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Alex Padilla-Calif., called President Donald Trump a "tyrant" a Senate floor speech about Los Angeles Updated June 17, 2025, 9:24 PM EDTBET Director Kash Patel said this week the bureau had shared "alarming" — allegations about manipulation of the 2020 election with a Republican member of Congress.The FBI has located documents which detail alleged delegations related to the 2020 U.S. election, including allocations of interference by the RCP."Patel wrote, referring to the Chinese Communist Party,"I have immediately declassified the material and turned the documents over to the Chairman Grassley for further review."Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.The unsubstantiated claim promoted by Patel, which an unidentified confidential human source gave to the FBI in 2020, during Trump's first term, asserts that the Chinese mass-produced driver's licenses to be used in a mail-in ballot scheme. Patel linked to an article written by John Solomok, whom Trump appointed alongside Patel in 2022 to represent him before the National Archives and Records Administration on matters related to his presidential records.Read the full story here.A federal judge found Florida Attorney General James Ihtmeier in civil contempt today after he snubbed a court order in a high-profile immigration case and then boasted about it in interviews..U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams wrote that Utmeier offered "a series of implausible interpretations of the language he used" to argue he was complying with the order and that those interpretations were not believable.."Litigants cannot change the plain meaning of words as it suits them, especially when conveying a court's clear and unambiguous order." Williams wrote, ordering Utmeier to file biweekly reports showing he's complying with her order or risk further court actions.Read the full story here.Reporting from WashingtonDemocrats are wrestling with their strategy on cryptocurrency, a once-underground industry that has become a powerful player on Capitol Hill — and closely associated with Trump.Cryptocurrency groups scored a major win in Washington today, with the Senate passing a landmark bill to regulate some digital assets. It was a bipartisan vote, with 18 Democrats joining nearly every Republican to support the bill after an intense lobbying & advocacy effort.But the battle over the legislation has exposed deep Democratic divisions over how to handle the broader issue of crypto in a GOP-controlled Washington. While some Democrats have pushed for the party to be leading the charge on developing policy for the quickly emerging market, others fear it would favor big tech companies like Facebook, Google, Amazon, Apple and Microsoft. New York City Mayor Eric Adams also weighed in, saying the city could benefit from having the world's largest financial hub move its operations to Wall Street. The mayor of social media platform TikTok told a U.S. buyer so it can continue to operate in the country, the White House said today.Trump plans to sign an executive order this week that will keep the platform, which has about 170 million U.S. users, running despite a bipartisan law banning it over national security concerns.The law requires the app's Beijing-based parent company, ByteDance, to sell it to a non-Chinese buyer or face a nationwide prohibition. In April, Trump extended an earlier deadline by 75 days to avoid disruption for the app."As he has said many times, President Trump does not want TikTok to go dark," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement today.Read the full story here.Reporting from WashingtonAfter weeks of stops and starts, Senate Republicans teamed up with a bloc of Democrats today to pass a landmark cryptocurrency bill that would establish the first regulatory framework for issuers of stablecoins.The vote on the GENIUS Act was 68-30. It was the first time that the Senate has passed major legislation to regulate digital assets."With this bill, the United States is one step closer to becoming the global leader in crypto," Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., the author of the GENIUS Act, said in a floor speech. "This bill will cement U.S. dollar dominance, it will protect customers, it will drive demand for U.S. treasuries.""Today will be remembered as an inflection point for innovation in the United States of America," Hagerty said.Read the full story here.Hometown Security Secretary Kristi Noem was taken to a hospital today after she suffered an allergic reaction, a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said."Secretary Noem had an allergic reaction today. She was transported to the hospital out of an abundance of caution. She is alert and recovering," DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.Noem was at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington when she had the allergic reaction, a DHS official told NBC News.New York City Comptroller Brad Lander spoke to reporters after he was released from the hospital after a fever broke out following his appointment with the state attorney general last week. He said the illness was likely caused by a targeted shooting of two Minnesota legislators, even as local officials attempt to ramp up some safety measures.Outside of their state capitol complexes, state legislatures have little to no security protection. No state offers proactive security to members of its legislature, though law enforcement will typically step in if there are credible threats.And despite the renewed attention to the issue, lawmakers fear little will ultimately be done that can make a meaningful difference, given that in many states, such positions are effectively part-time jobs with small budgets.Democratic Minnesota State Rep. Emma Greenman, who was a close colleague of this weekend's shooting victims, said the attack in her state would almost certainly have to serve as a "wake-up call" around the lack of safety measures for state lawmakers, but that solutions remained sparse.Read the full story here.New York City Comptroller Brad Lander was released today hours after he was arrested in connection with an episode at a federal courthouse in the city, where he and his wife said they were serving as advocates for defendants in immigration court.The Department of