

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Tonight, partly cloudy, showers and a thunderstorm later, high 77. Tonight, cloudy, low 48. Tomorrow, much colder, rain and drizzle at times, high 50. Weather map is on Page A24.

VOL. CLXXV . . . No. 60,841

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

NEWS ANALYSIS

Trump Facing Hard Decision As War Rages

Scale Back His Goals, or Send In the Troops

By DAVID E. SANGER and TYLER PAGER

WASHINGTON — As the war in Iran has entered its second month with no negotiations yet scheduled between the major combatants, President Trump is facing several interlocking decisions that will determine how long American forces will stay engaged in the battle, and with what kind of risks.

The most pressing choice seems to be whether he should narrow his war aims in hopes of pushing through a negotiated settlement with a new crop of Iranian leaders. Talking to reporters on Sunday night aboard Air Force One, Mr. Trump called the Iranian leadership “a whole different group of people” who have “been very reasonable.”

But if the Iranians continue to rebuff him, claiming as they did on Monday that there is nothing to talk about until the United States and Israel stop bombing Iranian territory, he has different choices to make.

With more than 4,000 Marines and the 82nd Airborne Division about to arrive in the region, Mr. Trump can put muscle behind his threat to take Kharg Island’s oil-exporting facilities, free the Strait of Hormuz and perhaps seize Iran’s cache of near-bomb-grade nuclear material.

But the risks of all three steps are enormous. Even Mr. Trump admitted on Sunday that if he sent troops to seize Kharg Island, keeping it operating would require the U.S. military “to be there for a while.”

Control of the strait was not even an issue four weeks ago, Continued on Page A10



ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

GAS PRICES The U.S. average topped \$4 a gallon for the first time since August 2022. PAGE B1

IN CONTROL B-52 bombers are flying directly over Iranian territory for the first time. PAGE A10

Table titled 'LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES' with columns for name, age, sex, and other details.



The 9 Americans Who’ll Decide on Birthright Citizenship

The Supreme Court justices are hearing a landmark case on Wednesday. Their own families’ stories show many paths. Page A12.

A Judge Stalls Trump’s Plans For a Ballroom

By ZACH MONTAGUE

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ordered on Tuesday that construction be halted on President Trump’s proposed White House ballroom, to be built in place of the demolished East Wing, saying work must come to a stop until the project receives a go-ahead from Congress.

The decision delivered the first meaningful setback to the president’s increasingly audacious efforts to redesign the White House and Washington.

It came after months of litigation in front of Judge Richard J. Leon, an appointee of President George W. Bush, who had previously declined to step in.

In a 35-page opinion, Judge Leon wrote that Mr. Trump probably did not have the authority to act without consulting Congress to replace entire sections of the White House — changes that could endure for generations.

In an opinion punctuated by 19 exclamation points, Judge Leon also reiterated concerns he had raised for months in court: that from the start, the administration has provided shifting and questionable accounts of who was in charge of the project and under what authority private donations could be accepted to fund it.

“Unless and until Congress blesses this project through statutory authorization, construction has to stop!” he wrote.

“But here is the good news. It is not too late for Congress to authorize the continued construction of Continued on Page A19

When’s the Cherry Blossom Show? A.I. Knows.

This article is by Javier C. Hernández, Kiuko Notoya and Hisako Ueno.

TOKYO — Cherry blossom season is typically a carefree time of year in Japan, when families gather for picnics under blooming trees and friends meet for nighttime “flower viewing.”

For Hiroki Ito, a data scientist and meteorologist who specializes in the high-stakes art of predicting the exact date when the trees will bloom, it has always been a time of stress. Japan’s prized cherry blossoms generate an estimated more than \$9 billion in tourism and other revenue each year. Airlines, hotels and restaurants depend on the forecasts —

Help in Finding Precise Time of Japan’s Pink Tourism Prize

not to mention the 123 million Japanese who want to know when to head to parks and gardens for peak bloom.

“It’s a lot of pressure; I feel the weight of history,” said Mr. Ito, who has worked at the Japan Meteorological Corporation in Osaka, one of the main providers of cherry blossom forecasts, for more than a decade. “I’m a little frightened of spring. I can’t fully

enjoy it.”

Now, Mr. Ito and other experts are turning to a tool they hope might reduce some of the burden of forecasting: artificial intelligence. They are using A.I. systems to analyze decades of temperature data and to deliver maps and “bloom meters” for trees in more than 1,000 spots, which blossom at different times.

