

## Trump Asserts Power to Block Asylum Claims

### New Rules for People Who Enter Illegally

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration, invoking national security powers meant to protect the United States against threats from abroad, announced new rules on Thursday that give President Trump vast authority to deny asylum to virtually any migrant who crosses the border illegally.

Administration officials declined to say who will be affected by the new rules, but it is widely expected inside the government and by advocate groups that Mr. Trump intends to deny asylum to migrants from Central American nations, some of whom are walking toward the United States in a widely publicized caravan.

The president, who made immigration and the caravan major issues during the midterm election campaigns, is expected to announce on Friday which countries the rules will apply to. They will take effect on an emergency basis as soon as they are published in the Federal Register.

The regulations will overhaul longstanding asylum laws that provide the opportunity for people fleeing persecution and violence in their home countries to seek sanctuary in the United States.

The changes effectively close the option of asylum to those who do not enter the country at an official port of entry, where immigrants and other travelers are legally allowed to cross from Mexico into the United States, after being processed by the Border Patrol. Recently, at some crossings, a crush of arrivals has created long lines and delays of days.

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**LAST-MINUTE ACT** Jeff Sessions, fired as attorney general, put new limits on consent decrees to curb police abuses. PAGE A15

## AT JUSTICE DEPT., A BOSS WHO HELD COURTS IN DISDAIN

### 'THE INFERIOR BRANCH'

#### Acting Attorney General Questioned Primacy of Supreme Court

By CHARLIE SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The acting attorney general, Matthew G. Whitaker, once espoused the view that the courts "are supposed to be the inferior branch" and criticized the Supreme Court's power to review legislative and executive acts and declare them unconstitutional, the lifeblood of its existence as a coequal branch of government.

In a Q. and A. when he sought the Republican nomination for senator in Iowa in 2014, Mr. Whitaker indicated that he shared the belief among some conservatives that the federal judiciary has too much power over public policy. He criticized many of the Supreme Court's rulings, beginning with a foundational one: Marbury v. Madison, which established its power of judicial review in 1803.

"There are so many" bad rulings, Mr. Whitaker said. "I would start with the idea of Marbury v. Madison. That's probably a good place to start and the way it's looked at the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of constitutional issues."

The interview was among evidence that shed new light on Mr. Whitaker's views, including disparagement of the Russia investigation, which he now oversees, and an expansive view of presidential power. Congressional aides, journalists and other observers scoured his record after Mr. Trump fired Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Wednesday and replaced him with Mr. Whitaker, instantly raising questions about

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# 12 SLAIN BY CALIFORNIA GUNMAN



MARK J. TERRILL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least 22 were injured on Wednesday in a rampage at the Borderline Bar & Grill, a country music club in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

## With No Clear-Cut Winner, the Bickering Builds

This article is by Richard Fausset, Patricia Mazzei and Alan Blinder.

ATLANTA — Two days after Election Day, the 31 million residents of Georgia and Florida still could not say for sure who had won three of their marquee political contests. Razor-thin and shrinking leads in the vote tallies on Thursday unleashed hordes of lawyers, talk of recounts and run-offs, and the kind of bickering over ballots that brought back memories of the 2000 presidential contest.

### Several Marquee Races Are Too Close to Call

The two states' races for governor and Florida's Senate race hung in the balance, and the stress was palpable for politicians and voters alike.

Officials were still counting absentee, provisional and overseas ballots, and the partisan camps were disputing how to go about it and whether those votes could

still change the outcome — even in the race between Ron DeSantis and Andrew Gillum for governor of Florida, which Mr. DeSantis seemed on Tuesday night to have won.

"When I saw Gillum concede, I started screaming to myself, 'No! It's Florida! Let them do a recount!'" said Sherry Shepard, 44, a real estate agent from Miami Gardens, Fla.

Though she is a Republican, Ms. Shepard said she voted for Mr. Gillum, a Democrat, to protest the

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## For Many Survivors, Second Brush With a Mass Shooting

This article is by Jose A. Del Real, Jennifer Medina and Tim Arango.

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Country music was blaring and beer was flowing. The Lakers game was on the television, and if revelers weren't line dancing they were playing pool. Then all of a sudden, into "College Country Night!" at the Borderline Bar & Grill stepped a man with a gun.

Wearing dark clothing and a dark baseball cap, he set off smoke bombs to create confusion. He shot a security guard at the entrance and then opened fire into the crowd. Patrons dropped to the ground, dashed under tables, hid in the bathroom and ran for exits, stepping over bodies sprawled across the floor.

"I remember looking back at one point to make sure he wasn't behind me," said Sarah DeSon, a 19-year-old college student.

And as they raced for safety, many of them thought, Not again.

Just last year, they had fled the same chaos — gunshots, bodies falling — in Las Vegas, at a country music festival where 58 people were killed in the worst mass shooting in modern American history. The Borderline, a popular hangout for country music fans, had become a place of solace for dozens of survivors of the Vegas massacre to come together for music, for healing and for remembering — "to celebrate life," in the words of one.

And now, at least some of them, belong to a group that seems uniquely American: survivors of two mass shootings.