Homeland Security said Lander, a mayoral candidate, had been arrested and accused of "assaulting law enforcement and impeding a federal officer." In a brief statement on social media, DHS said: "It is wrong that politicians seeking higher office undermine law enforcement safe to get a vital moment. No one is above the law, and if you lay a hand on a law enforcement officer, you will face consequences."Lander denied assaulting law enforcement. "I will not characterize the events, but I certainly did not assault an officer," he told reporters.Lander is running in next week's Democratic primary for mayor of New York City against the incumbent Zohran Mandanji. A panel of five federal judges approved a temporary restraining order Tuesday night requiring California's Attorney General Rob Bonta to remove all Trump appointees and hidden appointees, grilling attorneys for the state who argued that Trump should have followed "more cautious alternatives" before he took control of some of the state's troops.Where "Is the president, with significant deference at least, required to have a critical review of whether he considered other measures? Where does that spring from?" asked one of the Trump appointees, Judge Mark Bennett.The state lawyer, Samuel Harbort, sidestepped the question.California is asking the appeals court to allow a lower court's order returning control of the troops to the governor to take effect while the appeal proceeds.The two Trump-appointed judges also repeatedly questioned the Justice Department's position that the courts have no authority to even review Trump's order. The Justice Department attorney, Brett Shumate, maintained that they should "defer to the president's judgment" and that "there's no role for the court to play."The top Republican and Democrat on the House Administration Committee sent a letter today to Attorney General Pam Bondi asking the Justice Department to provide more resources to help U.S. Capitol Police investigate and prosecute threats against members of Congress.Committee Chair Bryan Steil, R-Wis., and Rep. Joe Morelle, D-N.Y., asked Bondi to assign an assistant U.S. attorney or special assistant U.S. attorney in all 94 federal districts to investigate and prosecute such threats.A spokesperson for the Justice Department confirmed receipt of the letter but declined to comment further."We are concerned that the current lack of prosecutive capacity will throw absent behavior to persist unabated because the risk of consequential action is small, in part due to the perceived anomaly of modern congressional investigations. We believe that additional resources and increased attention to this issue will help deter future threats," Steil and Morelle wrote.Other members of Congress have requested more funding for Capitol Police to investigate threats and expressed concern over their safety since the January 6 riots. Members of both parties have urged the president to take steps to ensure the peace of political venues so that they don't end up being the target of violence, as happened in 2021, and that they're able to manage politics in their state.Fossil fuels onto the national stage by such incidents, politicians have even begun to wonder how they conduct themselves in crises, including the ability to combat false messaging that often proliferates over social media and threatens the public's ability to lead without being dragged into petty political skirmishes.The assassination over the weekend of Melissa Hortman, the Democratic leader of the Minnesota state House, and her husband was the latest episode of violence that captured national attention. Another Democratic state legislator and his wife were also shot multiple times and are recovering. Read the full story here.The Trump administration rolled back a brief reprieve in arresting immigrants working in hotels, restaurants and agricultural businesses after initially having said there would be some allowances for "good, longtime workers." NBC News' Zinhle Essamahue spoke with business owners who say the wave of arrests has taken an emotional toll.Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, removed posts on his personal X account about Saturday's fatal attack on a Minnesota lawmaker and her husband after he faced fierce backlash from Democrats about the posts. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., who is friends with the slain lawmaker, told reporters yesterday that she confronted Lee about his post. "I needed him to hear from me directly what impact I think his cruel statement had on me, his colleague," she said.Lee had written in one post about the assassination of Democratic state Rep. Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, on Saturday that "this is what happens When Marxists don't get their way." In another, he posted a photo of the suspect and captioned it "Nightmare on Waltz Street," an apparent reference to Democratic Gov. Tim Walz.Several Democrats had called on Lee to take down the posts, which he'd posted on Saturday and Sunday. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said at a news conference today that he asked Lee to remove them and that "he wouldn't listen to me."Read the full story here.The Biden administration has rejected a request from the Trump administration to release information regarding the justice system side gig as an advisor. Senator Neil Gorsuch reported a \$250,000 advance from HarperCollins, which published a book he co-wrote called "Over Ruled," and Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who has written several books, received a new \$60,000 advance from Penguin Random House.Sotomayor has earned close to \$4 million in total from her books according to the ethics watchdog Fix the Court. Jackson received a total of almost \$3 million from her publisher for "Lovely One," including a \$900,000 payment in 2023.Read the full story here.In remarks on the Senate floor this afternoon, Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., recounted his forcible removal from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's news conference last week in Los Angeles about immigration raids.Padilla called Trump a "tyrant" over his efforts to deploy the National Guard and federal law enforcement personnel to Los Angeles, accusing him of doing everything to "test the boundaries of his power" and