

# The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, breezy, warmer, clouds and sunshine, high 70. Tonight, cloudy, rain, low 56. Tomorrow, rain early, cloudy, high 58, then temperatures fall. Weather map is on Page A24.

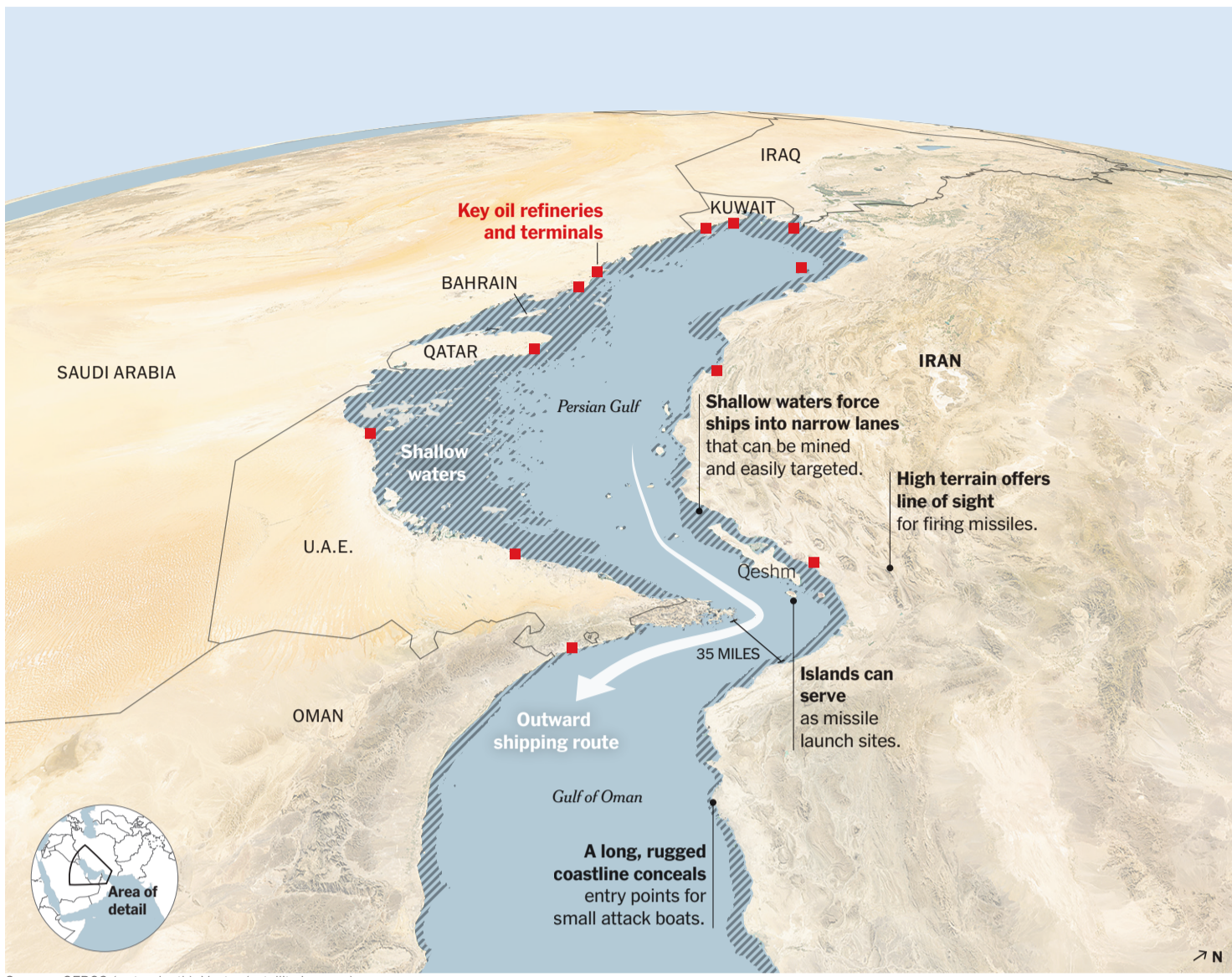
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THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



## Israel Said to Intensify Attacks on Key Targets, Ahead of Possible Talks

### High Prices at Pump May Outlast War Leery of a U.S. Draft to End the Conflict

By TONY ROMM and REBECCA F. ELLIOTT

WASHINGTON — As the war with Iran began to send oil and gas prices soaring around the world, President Trump shrugged off the fallout as a temporary setback for the U.S. economy.

“When this is over,” he told reporters this month, “oil prices are going to go down very, very rapidly.”

In the end, it may not be so simple.

Even if Mr. Trump were to broker an end to hostilities with Iran before his new, self-imposed Friday deadline, it may still be weeks, if not months, before American families and businesses see a true break in their spiraling energy costs, economists and industry executives say.

