

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, mostly cloudy, breezy, high 68. Tonight, heavy rain at times, remaining breezy, low 55. Tomorrow, heavy rain at times, high 64. Weather map appears on Page A24.

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Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00



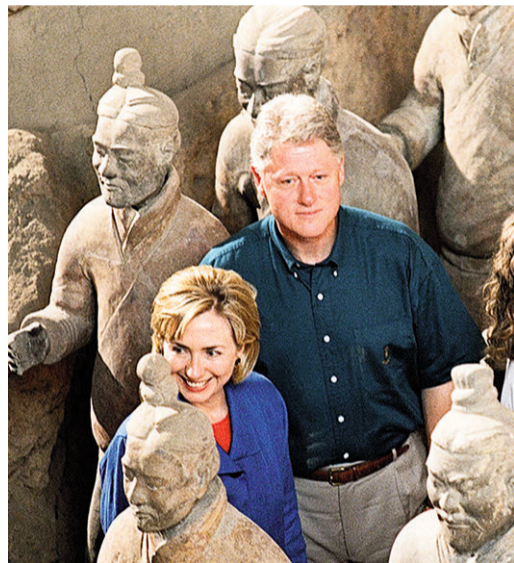
KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Trump Heads to China for a Summit of Reduced Ambitions



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

1972 Richard M. Nixon's visit to China, the first by a sitting U.S. president, broke two decades of estrangement, opening ties during the Cold War to counteract the Soviet Union.



PAUL RICHARDS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

1998 Bill Clinton's nine-day trip rebuilt trust, expanded economic relations and included a tour of the Terracotta Army excavation site.



STEPHEN CROWLEY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

2016 Barack Obama and Xi Jinping formally committed their nations to the Paris climate accord. Mr. Xi was set to meet with President Trump on Wednesday.

IRAN'S FIREPOWER REMAINS ROBUST, U.S. REPORTS SAY

KEEPS 70% OF MISSILES

Undercutting President's Claims of Capability Decimated by War

This article is by Adam Entous, Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan.

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration's public portrayal of a shattered Iranian military is sharply at odds with what U.S. intelligence agencies are telling policymakers behind closed doors, according to classified assessments from early this month that show Iran has regained access to most of its missile sites, launchers and underground facilities.

Most alarming to some senior officials is evidence that Iran has restored operational access to 30 of the 33 missile sites it maintains along the Strait of Hormuz, which could threaten American warships and oil tankers transiting the narrow waterway.

People with knowledge of the assessments said they show — to varying degrees, depending on the level of damage incurred at the different sites — that the Iranians can use mobile launchers that are inside the sites to move missiles to other locations. In some cases they can fire missiles directly from launchpads that are part of the facilities. Only three of the missile sites along the strait remain totally inaccessible, according to the assessments.

Iran still fields about 70 percent of its mobile launchers across the country and has retained roughly 70 percent of its prewar missile stockpile, according to the assessments. That stockpile encompasses both ballistic missiles, which can target other nations in the region, and a smaller supply of cruise missiles, which can be used against shorter-range targets on land or at sea.

Military intelligence agencies have also reported, based on information from multiple collection streams including satellite imagery and other surveillance technologies, that Iran has regained access to roughly 90 percent of its nationwide underground missile storage and launch facilities, which are now assessed to be "partially or fully operational," the people with knowledge of the assessments said.

The findings undercut months of public assurances from President Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who have told Americans that the Iranian mili-

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Shadowed by Momentous Visits of Past as War in Iran Bogs Down 2 Rivals Vying for Dominance

By DAVID E. SANGER

BEIJING — This is not how President Trump wanted to arrive in China.

When he delayed his long-awaited trip to Beijing by six weeks, Mr. Trump was betting he would arrive in Beijing this week having forced the Iranians to capitulate to his demands. He anticipated that by now the shattered Iranian leadership would have

agreed to turn over its nuclear stockpile, forgo its atomic ambitions and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The message to President Xi Jinping would have been clear: Chinese declarations of a superpower in decline were premature.

Instead, Mr. Trump will arrive on Wednesday with many in China wondering how he got bogged down by a far lesser power in a war he started. Iran's nuclear stockpile is exactly where it was, still under the rubble of an

American bombing raid last June. The Strait of Hormuz, through which China gets more than 30 percent of its oil and a bit less of its natural gas, remains closed, with no obvious plan to pry it open again.

And Mr. Trump looks, as Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany said two weeks ago, "humiliated" by a smaller power, having entered the conflict "with no truly convincing strategy."

But the war is also tricky for Mr.

Xi. For all of China's global ambitions, he has been unable and unwilling to come to the aid of Iran, a political partner and key supplier, and has offered no plan of his own to resume the vital flow of China-bound oil and gas.