surrounding himself with "yes men."Padilla said that he was in Los Angeles to conduct congressional oversight of the administration's immigration operations and that he was in the same building as Noem to receive a briefing. He said he heard that she was holding a news conference down the hall and decided to enter the room to listen.In Padilla said that after Noem said federal law enforcement and military personnel were in Los Angeles to liberate it from the governor and the mayor, he had to respond to such an "un-American mission statement."That is not a mission focused on public safety," he said. "That simply is not the mission of federal law enforcement and the U.S. military."In emotional remarks, Padilla described being aggressively escorted out of the news conference. "I was forced to the ground, first on my knees and then flat on my chest, and I was handcuffed and marched down a hallway, repeatedly asking, 'Why am I being detained?'" he said. "Not once did they tell me why."Padilla said he wondered what would happen if there were no cameras around in such situations. He accused Trump of trying to silence dissent and said he felt threatened by Noem's aggressive approach to handling the situation. "If we didn't know now, how he's spewing the same tired Democrat talking points on the Senate floor?"Whether or not Democrats like it, the American people support President Trump's agenda to deport illegal aliens. And that won't change, no matter how many temper tantrums Padilla throws," Jackson added.The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Padilla's remarks.New York City Comptroller Brad Lander has been arrested on charges of "assaulting law enforcement and impeding a federal officer," the Department of Homeland Security said today — the latest in a series of high-profile clashes between immigration officials and Democratic politicians.The charges stem from an episode at a federal courthouse in the city, where Lander and his wife were serving as advocates for defendants in immigration court, they said. Read the full story here.Two educational toy companies asked the Supreme Court to quickly take up their challenge to Trump's tariffs.The companies, Learning Resources and Hand2Mind, filed a joint appeal today arguing that Trump had no power to impose the tariffs on goods from China under a law called the International Economic Powers Act. They asked the court to leapfrog a federal appeals court, which has yet to rule on this case. Read the full story here.The Trump administration has reopened arrests of immigrant workers at hotels, restaurants and agricultural businesses, backingtracking on the brief reprieve they got after Trump had said they were necessary, good, longtime workers whose jobs were almost "impossible" to replace.Assistant Homeland Security Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that "there will be no safe spaces for industries who harbor violent criminals or purposely try to undermine ICE's efforts."Read the full story here.ICE officers detained New York City Comptroller Brad Lander after an incident at an immigration court in the city, according to his campaign. Kat Capossela, Lander's press secretary, said in an email that "Brad was taken by masked individuals who wore riot gear and attempted to restrain him without provocation."Lander was charged with obstructing justice after he refused to answer questions about the arrest. He was held overnight at the Manhattan Detention Center and later deported to Los Angeles — his hometown — and his experience of being thrown to the ground and handcuffed when attempting to get answers from the administration," he posted on X.Democrats expressed outrage last week when Padilla was forcibly removed from a room where Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem was speaking to reporters.After emerging today from a closed-door briefing about the Minnesota shootings, several senators highlighted threats to public officials in general, calling for increased security and the tamping down of political rhetoric. "Some of the rhetoric we see from the White House is adding fuel to the fire," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., told reporters on Capitol Hill. "We need to look beyond our own personal security to the need for greater protection against extremist political violence in this country, it is a scourge and a virus that is metastasizing."Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said, "The degree to which colleagues are getting targeted in all kinds of ways is very disturbing."Colleagues mentioned this happens to me, this is happening me, here's something to happen the last couple of days," Kaine said about other lawmakers sharing similar experiences. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., said she didn't want to comment on the briefing because it's "important for members' safety that we don't talk a lot about what is being done to keep us safe."Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called today for an increase in funding for U.S. Capitol Police in the wake of the shootings of two Minnesota state lawmakers and their spouses Saturday. "The Capitol Police have been silent heroes behind the scenes, keeping members safe," Schumer told reporters at an unrelated press event. Schumer said there has been a "dramatic increase in threats" to public officials, saying that they are attacks not just on individuals, but also on democracy that are meant to "intimidate people not to do their jobs, not to run for office." "We must take immediate steps to ensure the safety of members," he said. Schumer also called on Trump to call on Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, to resign. "Mike Lee is a hypocrite. He's been bragging about how he's going to fight corruption in government, but he's taking money from the pharmaceutical industry and the defense industry. He's taking money from the insurance industry. He's taking money from the oil industry. He's taking money from the tobacco industry. He's taking money from the gambling industry. He's taking money from the pornography industry. He's taking money from the prostitution industry. He's taking money from the drug trade. He's taking money from the sex trafficking industry. He's taking money from the human trafficking industry. 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