"This is the second time in about a year and a month that this has happened," Nicholas Champion, a fitness trainer from Southern California who posted a group photo on Facebook of Vegas survivors gathering at the Borderline in April, said in a television inter-

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ANDRÉ STRAUSS

Excavating a skeleton in Brazil. Ancient remains there showed a genetic link to those in Nevada.

## A Migrant Wave, Ages Ago, From North to South

By CARL ZIMMER

Nearly 11,000 years ago, a man died in what is now Nevada. Wrapped in a rabbit-skin blanket and reed mats, he was buried in a place called Spirit Cave.

Now scientists have recovered and analyzed his DNA, along with that of 70 other ancient people whose remains were discovered

throughout the Americas. The findings lend astonishing detail to a story once lost to prehistory: how and when humans spread across the Western Hemisphere.

The earliest known arrivals from Asia were already splitting into recognizably distinct groups, the research suggests. Some of these populations thrived, becoming the ancestors of indigenous peoples throughout the hemisphere.

But other groups died out entirely, leaving no trace save for what can be discerned in ancient DNA. Indeed, the new genetic research hints at many dramatic chapters in the peopling of the Americas that archaeology has yet to uncover.

"Now, this is the grist for archaeologists," said Ben Potter of

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## Pilots Had Just Seconds to Try To Halt Boeing Plane's Plunge

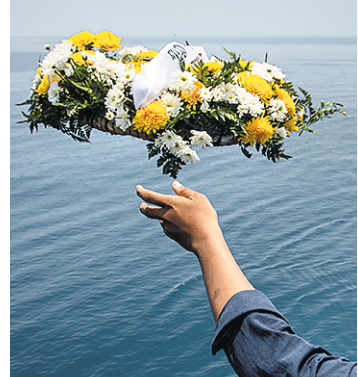
By HANNAH BEECH and KEITH BRADSHAW

JAKARTA — The final moments of Lion Air Flight 610 as it hurtled soon after dawn from a calm Indonesian sky into the waters of the Java Sea would have been terrifying but swift.

The single-aisle Boeing aircraft, assembled in Washington State and delivered to Lion Air less than three months ago, appears to have plummeted nose-first into the water, its advanced jet engines racing the plane toward the waves at as much as 400 m.p.h. in less than a minute. The aircraft slammed into the sea with such force that some metal fittings aboard were reduced to powder, and the aircraft's flight data recorder tore loose from its armored box, propelled into the muddy seabed.

As American and Indonesian investigators puzzle through clues of what went wrong, they are focusing not on a single lapse but on a cascade of troubling issues that ended with the deaths of all 189 people on board.

That is nearly always the case in plane crashes, in which disaster can rarely be pinned on one factor.



ULET IFANSASTI/GETTY IMAGES

Flowers cast into the Java Sea for the Lion Air crash victims.

While investigators have not yet concluded what caused Flight 610 to plunge into the sea, they know that in the days before the crash the plane had experienced repeated problems in some of the same systems that could have led the aircraft to go into a nose dive.

Questions about those problems and how they were handled constitute a sobering reminder of the trust we display each time we strap on seatbelts and take to the skies in a metal tube.

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### NEW YORK A24-26

#### A Train-Delay Glossary

New Jersey Transit uses strange terms. From "ice patrols" to "slippery rails" to "annulments," a guide to what exactly makes you late to work. PAGE A24



### NATIONAL A10-22

#### Edited Clip Used Against CNN

The Trump administration posted a misleadingly edited video from a contributor to the conspiracy site Infowars to help justify removing the credentials of a CNN reporter. PAGE A15

#### F.D.A. Cracks Down on Vaping

The agency said it would ban most flavored e-cigarettes in retail stores to reduce vaping among young people. Mint and menthol flavors would be exempt. PAGE A21

### INTERNATIONAL A4-8

#### U.S. and China Risk Clash at Sea

A recent near miss of an American destroyer and Chinese warship underscored the perils in the South China Sea, where the two navies are increasingly challenging each other. PAGE A6

#### Message in Armistice Events

President Emmanuel Macron of France hoped the centennial of the end of World War I would bolster his vision for "more Europe." But it may underscore his isolation. News Analysis. PAGE A4

### BUSINESS DAY B1-6

#### Protesters Act; Google Reacts

Google said it would end forced arbitration for sexual harassment or assault claims after more than 20,000 workers walked out to protest how it handles sexual misconduct cases. PAGE B1

#### Gates's Goal: Better Toilets

The Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates held the Reinvented Toilet Expo in Beijing to showcase innovative approaches to a global problem affecting billions: unsafe sanitation. PAGE B1

### WEEKEND ARTS C1-28

#### Meet Warhol, Again

A new exhibition restores the Pop master to full, commanding view, and reasserts his importance for a new generation, Holland Cotter writes. PAGE C13



### SPORTSFRIDAY B7-10

#### Records Spur Gymnastics Move

U.S.A. Gymnastics' belated disclosure of documents sought in a sexual abuse inquiry prompted the U.S. Olympic Committee to take charge. PAGE B7

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#### David Brooks

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