

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, hot and humid, a heavy afternoon thunderstorm, high 93. Tonight, cloudy, an evening thunderstorm, low 71. Tomorrow, sunny, high 88. Weather map, Page A16.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



LUIS ANTONIO ROJAS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Global Spectacle Unfolds

Mexico opened the 2026 World Cup against South Africa at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City on Thursday. More at nytimes.com.

Trump, Pivoting Again, Calls Off New Barrage, Claiming Deal Is Near

Reversal After Threatening Oil Takeover

This article is by Max Bearak, Anupreeta Das, Michael Levenson and Jonathan Swan.

President Trump began Thursday by threatening to bomb Iran for a third consecutive night and then seize Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export hub in the Persian Gulf, an escalation that risked opening a deadly new chapter in the monthslong war.

Hours later, he abruptly reversed course. In a post on social media, he said he had called off the strikes planned for Thursday night based "on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved."

At an event in the Oval Office on Thursday afternoon, Mr. Trump said the United States and Iran had agreed to a deal, "subject to finalization of documents," and that it could be signed in Europe as soon as this weekend, at a ceremony with Vice President JD Vance.

"It's a very strong memorandum of understanding that is a little conceptual," Mr. Trump said. But a spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry, Esmail Baghaei, pushed back on Mr. Trump's assertion that both sides had reached an agreement.

"The claims which have been made regarding the agreement are speculative and nothing has been finalized," Mr. Baghaei said, according to Iran's state broadcaster.

Mr. Trump's pivot was the latest in a dizzying pattern, alternating between threats to escalate the war and claims that Iran is close to signing a peace deal.

Shortly before he called off the strikes on Thursday, Mr. Trump spoke to Pakistani officials, who have been mediating between Washington and Tehran. The Pakistani told Mr. Trump that "we have a deal" with Iran, according to a senior administration official.

Mr. Trump also spoke to his partner in the war, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, "about the emerging memorandum of understanding with Iran to enter negotiations," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

Israel is not a party to the agreement, the statement said, but Mr. Netanyahu thanked Mr. Trump for promising that once a final deal is reached, it would compel Iran to give up its highly enriched uranium, dismantle its nuclear program, limit its missile production and end its support of militias in the Middle East.

Mr. Trump said that once the deal was signed, Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, the critical oil shipping route, and the U.S. military would lift its blockade on ships entering and leaving Iranian ports.

Mr. Trump added: "They will not have a nuclear weapon — they have agreed to that." It was not clear, however, if Iran had agreed to any changes in its nuclear program.

Multiple rounds of talks over the past two months have failed to produce an agreement to end the war, restrain Iran's nuclear program and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and Mr. Trump did not offer any details to support his claims of a breakthrough.

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Banned Drugs Aid U.F.C. Star's Stunning Return

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

When the Ultimate Fighting Championship star Conor McGregor was battling his opponent during a bout in Las Vegas in July 2021, he snapped his own left leg in two — a gruesome spectacle that shocked the national pay-per-view audience and threatened the career of the U.F.C.'s biggest draw.

Almost five years later, having made a seemingly miraculous recovery, McGregor is returning to the octagon for the first time. He is bigger and more chiseled, flexing and preening for cameras as he prepares for his highly awaited bout next month, again in Las Vegas.

McGregor's startling physical transformation has been the subject of speculation among U.F.C.

Injury Led McGregor to Famous Doctor and Doping Dispute

fans, fighters and commentators like Joe Rogan, who have repeatedly claimed that he skirted the U.F.C.'s antidoping rules to use performance-enhancing drugs while recovering.

McGregor has never been tied directly to the substances. But a New York Times investigation reveals that he did take powerful, banned drugs, according to two people with direct knowledge of the matter. And he did so with the support of one of the most prominent sports doctors in the world,

according to the doctor himself. McGregor then engaged in an active effort to evade scrutiny from antidoping officials, the two people said. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not want to be identified discussing matters that were supposed to remain confidential.

The doctor, Neal ElAttrache, oversaw the surgery to repair McGregor's leg. He is a widely celebrated figure and has treated a litany of Hollywood actors and baseball and football stars. He is also the head physician for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Los Angeles Rams.

In response to questions from The Times, ElAttrache said by text that after he had repaired McGregor's broken leg he sent him to

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Trump to Pick New Nominee Of Intelligence

This article is by Julian E. Barnes, Jonah E. Bromwich, Devlin Barrett and Benjamin Weiser.

WASHINGTON — President Trump said on Thursday that he would nominate Jay Clayton, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, to be the next director of national intelligence, after the president faced a revolt from lawmakers over his choice for an interim director without any relevant experience.

Mr. Trump had been under pressure to move on from his decision to appoint Bill Pulte, a top housing official, as the acting director, replacing Tulsi Gabbard, who announced last month that she would step down from the post.

