

Parties see hope for Gaza cease-fire

Pressure on Israel mounts amid rumors of ICC arrest warrants

BY STEVE HENDRIX, CLAIRE PARKER AND LOVEDAY MORRIS

JERUSALEM — Mediators expressed hope Monday, once again, that Israel and Hamas were inching toward an agreement to halt fighting in Gaza and release dozens of Israeli hostages — a last, best chance to prevent a return to full-scale war.

The signs of optimism came after Israel presented terms to negotiators last week that softened its position and “broke new ground,” according to an Israeli official familiar with the deliberations. “There is hope,” a Hamas official in Turkey told The Washington Post, but he cautioned that key points require clarification. Like others quoted in this report, the officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive and ongoing diplomacy.

Any final decision rests with the militant group’s leader, Yehiya Sinwar, who is believed to be in hiding in the tunnels beneath Gaza. Hamas negotiators were expected in Egypt on Monday. An Israeli official said the government is preparing to send its own negotiators after the Passover holiday.

President Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed the talks in a phone call late Sunday. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is scheduled to visit Israel on Wednesday as part of a renewed regional push to secure the long-sought breakthrough.

Speaking at a World Economic Forum event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Blinken described a “major effort” involving Qatar, Egypt and others. “Right now ... Hamas has before it a proposal that is extraordinarily, extraordinarily

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Amnesty International: Report calls for halt on arming Israel. **A16**

Future of enclave: Arab nations skeptical of U.S. plans for Gaza. **A17**



ROB DOBI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

On U.S. soil, in India’s sights

The White House went to extraordinary lengths last year to welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a state visit meant to bolster ties with an ascendant power and potential partner against China.

Tables on the South Lawn were decorated with lotus blooms, the symbol of Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party. A chef was flown in from California to preside over a vegetarian menu. President Biden extolled the shared values of a relationship “built on mutual trust, candor and respect.”

But even as the Indian leader was basking in U.S. adulation on June 22, an officer in India’s intelligence service was relaying final instructions to a hired hit team to kill one of Modi’s most vocal critics in the United States.

The assassination is a “priority now,” wrote Vikram Yadav, an officer in India’s spy agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, or RAW, according to current and former U.S. and Indian security officials.

Assassination plot tied to Delhi’s spy service targeted Sikh activist even as Biden courted Modi

BY GREG MILLER, GERRY SHIH AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA

Yadav forwarded details about the target, Sikh activist Gurbhag Singh Pannun, including his New York address, according to the officials and a U.S. indictment. As soon as the would-be assassins could confirm that Pannun, a U.S. citizen, was home, “it will be a go ahead from us.”

Yadav’s identity and affiliation, which have not previously been reported, provide the most explicit evidence to date that the assassination plan — ultimately thwarted by U.S. authorities — was directed from within the Indian spy service. Higher-ranking RAW officials have also been implicated, according to current and former Western security officials, as part of a sprawling investigation by the CIA, FBI and other agencies that has mapped potential links to Modi’s inner circle.

In reports that have been closely held within the American government, U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that the operation targeting Pannun was ap-

SEE INDIA ON A12

GOP paints protests as a nation’s slide into chaos

Though mostly peaceful, campus rallies provide an array of favorite foils

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB, PATRICK SVITEK AND MAEGAN VAZQUEZ

Former president Donald Trump and other prominent Republicans are seizing on the eruption of campus protests across the country to depict the United States as out of control under President Biden, seeking to use the mostly peaceful demonstrations as a political cudgel against the Democrats.

The pro-Palestinian protests at numerous colleges — including Columbia, Yale, Emory, the University of Southern California, the University of Texas at Austin and others — include encampments and barricades intended to highlight protesters’ denunciation of

Israel’s military onslaught in Gaza, as well as to push universities to divest from companies with ties to Israel.

Beyond the disruption to campus life, top Republicans have highlighted the antisemitic chants that have occurred at some of the protests. The issue is complicated by a debate over what constitutes antisemitism — and when criticism of Israel crosses that line — while some student organizers have denounced the chants or said they are coming from outside activists.

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, has cited the protests to accuse Biden and Democrats of being unable to maintain order or quash lawlessness, an accusation he has leveled at the president on

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Graduation upended: The Class of 2024 faces disruptions. **A3**

Tensions at Va. schools: Dozens arrested across the state. **B1**

Formula E: Where the cars are fast, silence is loud

An all-electric motorsport is looking to drive the future, leaving gas-powered engines in the dust



CLAUDIA GORI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Misano E-Prix race on April 13. Formula E is trying to make inroads in a motorsports space that is dominated by Formula One and NASCAR, which harness the appeal of classic full-throttle power.

BY CHICO HARLAN

MISANO, ITALY — The 22 racecars took their positions, shot off the starting line, and accelerated down a straightaway through the shimmering heat. The race was on — quietly.

The racecars rocketed past the grandstands, emitting nothing more than a mechanical whir. The tires hummed. Almost nobody in the crowd wore earplugs, as they might in Formula One. As the cars zipped through the first few turns — 27½ laps to go — they sounded no louder than electric toothbrushes.

“It’s like whistling,” said Jeroen Bos, a motorsports fan from the Netherlands.

Creating an all-electric motorsport is a bold venture. Formula One and NASCAR have built big, entrenched cultures based on the appeal of classic full-throttle power. Even the famed motorsports catchphrase is an ode to combustion: Gentlemen, start your engines.

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Slowdown for anti-LGBTQ+ efforts

State legislatures this year have passed far fewer bills curtailing gay and trans rights. **A8**

A new opportunity Historically Black colleges lacked a presence in gymnastics for years. With grass-roots support aimed at creating diversity in the sport, that is changing. **D1**

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New research challenges every ferocious myth we know about the grizzly bear. **E1**

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