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Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 • \$4

Simple message resonates across beleaguered country



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Buddhist monks — bearing a message of peace — walk outside Washington National Cathedral on Tuesday, completing their 15-week trek from Texas that began in late October. The monks became fixtures on social media as they made their way through the southeastern United States.

Warming scenario has Iceland as 'glacier'

A shift in heat-carrying currents could lead to minus-50 temperatures

BY CHICO HARLAN

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND — It is just one scenario among many, but by far the most cataclysmic.

Sometime over the next 100 years, human-driven warming could disrupt a vital ocean current that carries heat northward from the tropics. After this breach, most of the world would keep getting hotter — but northern Europe would cool substantially, with Iceland at the center of a deep freeze. Climate modeling shows Icelandic winter extremes plunging to an unprecedented minus-50 degrees Fahrenheit. Sea ice could surround the country for the first time since it was settled by Vikings.

"At that point, Iceland would be one giant glacier," said Hildigunnur Thorsteinsson, the director general of the Icelandic Meteorological Office.

Such a scenario might seem like fodder for bad science fiction, but officials and scientists here say it can no longer be dismissed as fantasy. Several recent scientific studies, based on simulations of how the planet might respond as it warms, suggest that the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) is more vulnerable to breakdown than scientists had long believed.

As a result, the notion of a frigid future has vaulted toward the top of the list of Iceland's concerns, even as other threats mount in the Arctic. In October, the govern-

SEE ICELAND ON A14

Trump weighing a second aircraft carrier off Iran

This article is by Karen DeYoung, Lior Soroka, Rebecca Tan, Susannah George and Abbie Cheeseman

On the eve of a visit from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he was "thinking" of sending a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East, joining the U.S. armada already in the region that could bolster a strike on Iran if bilateral talks begin last week fail.

Threat of an imminent new attack comes as Netanyahu visits for talks

"Either we will make a deal or we will have to do something very tough like last time," Trump said in an interview with Axios, referring to U.S. airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear sites in June that capped more than a week of

attacks by Israel.

"They didn't believe I would do it," he said, adding that the Iranians "overplayed their hand."

Over the past month, the United States has deployed dozens of aircraft to bases near Iran and assembled about a dozen warships, including the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier group, in and around the Middle East.

Navy officials referred questions about Trump's comments to the White House. The USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier

is off the coast of Norfolk for a training exercise in advance of a previously scheduled deployment, but it was not clear Tuesday when it and several accompanying warships would be ready to sail.

"President Trump has been clear that the Iranian regime should make a deal," White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said in an emailed response to questions. "The President has demonstrated" with last summer's strikes

SEE ISRAEL ON A11

Olympic drones create buzz with stunning views

Fans are closer to the action than ever before. But what do the athletes think?

BY RICK MAESE
IN LIVIGNO, ITALY



Maia Schwinghamer of Canada competes Tuesday in Livigno, Italy, as a drone closely follows.

Competitors beware
Quadrocopter Ilya Malinin is getting stronger with each skate. B1

'Slam dunk of figure skating'
The first Olympics in decades to feature a legal backflip. B1

Mikaela Shiffrin bungles it
A startlingly poor slalom costs her team a medal. B1

They go higher than any aerialist, faster than a downhill skier and send a stronger signal than ever about how the Winter Games want to be seen.

At these Olympics, broadcast drones have given new life to the decades-old Olympic motto — *faster, higher, stronger* — translating it for the technological age. They sweep across mountain courses and dive into turns once visible only to competitors. In the early days of these Games, the army of drones spread across Northern Italy have provided panoramic views of the Alps while placing viewers closer to the action than ever before, racing alongside luge sliders down icy chutes, trailing skiers at more than 80 mph and hovering near snowboarders and freestyle skiers as they twirl through the air.

Their whirring can be heard across outdoor venues, a literal buzz that now accompanies winter sport — and a metaphoric one as audiences marvel at a perspective never before possible.

"It brings a whole new element to Olympic sports," U.S. bobsledder

SEE DRONES ON A11

On the Hill, ICE chief in hot seat

DEFENDS MISSION, VOWS MORE OF SAME

Democrats press him on surge, tactics, shootings

BY MARIANNE LEVINE, DAVID NAKAMURA AND MARIANA ALFARO

Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement director Todd M. Lyons sparred Tuesday with Democratic lawmakers who accused his agency of functioning like a violent secret police force, vowing at a congressional hearing to press forward with the Trump administration's mass deportation campaign.

Legislators on the House Homeland Security Committee pressed Lyons for more than three hours on the detentions of U.S. citizens, the fatal shootings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti, and the aggressive actions by immigration officers in cities including Minneapolis. Lyons refused to answer some questions, citing ongoing investigations, and denounced Democratic lawmakers who compared ICE to the Gestapo — a reference to the police of Nazi Germany, which conducted brutal arrests with no legal oversight.

In one contentious moment, Rep. Dan Goldman (D-New York) told Lyons that if he and his

SEE DHS ON A6

FBI details its basis for seizing Ga. voting files

Many of the 'deficiencies' cited had been debunked as routine, small errors

BY JEREMY ROEBUCK AND PATRICK MARLEY

The FBI relied heavily on previously debunked claims of widespread election irregularities in Georgia as it persuaded a federal judge last month to sign off on plans to seize 2020 voting records from the state's most populous county, court documents unsealed Tuesday show.

In a pair of Jan. 28 search warrant affidavits, authorities said they were seeking evidence that would determine whether "deficiencies" in the vote tabulation in Fulton County, home to Atlanta, were the result of intentional wrongdoing that could constitute a crime.

But many of the issues they cited — including claims of duplicate ballots and missing ballot images — have been previously explained by county officials as the types of routine errors that frequently occur, are typically corrected in the moment, and are not significant enough to sway the outcome of an election. Independent reviews have backed up that conclusion.

The affidavits did not identify any Fulton County officials as a target of the FBI probe or cite SEE FULTON ON A2

IN THE NEWS

Guthrie disappearance New photos and video show an "armed individual" appearing to tamper with the camera, officials said. A5

Pride flag removed The White House took down the rainbow-colored flag outside the Stonewall National Monument in New York, the birthplace of the gay rights movement. A5

THE NATION
The Commerce secretary distanced himself from Epstein, said he had lunch on island. A3

THE WORLD
The president threatened to block the opening of a bridge between U.S. and Canada. A10
Parts of Spain have received nearly 80 inches of rain in 20 days — a year's worth. A13

THE ECONOMY
Kevin Warsh, Trump's pick for Fed chair, wants to shrink the agency's \$6.6 trillion balance sheet, which could raise long-term rates. A18

THE three biggest social networks agreed to undergo ratings of how effectively they protect teens' mental health. A18

SPORTS
An appreciation for Washington legend Sonny Jurgensen, the purest of passers, the truest of gentlemen. B1

STYLE
Is it okay to sing along at a Broadway show? A recent viral "Mamma Mia!" incident ignites a debate. B7

THE REGION
Virginia Democrats quickly approved proposed congressional maps that could give them a 10-1 edge. B13

FOOD
GLP-1 drugs might do what food policy can't — change the way we eat, with smaller portions and fewer junk foods. B1

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