An end to the war would abate a geopolitical crisis and most likely help to reopen clogged shipping lanes in the Middle East, nudging down oil and gas prices from their recent highs. But any relief would arrive gradually for most consumers — and probably not fast enough to undo the damage to the U.S. economy.

By Wednesday afternoon, the markets seemed downbeat about the odds of a swift and easy resolution to the war. The price of a barrel of Brent crude, the international benchmark, hovered around \$100, up nearly 40 percent since the war started. A gallon of gasoline cost an average of \$3.98, according to AAA motor club, which reflected a roughly one-dollar jump from a month ago.

Mark Zandi, the chief economist for Moody’s Analytics, said the prospect of sustained high costs affirmed a well-worn adage in the energy industry: “Prices rise like a rocket, fall like a feather.”

He predicted that if the war were to end soon, it would still take about six to eight weeks for oil production and shipments to normalize. At that point, oil could settle around \$80 per barrel of Brent crude, higher than before the bombing began. Prices at the pump would probably fall slowly, too.

The exact timeline will depend on many factors, including the extent of the damage to the energy

This article is by David M. Halbfinger, Ronen Bergman, Natan Odenheimer and Adam Rasgon.

JERUSALEM — With the growing potential for talks between the United States and Iran, the Israeli military is striking as many key targets as it can, concerned the war could soon be brought to a halt, two senior Israeli officials and two people briefed on the matter said.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered that every effort be made over the following 48 hours to destroy as much of the Iranian arms industry as possible, according to the two officials.

The order came after Mr. Netanyahu’s government obtained a copy of a U.S.-drafted, 15-point plan to end the war, the officials said, one of whom was present at meetings at which it was discussed.

The haste reflected a concern in the Israeli government that President Trump could announce peace talks at any moment, the officials and the two people briefed on the matter said. All spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters of national security.

The Trump administration has not officially confirmed or denied the existence of a plan, or whether such a plan has been passed to Iran.

Israel is acutely concerned about the possibility of a deal when it has yet to fulfill its key aims. Those aims are eliminating Iran’s ballistic-missile threat, ensuring Iran cannot develop a nuclear weapon and creating the conditions under which the Iranian people could rise up against their government, which currently appears to be an unrealistic expectation.

“If you do not obtain the three objectives, you will not be able to end the war,” Boaz Bismuth, a member of Mr. Netanyahu’s party and chairman of the foreign affairs and defense committee in Parliament, said in an interview.

The prospect of negotiations to end the war sent oil prices down on Wednesday morning, though they remained about 40 percent higher than before the attacks began on Feb. 28.

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### A Tortuous Gantlet

Narrow and shallow, the Strait of Hormuz forces ships close to Iran and favors attacks that are dispersed and hard to repel. Page A7.

## JURY FINDS APPS HURT YOUNG USER

### Meta and YouTube Told to Pay \$6 Million

This article is by Cecilia Kang, Ryan Mac and Eli Tan.

WASHINGTON — The social media company Meta and the video streaming service YouTube harmed a young user with design features that were addictive and led to her mental health distress, a jury found on Wednesday, a landmark decision that could open social media companies to more lawsuits over users’ well-being.

Meta must pay \$4.2 million in combined compensatory and punitive damages, and YouTube must pay \$1.8 million.

The bellwether case, brought by a now 20-year-old woman identified as K.G.M., had accused social media companies of creating products as addictive as cigarettes or digital casinos. Citing features like infinite scroll and algorithmic recommendations, K.G.M. sued Meta, which owns Instagram and Facebook, and Google’s YouTube, claiming they led to anxiety and depression.

The verdict in K.G.M.’s case — one of thousands of lawsuits filed by teenagers, school districts and state attorneys general against Meta, YouTube, TikTok and Snap, owner of Snapchat — was a major win for the plaintiffs. The finding validates a novel legal theory that social media sites or apps can cause personal injury. It is likely to factor into similar cases expected to go to trial this year, which could expose the internet giants to further financial damages and force changes to their products.

The personal liability argument draws inspiration from a legal playbook used against Big Tobacco last century, in which lawyers argued that the companies created addictive products that harmed users. The companies have largely dodged legal threats by citing a federal shield, called Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, which protects them from liability for what their users post.

TikTok and Snap both settled

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## Mamdani Retreats From Raising Property Taxes

This article is by Sally Goldberg, Benjamin Oreskes and Jeffrey C. Mays.

When Mayor Zohran Mamdani threatened last month to raise property taxes on New Yorkers, it was seen as a tactic to pressure Gov. Kathy Hochul into increasing income taxes on the wealthy.

Instead, it provoked immediate backlash.

Numerous elected officials — from Mr. Mamdani’s left-leaning allies to centrist Democrats representing Black homeowners —

### All but Giving Up Plan That Rankled Public and the Governor

said in no uncertain terms that raising property taxes was a non-starter.

