he told The

SEE NIGERIA ON A13

Bombing at mosque in Syria deemed terrorism

At least 8 killed amid raft of sectarian atrocities following Assad's ouster

BY KAREEM FAHIM
AND SUZAN HAIDAMOUS

At least eight people were killed Friday in an explosion at a mosque in the central Syrian city of Homs, according to the Syrian Interior Ministry, which described it as a terrorist attack.

Syrian authorities did not identify a perpetrator in the blast, which occurred during Friday prayers at the Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib mosque in the Wadi al-Dhahab neighborhood of Homs, where most residents belong to the Alawite religious minority, a Muslim sect that has been target-

ed in the past by Sunni Muslim extremists.

A Telegram account purporting to belong to a little-known group called Saraya Ansar al-Sunnah posted a statement claiming responsibility, saying the group, in cooperation with "the mujahideen" of another unnamed group, had detonated explosives inside the mosque. The claim could not immediately be verified.

At least 21 people were injured in the explosion, according to the Interior Ministry. Witnesses said a man carrying a suitcase entered the mosque around 11 a.m. local time, and left more than an hour later, before the explosion, Interior Ministry spokesman Nouredine al-Baba said in a TV interview, adding that the victims were from various sects.

Photographs of the mosque

SEE SYRIA ON A14



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

In chill mode at the rink

Temperatures the day after Christmas made for good skating at the National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden Ice Rink. The D.C. area should see something of a warmup this weekend. **Forecast, B18**

IN THE NEWS

FEMA buyouts After Hurricane Helene, hundreds of North Carolina families applied to a program to sell their homes at pre-storm value. Not one has been approved. **A3**

Online screening The Trump administration is widening efforts to monitor visa applicants for speech considered "anti-American." **A6**

THE NATION **The president** has been dealt several legal losses in his effort to punish opposing lawyers. **A2** **States** are investing in child care more than ever to help parents with rising costs. **A4**

THE WORLD **A Gaza woman** displaced seven times had planned to go home, but it was destroyed. **A12** **A museum's** opening in Egypt brings fresh pressure on Berlin to return a bust of Nefertiti. **A14**

THE ECONOMY **A recent** power outage in San Francisco shows how vulnerable self-driving vehicles can be as problems arise. **A15** **As the holiday** season winds down, economists are parsing data to see whether consumers will continue to hold up the economy in 2026. **A15**

STYLE **The holidays** are the perfect time to listen to new hip-hop. On his latest release, Niontay shows why. **B1**

SPORTS **Michigan reaches** a deal with former Utah coach Kyle Whittingham to take over its storied football program. **B7**

THE REGION **Free DC**, founded as Trump was returning to power, has become the face of the capital's resistance. **B13** **NASA astronaut** Chris Williams talks "Star Trek," spacewalks and how his Montgomery County upbringing led him to space. **B13**

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