



Waiting to cross into northern Gaza on Sunday. Israel had prevented Gazans from returning north, saying Hamas violated their truce. EYAD BABA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Video Points To Power Lines In Eaton Blaze

This article is by **Ivan Penn, Blacki Migliozi, Danny Hakim and K.K. Rebecca Lai.**

LOS ANGELES — Early on the evening of Jan. 7, a resident of a neighborhood of homes backed up against the San Gabriel Mountains in Southern California saw what he described as a bright white light, and then a small fire at the base of an electrical tower up in Eaton Canyon. Another neighbor reported that his lights flickered a few minutes before he saw fire underneath the tower.

So far, many clues to the origins of the deadly Eaton fire, which started in the area just after 6 p.m. that evening and went on to kill 17 people, have pointed to the brushy hillside where a tangle of electrical lines stretch up Eaton Canyon.

Yet Southern California Edison, the utility that operates the electricity infrastructure in much of the Los Angeles region, has said it has no record of an electrical failure on its lines in the vicinity, and that three low-voltage distribution lines in the area had been de-energized long before the fire.

While an official cause is likely to take months for investigators to determine, a growing body of evidence is emerging that suggests the fire started in the dry grasses below a set of transmission towers carrying high-energy power lines. The lines were buffeted that evening by winds that at times reached 100 miles per hour.

A video recorded by a surveillance camera at a gas station less than a mile south of the towers appears to provide an important

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BLOW TO HOLLYWOOD The wildfires are a new challenge for the TV and movie industry. PAGE C1

Distress and Fury as Trump Upends Federal Jobs

This article is by **Erica L. Green, Campbell Robertson and Noam Scheiber.**

WASHINGTON — An Education Department employee was attending a funeral last week when she got the call: She was being placed on administrative leave because she works on projects that connect Black students, among others, to federal government programs.

A disabled veteran employed at the Department of Veterans Affairs grew emotional when he heard about the rescinding of telework options, unsure whether it would mean the end of his job taking care of fellow soldiers.

A Federal Trade Commission employee was so anxious that he

Workers Fear Damage to Careers, Families and Communities

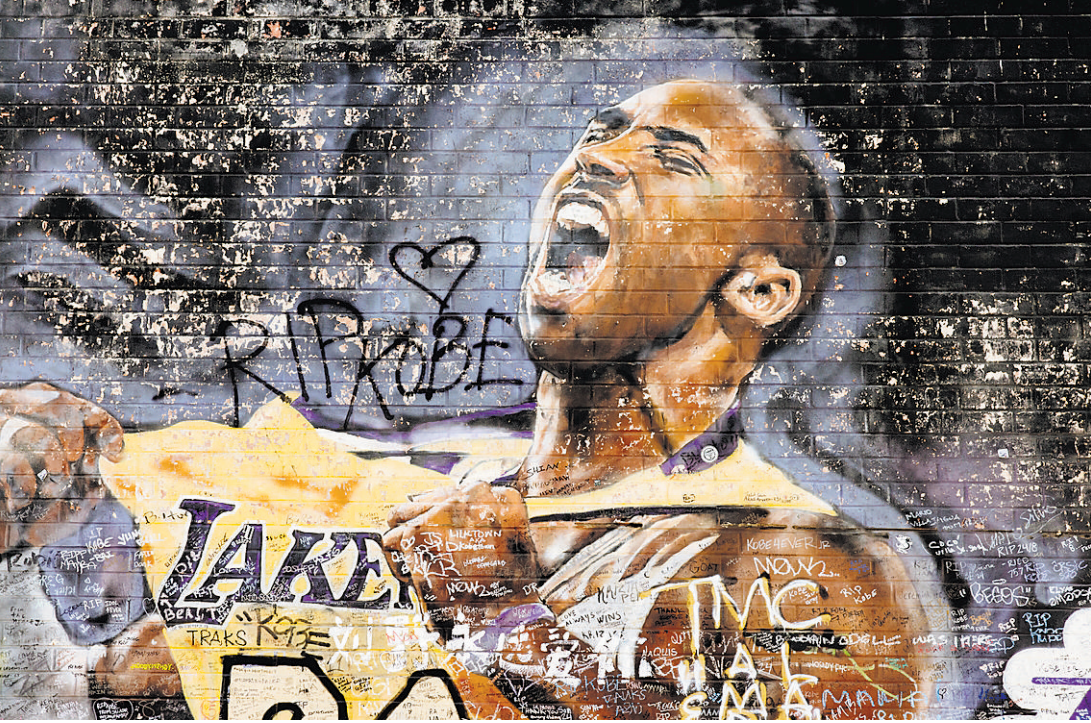
told family members not to talk about politics on unencrypted lines. Across government agencies, workers eyed one another nervously, wondering whether a colleague would report them, accusing them of resisting the new administration’s move to end certain programs.