This year, forecasters are crowdsourcing photos from the public and feeding them into A.I.-powered databases that can track the growth of buds, which form in the summer, stay dormant through the winter, and take anywhere from two to four weeks to Continued on Page A7



KENTARO TAKAHASHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tourism and other revenue from Japan’s treasured cherry blossoms top roughly \$9 billion a year.

Maine Senate Primary Tests New Political Norms

By LISA LERER and KATIE GLUECK

The Democratic primary race for Senate in Maine is swiftly becoming a test of how liberal voters perceive risk and electability as their party searches for a path back to power.

Trailing in public polls and fundraising, Gov. Janet Mills of Maine, 78, has unleashed a barrage of scathing attack ads against Graham Platner, a 41-year-old oyster-

Controversial Disrupter vs. Establishment

man and veteran, that highlight his online history of dismissive remarks about rape. His broader record of inflammatory comments online, Ms. Mills argues, could doom his chances in a general election against the battle-tested Senator Susan Collins.

The stakes of the race, which has quickly become one of the most contentious Democratic primaries of the midterm season, could not be higher for the party.

To have any chance of retaking the Senate, Democrats must defeat Ms. Collins, a Republican who is widely seen as vulnerable but who has repeatedly dashed their hopes of unseating her.

As they look toward the general election, Maine Democrats are de- Continued on Page A19

Where a Burger Costs \$34 but Child Care Is Free

By ELIZA SHAPIRO

East 65th Street, in one of New York City’s wealthiest ZIP codes, offers a bounty of goods for its residents to enjoy.

There’s the \$34 double cheeseburger with thick-cut bacon at the popular local restaurant the East Pole, the \$2,250 leather shoulder bag lined in lambskin at the Versace outpost on Madison Avenue, and a \$28 million four-bedroom condo with private elevator avail-

Mamdani Wants Rich, Too, to Get Services

able in the Giorgio Armani Residences a block from Central Park. And, this fall, a new child care center for 3- and 4-year-olds will open down the street with space for about 130 local children, a development recently announced with much fanfare by Mayor

Zohran Mamdani. The charge: free for all.

There is perhaps no street in New York City where the promise and peril of Mr. Mamdani’s vow to expand the social safety net for all New Yorkers is on starker display than this stretch of the Upper East Side.

The mayor’s allies argue that child care should be a collective good, akin to Social Security or public education, and that making Continued on Page A21



BUSINESS B1-6

A Floating Theme Park

Disney is trying something new with its newest cruise ship, the Adventure, which is based in Singapore. PAGE B6

From Adversary to Ally

The embrace of crypto by financial regulators under President Trump has entered a new, cozier phase. PAGE B1

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Putin’s Internet Blackout

With new outages and blockages, including of the beloved Telegram, the Russian president is stepping up his bid to control communications. PAGE A4

‘Covert’ Ops in Greenland

Members of President Trump’s circle, working openly, have been trying to cut deals on the Danish territory. PAGE A8

OBITUARIES B11-12

Apartheid Foe and Peacemaker

Nicholas Haysom, 73, was a lawyer jailed several times by South Africa who later held key U.N. posts. PAGE B12

NATIONAL A11-21, 24

Fearful for the Clean Air Act

Thomas Jorling, who helped write the 1970 law, disputes the claim that it does not give the government the authority to regulate greenhouse gases. PAGE A11

Grieving a Movement’s Voice

An immigration reporter’s reflection on Cesar Chavez, who embodied Mexican American families like his. PAGE A20

FOOD D1-8

The Tech Bros-Inspired Diets

With seeds, supplements and gadgets, Americans of all stripes are seeking wellness through what they eat. PAGE D8



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Arsenio Hall Looks Back

Eddie Murphy, Snoop Dogg and Bill Clinton show up in the former talk show host’s gossipy new memoir. PAGE C1

Modifying a 1970s Classic

A raucous adaptation of “Dog Day Afternoon,” a gritty portrait of New York, stifles tension with comedy. PAGE C1

SPORTS B7-10

Root, Root, Root for the Robots

Baseball’s automated ball-strike challenge system charms fans who are finding new strategies to debate. PAGE B7

Pink Slip Down the Stretch

Vegas fired its coach, following the example of the 2000 Devils, who won a title after a late change. PAGE B10

PAGE A22-23

Miriam Pawel

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