The mayor began to quietly retreat. He convened city and state lawmakers in a series of private meetings to hear their concerns and let them know he was highly

unlikely to pursue the tax increase as he was pushing for more state revenue, according to interviews with nine lawmakers.

Now, five weeks after he proposed increasing property taxes by 9.5 percent, the mayor seems to have all but given up on the idea, even as Ms. Hochul shows no interest in raising income taxes on the rich — a priority for Mr. Mamdani’s democratic socialist base.

By trying to use the proposed property tax increase as leverage with the governor, Mr. Mamdani

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POOL PHOTO BY JORDAN PETTITT

### A First for the World’s Anglicans

Sarah Mullally was installed on Wednesday as the first female archbishop of Canterbury. Page A11.

## Have a Nice Flight. Don’t Forget Your Fortitude.

By CHRISTINE CHUNG and CEYLAN YEGINSU

War is raging in the Middle East, passengers are waiting in four-hour security lines, airfares are spiking and, now, a deadly runway collision at LaGuardia Airport has renewed questions about the safety of U.S. air traffic control.

All this comes at one of the busi-

### Lines, Prices and Fears Make Travelers Balk

est travel periods of the year. If airline passengers anticipated a relaxing spring break, the uncertainty has left them reeling instead.

“We’re seeing a perfect storm of

travel disruption right now,” said Sally French, a travel expert at the personal finance website NerdWallet. “In a lot of ways, travelers are having to grapple with that ‘Should I travel now?’ question on a level not seen since the Covid-19 pandemic.”

U.S. airlines expect more than 170 million passengers to fly in March and April, a new high.

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## Bovino, Immigration Warrior, Says He Didn’t Go Far Enough

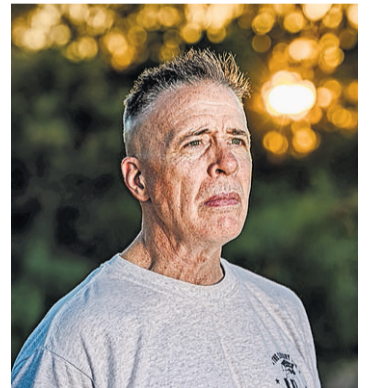
By KATIE J.M. BAKER and HAMED ALEAZIZ

Gregory Bovino has only a few regrets.

“I wish I’d caught even more illegal aliens,” he said in a recent interview. “I mean, we went as hard as we could, but there’s always a creative and innovative solution to catching even more.”

Until January, Mr. Bovino was the pugnacious face of the Trump administration’s mass deportation campaign. As federal agents moved to suppress protests in city after city, Mr. Bovino was often at the center of the scrum, personally lobbing tear gas into crowds and authorizing his team to operate with remorseless aggression.

He had risen from relative obscurity, but Mr. Bovino was built for the moment. He had long harbored hard-line, even radical views on immigration, and said he had a plan to deport 100 million people. And he had a longstanding reputation within the Border Patrol for his eagerness to test the law in service of those views, ac-



GABRIELA BHASKAR/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gregory Bovino was the face of President Trump’s crackdown.

ording to interviews with current and former colleagues and previously unreported documents.

The midlevel Border Patrol leader was handed a highly irregular position that let him leapfrog the chain of command and report directly to the secretary of homeland security, Kristi Noem.

He was straight out of central

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INTERNATIONAL A4-12

### A Popular Departure Point

African migrants hoping to reach Europe flock to an island where local officials in Gambia fear to go. PAGE A12

### It’s Not All About Greenland

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen’s party fell far short of a majority in Denmark’s election. PAGE A10

NATIONAL A13-21

### Election Officials Scramble

The Supreme Court’s skepticism about late-arriving mail ballots has some making alternative plans. PAGE A18

### New Jersey Prohibits Masks

Federal officials plan to ignore a ban aimed at ICE agents, part of legislation to protect migrant rights. PAGE A15

SPORTS B7-10

### Just Enjoy the Tournament

Yes, the N.C.A.A. men’s basketball extravaganza has been better, our columnist writes. No, there isn’t a better event in American sports. PAGE B7



ARTS C1-6

### What Made Mozart Soar

The instruments and scores foundational to the composer’s life are on display at a New York museum. PAGE C1

### Sharing a Sense of Wonder

Sylvain Chomet has created a feature film about Pagnol, the French playwright, filmmaker and author. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-6

### Polymarket’s Sea of Falsehoods

The betting market calls itself a source of truth fueled by users who put money on the line to back their predictions. A review of its social media found hundreds of misleading posts. PAGE B1

### In Race to Use A.I., Coders Lead

At a number of companies, tech workers are competing on leaderboards to show how much A.I. they are employing in their work. Along the way, they are racking up immense bills. PAGE B1

OPINION A22-23

### Andrea Bartz

PAGE A22



THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

### A Bumper Crop of Fur

BioFluff, a company based in Paris and New York, is producing a new alternative to animal pelts: one that’s made from plants, not plastics. PAGE D6