President Trump’s rapid push to overhaul the federal bureaucracy in his first days in office has been met with a mix of fear, fury and confusion throughout the work force.

Dozens of employees across the government, many of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because of worries of retribution, described agencies gripped with uncertainty about how to implement the new policies and workers frantically trying to assess the impact on their careers and families. The federal government is the nation’s largest employer, so the upheaval could reverberate in communities throughout the country.

Starting on Inauguration Day, the orders and memos came down one after the other, many crafted in the pugnacious tone of a campaign speech: the shuttering of “Radical and Wasteful” diversity programs in federal agencies; the stripping of civil service protec-

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JOYCE KIM FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Laker Immortalized in the Paint

Murals in Los Angeles honor Kobe Bryant and his daughter five years after their deaths. Page C5.

Keeping Eyes on Bird Flu Outbreak That Could Quickly Escalate

By **APOORVA MANDAVILLI**

When bird flu first struck dairy cattle a year ago, it seemed possible that it might affect a few isolated herds and disappear as quickly as it had appeared. Instead, the virus has infected more than 900 herds and dozens of people, killing one, and the outbreak shows no signs of abating.

A pandemic is not inevitable

even now, more than a dozen experts said in interviews. But a series of developments over the past few weeks indicates that the possibility is no longer remote.

Toothless guidelines, inadequate testing and long delays in releasing data — echoes of the missteps during the Covid-19 pandemic — have squandered opportunities for containing the outbreak, the experts said.

Health Experts Point to Some Troubling Signs

In one example emblematic of the disarray, a few dairy herds in Idaho that were infected in the spring displayed mild symptoms for a second time in the late fall, The New York Times has learned.

In mid-January, the Department of Agriculture said that no new infections in Idaho herds had been identified since October. But state officials publicly discussed milder cases in November.

That a second bout of infections would produce milder symptoms in cattle is unsurprising, experts said, and could be welcome news to farmers. But reinfections sug-

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Trump Presses To ‘Clean Out’ The Gaza Strip

Mideast Allies Urged to Take In Palestinians

By **ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS** and **VIVIAN YEE**

A suggestion by President Trump to “clean out” the Gaza Strip and ask Egypt and Jordan to take in more Palestinians has raised new questions about United States policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and two of its most important allies in the Middle East.

Mr. Trump’s comments appeared to echo the wish of the Israeli far right that Palestinians be encouraged to leave Gaza — an idea that goes to the heart of Palestinian fears that they will be driven from their remaining homelands, and one that is likely to be rejected by Egypt and Jordan.

“You’re talking about probably a million and a half people, and we just clean out that whole thing,” Mr. Trump said of Gaza on Saturday. “I don’t know. Something has to happen, but it’s literally a demolition site right now.”

Mr. Trump told reporters on Air Force One that he had spoken to King Abdullah II of Jordan, saying, “I said to him, ‘I’d love for you to take on more because I’m looking at the whole Gaza Strip right now, and it’s a mess.’” He said he would also like Egypt to take in more Palestinians and that he would speak to the country’s president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

He said Palestinians could be in Jordan and Egypt “temporarily, or could be long-term.”

It was unclear from Mr. Trump’s comments if he was suggesting that all of the people in Gaza leave. The enclave has a population of about two million.

The suggestion by Mr. Trump was rejected Sunday by Hamas, the militant group that runs Gaza.

“The Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip have endured death and destruction over 15 months in one of humanity’s greatest crimes of the 21st century, simply to stay on their land and homeland,” said Basem Naim, a member of the Hamas political bureau, referring to the war that started with the Hamas-led attack on Israel in 2023. “Therefore, they will not accept any proposals or solutions, even if seemingly well-intentioned under the guise of reconstruction, as proposed by U.S. President Trump.”

But the idea appeared to be well-

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TRUCES SEE TEST AS ISRAEL IS SAID TO HAVE KILLED 22

TALKS MAKE PROGRESS

Thousands Try to Return to Homes in Gaza and Lebanon

This article is by **Christina Goldbaum, Isabel Kershner, Euan Ward and Thomas Fuller.**

DAMASCUS, Syria — The fragile cease-fires in Lebanon and Gaza were tested on Sunday as Israeli forces killed scores of people in southern Lebanon, Lebanese officials said, while in Gaza, Israel prevented Palestinians from moving back to their homes, saying Hamas had violated the terms of the truce.

