

Famine risk looms over Gaza Strip once again

Situation deteriorating as Israel disrupts aid

By Louisa Loveluck, Jennifer Hassan, and Sarah Dadouch
WASHINGTON POST

The threat of famine in the Gaza Strip has been revived after Israel's military operation in the southern city of Rafah disrupted aid deliveries, leaving more than 500,000 Palestinians on the brink of starvation, a United Nations-backed group of experts said Tuesday.

Palestinians throughout the Strip face a "plausible" risk of famine in the coming months, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. "A high risk of famine persists as long as conflict continues, and humanitarian access is restricted," it said.

The report described how more than half of households have exchanged clothing for food. A third have resorted to picking up trash items to sell. More than 20 percent of people surveyed have gone entire days and nights without eating.

Most Gazans were already reliant on international aid before the conflict began, as a yearslong Israeli and Egyptian blockade took a heavy toll on the enclave's economy. After nearly nine months of war, and with the flow of aid often subject to Israeli restrictions or security concerns, almost half a million Gazans are facing "catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity," the IPC said.

FAMINE, Page A5

GE spinoff positions for a clean-tech Mass. future

By Jon Chesto
GLOBE STAFF

Two decades ago, Greater Boston had all the ingredients to be an epicenter of the life science sector: elite universities, eager startups, prominent public companies that could act as anchors. Then state lawmakers agreed to pump \$1 billion into the sector, and Boston's biotech boom was on.

Today, a similar state investment in climate-tech is being teed up on Beacon Hill, to foster another growing industry. The region has the universities and the startups to generate new ideas. But it hasn't had a flagship clean-tech company based here to draw talent, drive innovation, and help scale those smaller firms into something more.

That could be changing now that GE Vernova is on the scene. The publicly traded spinout of GE's former energy businesses is a much more focused company born from the downfall of a conglomerate. GE relocated to Boston in 2016 amid much fanfare, but the celebrations proved to be short lived as the sprawling industrial giant was forced to break apart after investors lost patience with its persistent financial problems. Basically all that's left with the old GE now is its highly profitable aerospace business.

And while GE Vernova, too, will likely face

GE, Page A7

Deliberations begin on Read's fate

Closing arguments cap two months of emotional testimony

By Sean Cotter and Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF
and Maddie Khaw
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

DEDHAM — A Norfolk County jury began deliberating the fate of Karen Read Tuesday afternoon in a murder trial that has become a media phenomenon with starkly polar

story lines: one of an angry lover running over her boyfriend in a drunken rage, the other involving sensational allegations of a coverup by corrupt police.

Read, 44, of Mansfield is accused of running over John O'Keefe, a Boston police officer, after a night of drinking and leaving him in a snowbank outside the Canton home of a fellow police officer, where friends of theirs had gathered.

She has maintained her innocence.

The jury heard two months of

raw, emotional testimony, which included vulgar text messages sent by the lead state police investigator about Read, and agitated voicemails Read left on O'Keefe's cellphone in the middle of the night as he lay in the snow. The case has drawn extraordinary media attention, with the trial at Norfolk Superior Court livestreamed and hundreds of pink-clad supporters gathering daily outside, often chanting "Free Karen Read."

In closing arguments, lawyers on each side stuck to many of the

points they hit throughout the trial, which began April 29. In his address to the jury, Read attorney Alan Jackson asserted that she is being framed to cover up a murder by others in their group that night.

"You're the only thing standing between Karen Read and the tyranny of injustice," Jackson said.

Norfolk County prosecutor Adam Lally led his closing by quoting Read's own words, as recalled in the testimony of several first responders who treated O'Keefe on the morning

READ, Page A6

CLASHES IN KENYA



LUIS TATO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Thousands of protesters in Nairobi angered by the passage of a tax increase breached the Parliament building on Tuesday and set fire to the entrance. Police shot bullets and tear gas, and at least five people were reported dead. **A3.**

Would-be criminal's 'true story' gets brutal reviews from those in the know

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

A new memoir by Sean Scott Hicks is being promoted by a well-known publishing house as "the incredible true story" of a South Boston native who was "running jobs for the Irish mob before his voice changed."