The result is that this is a summit like few others. The world's two major superpowers, eager to demonstrate their dominance, are both bogged down and uncertain about how the Iran conflict will play out in the context of their

struggle for military, economic and technological dominance.

The result is that the ambitions for this summit have been greatly scaled back. The honor guards and celebrations will remain intact, and Mr. Trump is bringing a dozen or so of America's most powerful business executives with him, from Elon Musk of Tesla and SpaceX to Tim Cook, the soon-to-retire chief executive of Apple, to the top executives of Citi, Black-

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Inflation Rises At Fastest Rate In Three Years

By LYDIA DePILLIS

Consumer prices in the United States rose at the fastest rate since May 2023 last month, as sharp increases in energy costs caused by war in the Middle East made life more expensive for American consumers.

The Consumer Price Index rose 3.8 percent in April from a year earlier, the Labor Department reported on Tuesday, up from a 2.4 percent annual increase before the conflict started in February and a 3.3 percent increase in March.

The increase was driven largely by energy prices, up 3.8 percent from the previous month and nearly 18 percent from a year earlier. But the "core" index, stripping out volatile food and energy prices, also rose 2.8 percent over the year in April, up from 2.6 percent in March.

"I'm looking for anything where I can say, 'here's some relief,' and that's not very easy to do in this report," said Michael Reid, chief U.S. economist at RBC Capital Markets. "Generally inflation is moving in the wrong direction."

The Federal Reserve tends to

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Vast Vaccine Inquiry Cloaked by Public Silence

By CHRISTINA JEWETT and SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

WASHINGTON — Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said little publicly about vaccines in recent months, at the behest of a White House worried that his unpopular stance will hurt Republicans in November's midterm elections. But he has not aban-

A Long Kennedy Quest for Proof of Harm

doned his quest for evidence that they are unsafe.

Working behind the scenes, Mr. Kennedy is spearheading an intense push, across health agen-

cies under his purview, for government scientists and federal data contractors to examine his long-held theory that vaccines are helping to fuel an epidemic of chronic disease, according to multiple people familiar with the effort.

They said the wide-ranging inquiry is a top priority for Mr. Kennedy

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'Impossible' Idea Offers Hope In Treating Pancreatic Cancer

By GINA KOLATA and REBECCA ROBBINS

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most dire diagnoses in medicine. There are few available treatments, and they do little to help. For decades, experimental drugs flopped in trials. Many researchers believed the biological obstacles could not be surmounted.

In what seems the blink of an eye, all that has changed. A drug nearing regulatory approval, daraxonrasib, is the first to substantially extend the lives of patients with pancreatic cancer. It works by targeting a cellular protein that fuels not just nearly all pancreatic tumors, but also many lung and colon cancers. Those three are the leading causes of cancer deaths.

Now, some scientists predict that the approach could wind up being the most significant advance in cancer treatment in 15 years, since the arrival of immunotherapy.

The long scientific journey that led to the drug is a triumph of both public and private research funding, succeeding only after decades of false starts and dashed hopes — and the unraveling of conventional wisdom that turned out to be completely wrong.



KIM RAFF FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

An experimental drug, daraxonrasib, has shown promise.

"Every time there was an advance, it led to another dumping of dogma and finding out that what everybody assumed was true was actually not true," said Adrienne Cox, a researcher at the University of North Carolina.

Scientists long ago identified their target: a smooth-surfaced protein inside cells, called KRAS, that is altered in certain cancers and drives their growth. Researchers often described it as a "greasy ball," seemingly impervious to assault.

"Almost everybody thought

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RYAN LIEBE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES. FOOD STYLIST: MONICA PIERINI. PROP STYLIST: MEGAN HEDGPETH.

Sliding Toward Summer

With the end of school near, parents share ideas for seven quick meals, like miniburgers. Page D5.

INTERNATIONAL A4-11

U.S. Firms Attacked in Ukraine
Facilities tied to Coca-Cola and others appear to have been deliberately hit by Russia. The Trump administration's response has been muted. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A12-20

Coal's Comeback Fouls the Air
Coal-fired power plants released more mercury in 2025, reversing a decline, a Times analysis shows. The toxic metal impairs brain development. PAGE A12

SPORTS B8-11

Kryptonite on the Mound
Many superstar M.L.B. batters have one pitcher they inexplicably cannot hit against. When it happens, both sides are well aware. PAGE B8

ARTS C1-8

Classical Music Meets Salsa
The conductor Gustavo Dudamel brought the New York Philharmonic and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra together for the first time. PAGE C1

OPINION A22-23

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