But by the end of the day in Gaza, Israel and Hamas said understandings had been reached via mediators to resolve their dispute.

And the White House issued a statement indicating that in Lebanon, an arrangement for an initial 60-day truce that had called for the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the southern part of the country by Sunday would be extended until Feb. 18.

Negotiators had hoped that the cease-fire in Lebanon, which was signed in November, would become permanent by now, securing a measure of calm in a turbulent region. Thousands of Lebanese displaced by the war have poured onto roads leading south, heading back to their homes.

As the original deadline passed on Sunday for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and the forces of the militant group Hezbollah from southern Lebanon, a very different scenario was taking shape. Lebanon’s Health Ministry said Israeli forces killed at least 22 people and injured 120 in southern Lebanon, making Sunday the deadliest day in the country since the war ended in November.

The Israeli military said in a statement late on Sunday that it had fired “warning shots in order to eliminate threats” — a formulation that suggested the shots may have been more than just warnings. It said that there had been “dozens of rioters” in the area. The military also said its soldiers had spotted a “a vehicle with Hezbollah flags” and that its forces had “operated in order to remove the threat.”

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India, an Illegal Migrant Hub, Hopes to Protect Its Pathways

By **SUHASINI RAJ**

JASALPUR, India — The family arrived at the ornately carved temple in western India bearing a special sweet of dried milk and clarified butter. It was a desperate offering for their son’s safety: He had just crossed into the United States, only days before President Trump took office promising a fierce crackdown on illegal immigration.

In their village in Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the markers of migration are everywhere. Plaques on buildings trumpet donations from Indians in America. Houses sit locked and empty, their owners now in the United States — many legally, many not.

Mr. Trump’s threats of mass deportations of illegal immigrants have raised the loudest alarms in countries closer to the United States, like in Mexico and Central America. But the fear and uncertainty — and the potential for political repercussions — are also rippling through India.

India is one of the top sources of



ATUL LOKE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A temple in Jasalpur, India, that was funded by migrants.

illegal immigration to the United States, according to the Pew Research Center. As of 2022, over 700,000 undocumented Indians were living in the United States, the center estimates, making them the third-largest group, behind Mexicans and Salvadorans.

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DEPORTATIONS A host of federal agencies joined to begin immigration arrests in Chicago. PAGE A9



INTERNATIONAL A4-7

Oil Disaster in the Black Sea

Vast stretches of Russian coast have been tarred by heavy fuel from two ships that failed in a storm. PAGE A4

Colombia Rejects Deportations

President Trump called for escalating tariffs after Colombia refused U.S. military planes with migrants. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A8-15

A Plane Crash Miracle

In 1990, Avianca Flight 52 crashed on Long Island and a 17-year-old girl was pulled from the wreckage. Survival has been its own ordeal. PAGE A8

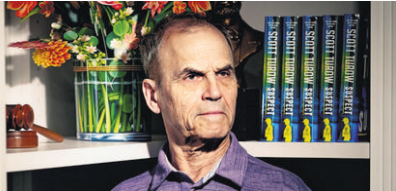
When Will Justice Come?

More than a century after the Tulsa Race Massacre in Oklahoma, a question of reparations endures. PAGE A12

OBITUARIES B6-7

Rejector of Abstract Art

Jo Baer established herself as a leading proponent of nonrepresentational art, but left it behind. She was 95. PAGE B6



ARTS C1-6

Turow Brings a Hero Back

The novelist has returned once again to a character who was at the center of the action in “Presumed Innocent.” PAGE C1

Video Games Stuck in Past

The gaming industry does well with Star Wars and other beloved franchises. But nostalgia has its limits. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

Fewer Spaces to Park

Hundreds of cities have cut back parking requirements for real estate projects. That has led to more housing development and more complaints from residents. PAGE B1

In China, Doctors Dissent

Top physicians have raised concerns about domestically made drugs, saying that Beijing’s effort to lower costs is sacrificing quality, to the detriment of patients. PAGE B1

OPINION A16-17

Kathleen Sebelius

PAGE A17



SPORTS D1-8

Celebration and Uncertainty

Jannik Sinner won the Australian Open, but the world’s No. 1 men’s player now faces a bigger battle in court over an appeal in his doping case. PAGE D1

