

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, warm, more humid, partly cloudy, high 81. Tonight, mostly cloudy, showers, low 68. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, showers through the day, high 82. Weather map, Page B8.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



PARIS The heat forced the Louvre to close early on Wednesday.



BRUSSELS At Parc du Cinquantenaire, a fan kept things cool.



LONDON Many buildings in Britain are designed to retain heat.



BORDEAUX Open umbrellas provided some improvised shade.

Easy Path for Housing Bill Has President in the Way

Says He Won't Sign Bipartisan Plan Unless Congress Passes Voting Restrictions

This article is by Michael Gold, Tony Romm, Tyler Pager and Ronda Kaysen.

WASHINGTON — The first major bill to address the nation's housing crisis in more than three decades seemed headed for President Trump's signature on Wednesday. But the bipartisan effort descended into chaos after Mr. Trump abruptly canceled a ceremony to sign the measure into law over a series of political grievances with Congress.

Democrats and Republicans began the day on a jubilant note, as they prepared to commemorate a new set of policies meant to lower housing costs — a long-sought priority that both parties hoped to trumpet to voters anxious about the economy ahead of the midterm elections.

But Mr. Trump swiftly and unexpectedly upended those plans. Hours after his own aides praised the bill and promised the president would sign it, Mr. Trump instead canceled a scheduled event at the Capitol. Eschewing an opportunity for rare bipartisan accord, the president opted to turn the bill into political leverage, aiming to force Congress — and members of his own party — to bow to unrelated demands over voting restrictions and the war with Iran.

Mr. Trump insisted on social media that he would only sign the housing measure into law if Congress first approved the SAVE America Act, a divisive measure that would impose new requirements for voter identification and limits on mail-in ballots. Republicans have been unable to advance that bill over fierce Democratic opposition.

Mr. Trump then continued to pile on the grievances during a previously scheduled lunch with Senate Republicans at the Capitol. The president lashed out at his own party after the Senate adopted a resolution instructing him to end the war with Iran, a vote that saw four G.O.P. senators

join Democrats in rebuke of the White House. An irate Mr. Trump said the move could impede the ongoing negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

As Mr. Trump issued his demands, the fate of the housing measure slipped only further into doubt. The White House declined to say if the president might sign the bill another time, or if he might take the more extreme step of vetoing a law that his party views as a way to convince voters that Republicans are doing something to address the cost of living.

Technically, the president has 10 days while Congress is in session to either sign or veto a bill that is presented to him. Otherwise, it becomes law, even without his signature. But that clock only begins once he is formally sent the measure from the Hill, a requirement that has no clearly defined time limit in law.

By late Wednesday, Speaker Mike Johnson, Republican of Louisiana, had not yet formally presented the housing bill to Mr. Trump for his signature, according to two people familiar with the legislative process. Asked later about his exact thinking, the president seemed unmoved by his party's hope to promote the legislation in time for the midterms.

"I said I'm not signing the housing bill," he told reporters in the Oval Office, pointing again to his demand that Congress adopt restrictions on voting.

The president's stance marked a painful setback for Democrats and Republicans who had spent more than a year in painstaking talks, trying to make progress on one of the most pressing financial issues facing families. And the developments seemed likely to deliver a political blow to both Mr. Trump and his Republican majority in Congress, at a moment when many in the party are desperate to showcase a legislative success in a year with very few of them.

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MAMDANI ARISES AS A KINGMAKER

A Progressive Slate Wins House Primaries

By NICHOLAS FANDOS

The sweep by Mayor Zohran Mamdani's allies in a series of congressional primaries in New York City was a remarkable show of strength for the insurgent left that was sending shock waves through the Democratic Party.

Mr. Mamdani's candidates on Tuesday toppled a pair of incumbents backed by the city's political establishment, including major labor unions and the House Democratic leader. Another candidate backed by the mayor won an open House seat, and a handful of democratic socialist challengers he supported won down the ballot.

The results shook the foundations of the Democratic Party far beyond the five boroughs. When they are certified, Mr. Mamdani, 34, and his movement will be on track to double the number of socialists in Congress from two to four. The outcome will also force a Democratic Party, already searching for its identity, to reckon with its ascendant, unapologetic left.

"It's seismic," said Jon Paul Lupo, a Democratic consultant who was a top adviser to the city's last progressive mayor, Bill de Blasio.

National Republicans may seize on the victories to try to paint the winners as representative of the entire Democratic Party, in an attempt to peel moderates away in the November midterms. President Trump wasted no time, writing on social media early in the morning that the winners were "communists." [Page A16.]

For months, Mr. Mamdani threw himself and his energized political organization into the three marquee congressional contests, campaigning late into the night in the race's final days and calling the election a referendum on the direction of the Democratic Party.

All the winning candidates share Mr. Mamdani's progressive economic platform, and they each ran campaigns that focused intently on ending American support for Israel, a sign of how far

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Iran Makes Unveiled Woman A Symbol of Unity in Wartime

By ERIKA SOLOMON and SANAM MAHOOZI

Dressed in a pink top and acid-washed jeans, the young woman in the video hardly looked the part of a pious loyalist to Iran's clerical rulers, standing alongside a crowd of women draped in black from head to toe. That was exactly the point.

Letting her curls spill onto her shoulders, the woman offered an on-camera testimony.

"I was not a supporter of the Islamic Republic, nor the supreme leader," she told a pro-government filmmaker, Hossein Shamaghdari, who posted their exchange online. After the United States and Israel

attacked in February, she said, she began to admire Iran's hard-line forces, as they battled two of the world's most powerful militaries.