Hicks describes himself as the nephew of the late Winter Hill Gang leader Howie Winter. He brags of being recruited as a teenager by notorious crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger, who would later finger him as a suspect in the world's largest art heist, at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Only none of that is true, ac-

cording to former law enforcement officials and actual associates of Bulger and Winter.

Bulger, a longtime FBI informant who was beaten to death in a federal prison in West Virginia in 2018, never implicated Hicks or anyone else in the 1990 theft of \$500 million worth of artwork, according to investigators who worked on the case. And prior to his death four years ago, Winter denied being related to Hicks.

The publication of those and other easily debunked claims has dumbfounded investigators and former gangsters from Boston's underworld, who question

HICKS, Page A6

Out of control

The summer potluck always sounds like a great idea but it just never is. Kara Baskin tells you why it's better to just order pizza instead. **G1.**



A large section of the beach at Walden Pond is underwater, a result of last year's heavy rains, and visitors are scrambling to find spots. **B1.**

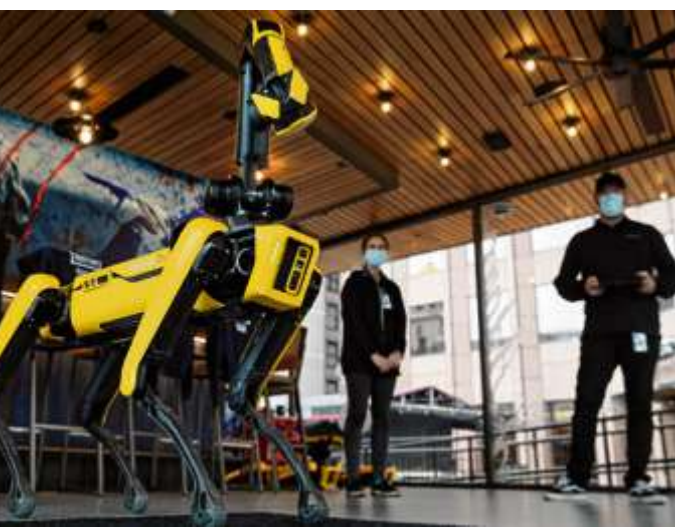
The average Boston driver spent 88 hours stuck in traffic in 2023, 10 more than the year before, according to an annual study. **B1.**

Ginkgo Bioworks will lay off more than one-third of its workers as the Boston life sciences firm slashes costs. **B5.**

Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy declared gun violence a public health crisis and called on the nation to address it. **A2.**

Salem leaders plan to remove a downtown homeless encampment Wednesday, almost two months after passing an ordinance targeting it. **B1.**

Robot dog could be a medical examiner's best friend



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2022

The state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner bought the Boston Dynamics robot for \$270,000.

With caseload growing, state tries something new

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

The robot dogs are coming — this time, for the dead.

A dystopian reality this is not. In what is believed to be a first, the Massachusetts medical examiner's office plans to deploy a dog-like robot dubbed Spot at its Boston office, where officials say it will assist in the remote examinations of bodies but can also help transport equipment and tools and even patrol the facility off-hours to "deter trespassing."

The state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner bought the Boston Dynamics robot for \$270,000 last month and expects it to arrive in "several weeks," state officials said. The robot won't replace humans and is "intended to be an operational enhancement," according to the agency.

But its introduction breaks new ground in the world of pathology, where officials here and across the country say they have long struggled to balance a growing caseload with a national shortage of trained pathologists to help investigate violent or unexplained deaths.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the medical examiner's office launched a system in which one of its physicians can examine a body remotely using a camera. The state has used this so-called telepathology program in roughly 300 external exams from its Cape Cod office in Sandwich. Officials say they don't use telepathology in autopsies — which have been conducted more sparingly in recent years — or in other more complex cases, such as homicides or suspicious deaths.

External examinations are less exhaustive

ROBOT, Page A7



Small fry

Wednesday: Hot, more humid. High 89-94. Low 66-71.

Thursday: Showers, cooler. High 82-87. Low 59-64.

High tide: 2:52 a.m., 3:34 p.m.

Sunrise: 5:09 Sunset: 8:25

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

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