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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

UNCERTAINTY OVER FOOD AID DEEPENS



MIKE STEWART, ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUST Ministries delivers food to the public via a drive-thru service Saturday in Austell, Ga.

Judge orders Trump administration to provide SNAP plan by Monday



DAMIAN DOVARGANES, ASSOCIATED PRESS

An immigrant mother from Guatemala purchases fresh fruits for her children Friday in Los Angeles with the balance left on her California EBT card used for SNAP benefits.

STEPHEN GROVES, ALI SWENSON AND SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The second-longest shutdown in history entered its second month Saturday, with lawmakers away from Capitol Hill and both major parties entrenched in their positions. Meanwhile, the federal food assistance program faced delays and millions of Americans were set to see a dramatic rise in their health insurance bills.

The Trump administration’s plans to freeze payments to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program were halted by federal judges, but the delay in payouts still likely will leave millions of people short on their grocery bills. It was unclear when the debit cards that beneficiaries use could be reloaded after the rulings, sparking fear and confusion among many recipients.

People across the United States formed long lines for free meals and groceries at food pantries and drive-thru giveaways Saturday, after their SNAP benefits were suddenly cut off.

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Can US weaken China’s grip on vital rare earths market?

Critical minerals needed for products ranging from jet engines to laptops, phones

JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

China’s promise to delay its newest restrictions on the export of the rare earths that are crucial to many high-tech products for one year as part of a trade agreement President Donald Trump secured creates an opportunity for the U.S. and its allies to bolster their own production and processing capabilities. But it will be hard to undercut China’s stranglehold on the market.

The restrictions China imposed on rare

earths this year were a key issue in the trade talks between Beijing and Washington. Trump responded angrily to China’s latest rules with a threat to impose an additional 100% tariff on all Chinese imports, but he has since dropped that demand as part of this agreement.

This week’s deal will delay the regulations that would have required foreign companies to get special approval to export items that contain even small traces of rare earths sourced from China even if those products were made elsewhere by foreign companies.

But it doesn’t eliminate restrictions that were imposed in the spring after Trump imposed his tariffs.

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CHINATOPIX

Workers use machinery to dig at a rare earth mine in 2010 in Ganxian county in central China’s Jiangxi province.