



Analysis: Peace deal for Ukraine remains elusive

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Winter storm hits Northeast



Public schools closed and delayed classes in multiple places amid a winter storm, including Washington, DC; Massachusetts; New York; Rhode Island; New Jersey; and Connecticut. GREG DERR/PATRIOT LEDGER

Cities report whiteouts, mass power outages

Christopher Cann, N’dea Yancey-Bragg, Dinah Voyles Pulver, Eduardo Cuevas, Doyle Rice and Brandi D. Addison
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – An intensifying winter storm pummeled the Northeast on Feb. 23, bringing blizzard conditions that blanketed major cities in snow, halted travel, closed schools and caused mass power outages. Over 40 million people were under blizzard warnings from Maryland to Maine as the storm dumped 2 to 3 inches of snow per hour and brought

winds of up to 70 mph, according to the National Weather Service. Overnight on Feb. 23, blizzard conditions – winds reaching at least 35 mph and snow that reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less for at least three hours – were verified in Teterboro, Newark and Islip, New Jersey; Westhampton, New York; and Groton, New Haven and Bridgeport, Connecticut, according to the weather service. Parts of New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Connecticut had recorded 18 to 24 inches of snow by early Feb. 23. In New York City, which imposed a

travel ban late Feb. 22, more than 15 inches had fallen in Central Park by the next morning. Snowfall had reached 17.9 inches in Mott Haven in the Bronx and 17.4 inches in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. New Jersey extended travel restrictions and remained in a state of emergency “in all 21 counties,” Gov. Mikie Sherrill posted on X early Feb. 23. At the time, 24.2 inches of snow had been recorded in Freehold in Monmouth County, according to the National Weather Service report. See STORM, Page 2A

Detainee’s mother is Schumer’s SOTU guest

Son held over 250 miles from family’s NY home

Eduardo Cuevas
USA TODAY

NEW YORK – A Bronx mother whose eldest son was one of the first New York City students detained by federal immigration agents is Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer’s personal guest to President Donald Trump’s State of the Union, USA TODAY has exclusively learned. As Trump is set to tout his achievements at his Feb. 24 address to Congress, including his administration’s aggressive approach to immigration enforcement in the last year, Raiza Contreras is trying to show its effects on her three children and other migrant families, she said in an interview. See SOTU, Page 2A



Raiza Contreras, left, is fighting for the release of her 21-year-old son Dylan from immigrant detention. She is set to attend the State of the Union as guest of honor for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer on Feb. 24. PROVIDED BY RAIZA CONTRERAS

Poll: 60% of Americans disapprove of Trump

Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

Ahead of President Donald Trump’s first State of the Union address of his second term, a new poll shows a majority of Americans disapprove of the president’s job performance, especially on inflation, tariffs and foreign policy. In a Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll released on Feb. 22 – two days before Trump’s highly anticipated address to Congress – 60% of Americans said they disapprove of the way he is handling his role. Of that number, 47% indicated a strong disapproval. Another 39% said they approve of the president’s performance. The pollster said the last time

Though the majority express negative opinions about the president, it still doesn’t appear to translate into an automatic boon for the Democrats.

Trump’s disapproval touched 60% was shortly after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. The five-day poll was conducted among 2,589 U.S. adults from Feb. 12-17 and has a margin of error of 2 See POLL, Page 2A

Cartel leader’s death leads to violence across Mexico

Lauren Villagran and Kathryn Palmer
USA TODAY

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Feb. 23 that normal activity had resumed following a day of violence in several regions of her country. “Today, there is tranquility,” she said, adding that peace had been secured and blockades largely cleared. The unrest was triggered by the Feb. 22 killing of a powerful cartel leader in a military operation. Nemesio Oseguera, commonly known as “El Mencho,” was Mexico’s most-wanted cartel leader, with a \$15 million bounty for information leading to his capture. He rose through the ranks and launched a deadly coup See MEXICO, Page 2A



Gunmen suspected to be supporters of Nemesio Oseguera, commonly known as “El Mencho,” set cars and businesses ablaze on Feb. 22. ULISES RUIZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