Mr. Pulte, who has used his current job to attack Mr. Trump's enemies, had come under withering criticism from Capitol Hill. Both Republicans and Democrats have argued he was unqualified to lead the nation's intelligence agencies.

Mr. Trump, in a social media post, encouraged the Senate to confirm Mr. Clayton "as soon as possible."

"Few people anywhere in the Legal Community are respected at the level of Jay," Mr. Trump wrote.

Mr. Clayton, 59, was recommended for the post by John Ratcliffe, the C.I.A. director, according to a person familiar with the conversation. The current plan is for Mr. Pulte to take over from Ms. Gabbard on June 19 and serve as the acting director until Mr. Clayton's nomination is reviewed by the Senate.

Mr. Pulte, the person said, will seek to shrink the office beyond the cuts Ms. Gabbard had made. Mr. Trump wants Mr. Clayton to lead a smaller office, more narrowly focused on coordination among the 18 intelligence agencies.

Senator John Thune, the Senate majority leader, got no warning about the announcement but spoke positively about Mr. Clayton's nomination.

"I think he's considered to be a very qualified professional with a great skill set for managing a complex problem set," Mr. Thune said. "We will try to get him up and considered as soon as possible."

Representative Jim Himes of Maryland said he would support Mr. Clayton's nomination.

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SALWAN GEORGES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Shimmering Again, but Will It Last?

Repair work on the Reflecting Pool is complete, but the real issue is whether longstanding problems have been resolved. Page A9.

Knicks Snap to Life, and Their City Doesn't Sleep

By SANTUL NERKAR

The evening at Madison Square Garden began with a canceled party, a spat between New York City's mayor and the owner of the arena, and many, many missed shots by the Knicks. In other words, it looked like yet another disappointing chapter for the team's long-suffering fans.

But after the Knicks rallied to secure the biggest comeback win in N.B.A. finals history, the director Spike Lee danced on the court while the pop star Taylor Swift waved a Knicks towel in the air. On the nearby streets of Midtown Manhattan, roars filled the air and some revelers stood on cars, food carts and scaffolding.

The Knicks are now one win away from delivering basketball glory to a city starved for a championship. And the party is back on.

The day began ominously when James L. Dolan, the Knicks owner, escalated a dispute with Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

In a radio interview, he blamed Mr. Mamdani and the police commissioner, Jessica S. Tisch, for heightened security around the arena. He canceled a watch party outside the Garden, declining to use a permit granted by the city.

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VINCENT ALBAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

After a remarkable comeback, the Knicks are one win from a title.



VICTOR J. BLUE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Delirium replaced despair on Wednesday night across New York.

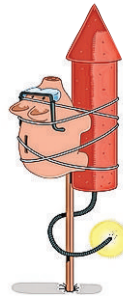
BUSINESS B1-8

Warning From World Bank

The war and soaring energy prices are slowing global economic growth to its weakest pace since the pandemic, according to a report. PAGE B3

Strapping In As SpaceX Goes Public

A guide to Elon Musk's rocket company, which is on the cusp of the largest I.P.O. ever, and what it means for investors. PAGES B4-7



INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Australia's Social Media Ban

Six months in, many teens are already back on platforms they were supposed to be blocked from. The ban's benefits may fall to the next generation. PAGE A4

U.K. Defense Secretary Resigns

John Healey unexpectedly announced his departure, saying Prime Minister Keir Starmer was failing to invest enough in the British military. PAGE A7

Trump Cools on Trade Deal

The president said he may not want to renew the U.S.-Canada-Mexico agreement, which in 2020 he forged and praised as the best ever. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A9-17

Leaning In on Election Fraud

The Justice Dept. seeks to assert more control over elections and challenge how states conduct them, as President Trump revives his fraud claims. PAGE A10

House Rejects Spy Power Bill

Lawmakers left the capital without extending one of the government's most powerful surveillance tools, all but assuring the law will expire. PAGE A10

Guilty Plea in Assassination

Federal prosecutors said they would not seek the death penalty for Vance Boelter, who killed a Minnesota legislator and her husband in 2025. PAGE A17

WEEKEND ARTS C1-10

Contradictory Visions

Gerhard Richter grew up surrounded by propaganda, first from Nazis, then from Communists. So his paintings reflect a sense of permanent doubt. PAGE C1

Spielberg Plays His Catalog Of Cosmic Hits

In "Disclosure Day," with Emily Blunt, infused with epic intentions, the filmmaker tries to bring the rest of us home. PAGE C1



SPORTS B9-15

Washington's Young Naturals

The Nationals never asked C.J. Abrams and James Wood to fill a leadership vacuum. It just happened. PAGE B15

Rooting for the Home Team

They are few. They are enthused. They are the die-hard fans of the U.S. men's national soccer team. PAGE B9

OPINION A20-21

Jessica Grose

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