"If the Revolutionary Guards and Basijis were not fighting, we would not still be here," she said, holding back tears, and praising the very forces that had once cracked down on unveiled women and protesters. "I am remembering the start of the war, and rethinking my views about the Islamic Republic."

The woman is never identified in the video, and it is unclear who

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Record Highs As Heat Wave Broils Europe

This article is by Nazaneen Ghafar, Lynsey Chutel and Amelia Nierenberg.

The second severe, and unusually early, heat wave in just two months held Europe in its oppressive grip on Wednesday, straining power grids and testing the resources of countries unaccustomed to extreme heat.

Urgent heat warnings were in effect in more than a dozen countries, including France, which on Tuesday experienced its highest average temperature on record — not just for June, but for any time of year. Power grid failures there have left more than 60,000 homes without electricity. On Wednesday, Britain's weather service said in a provisional assessment that temperatures in a county outside London had reached 36 degrees Celsius, or 96.8 degrees Fahrenheit, which would be the highest temperature ever recorded in the country in June.

As global temperatures rise, Europe has been warming faster than any other continent, and officials have scrambled to react to heat waves that are increasingly intense and happen earlier in the year. Making matters worse, in much of Europe most buildings are not air-conditioned, and schools are no exception.

"We've got a typical London flat that just gets boiling inside," said Julie Green, 39, who was playing in a North London park on Monday.

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Moving Beyond Their Limitations

War amputees in Ukraine are challenging both their bodies and their ideas of what they can do by taking up new sports. Page A7.

Searching for Clues in Epstein's Boyhood Years

By LISA MILLER and STEVE EDER

When Jeffrey Epstein was about 6 years old, he moved with his family to Sea Gate, in Coney Island. He would spend his formative years there, in a gated neighborhood several blocks from the beach, making friends who stayed close to him for most of his life.

Like many families in Sea Gate, a mostly working- and middle-class Jewish refuge, the Epsteins had little. It was the dawning of

Tight With Brainy Boys and Fixated on Girls

the 1960s, and Epstein's father, Seymour, worked for the New York City Parks Department as a laborer, earning less than \$8,000 a year. His mother, Paula, worked as a school aide at P.S. 188. So while their house on Maple Avenue was ample, a three-story Dutch colonial with a broad front porch, the

Epsteins occupied only a small rental apartment on the second floor. Epstein lived there with his parents and his younger brother, Mark, who was called Puggy.

In Sea Gate, Epstein became known as Bear. "He used to sleep a lot," Mark Epstein explained in an interview with The New York Times. "His friends used to come to play with him after school, and my mother would say, 'Let him sleep.' So he was like a bear sleeping in the den." On family visits,

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The algae and peeling paint might not be fixed until after July 4.

Records Counter Trump Claim Of Vandals at Reflecting Pool

By MAXINE JOSELOW and DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD

WASHINGTON — President Trump says the peeling blue coating and algae blooms that mar his \$16.4 million renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool are the fault of vandals working with "knives" in the "dark of night."

But government documents obtained by The New York Times show that while National Park Service workers found two cuts in sections of foam between the pool's expansion joints, those were not directly related to the "American flag blue" coating that is now peeling, or to the algae that have turned the pool a bright shade of green.

Even as the documents show workers were attempting to address deteriorating conditions, Trump administration officials were insisting publicly that the pool was pristine.

The pool had been drained, resealed and then refilled by June 5. Four days later, Park Service workers discovered holes, cracks and peeling caulking in parts of the pool, along with cuts in sections of the foam, according to the documents.

The cause of the cuts was unclear. While a June 9 report by the U.S. Park Police described the

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BUSINESS B1-6

More Cottage Cheese, Please

TikTok and "protein-maxing" are driving a squeeze on the product that has left consumers desperate. PAGE B1

Is U.S. Weaning Itself Off Gas?

Americans drove less and bought more efficient cars when fuel prices surged, habits that could stick. PAGE B1

NATIONAL A11-20

Adams Ally Is Arrested

Frank Carone, the chief of staff to former Mayor Eric Adams, faces a bribery indictment for profiting from New York City's migrant crisis. PAGE A20

ICE Cannot Arrest in Courts

The ruling in a class-action lawsuit filed in California applies to immigration courts nationwide. PAGE A13

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Graft Case Called a Vendetta

Allies of Spain's prime minister keep getting accused of fraud. He may turn the latest case into a lifeline. PAGE A5



ARTS C1-6

Turtle Shell Soliloquies

After decades in a tent, Hudson Valley Shakespeare opens a spectacular outdoor performance space. PAGE C1

Too Many Unhappy Endings

The film writer David Thomson loves the movies but not what he believes they have done to America. PAGE C1

SPORTS B7-11

Supplemental Draft Nixed

Brendan Sorsby, the college quarterback who admitted to a gambling addiction, will most likely have to wait until the 2027 draft to join the N.F.L. PAGE B9

OBITUARIES A21

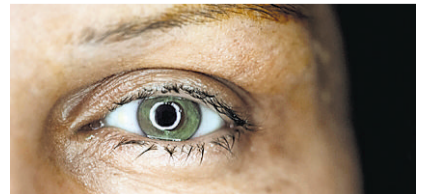
Body and Soul of Tinker Bell

A Disney film crew and illustrator precisely documented Margaret Kerry's pirouettes and pouts for a definitive version of Peter Pan's fairy. She was 97.

OPINION A22-23

Michelle Cottle

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THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

Making Your Green Eyes Blue

An ophthalmologist in France has invented a procedure that can change eye color. But what is so wrong with the hue that you were born with? PAGE D6



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