

Truce ends and strikes resume in Gaza, Israel

Talks reportedly broke down over exchange terms

By Patrick Kingsley, Ben Hubbard, and Thomas Fuller
NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM — A week-long cease-fire in the Gaza Strip collapsed Friday morning, with Israel and Hamas blaming each other for the breakdown of a truce that had allowed for the exchange of hundreds of hostages and prisoners, and that had briefly raised hopes for a more lasting halt to the fighting.

The Israeli military said it had launched 200 strikes since the resumption of fighting, some of which the country's

defense minister, Yoav Gallant, witnessed from a seat in an Israeli attack helicopter flying over Gaza.

"This morning we returned to hitting Hamas with full force," he wrote on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. "The results are impressive."

"Hamas only understands force," he added.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said in a statement that Israel was "committed to achieving the war aims — freeing our hostages, eliminating Hamas and ensuring that Gaza will never again pose a threat to the residents of Israel." For days, he and other Israeli leaders had sought to quash any notion of extending the truce indefinitely.

WAR, Page A6

Alarming report on child literacy

Signs of reading problems found in more than half of K-3 students in Mass.

By Mandy McLaren
GLOBE STAFF

A new state-commissioned study of young elementary students found that more than half showed early signs of reading difficulties — more evidence that the state has a serious literacy crisis, despite its reputation for educational excellence.

The report, released Friday, provides a first-of-its kind look at the reading skills of the state's youngest children, whose reading prowess is not assessed by the state until the first MCAS exam in third grade.

The results are troubling: Nearly 30 percent of students in grades K-3 were at high risk of reading failure, and as many as 20 percent showed signs of having dyslexia, a language processing disorder that must be addressed with specialized reading instruction. Low-income students, those learning English or receiving special education services, Latino students, and Black students were most likely to experience reading struggles, according to researchers with WestEd, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that conducted the analysis.

The report suggests schools are not helping most struggling readers catch up: 60 percent of students who began the school year at risk of reading difficulties ended the school year in the same concerning position. But it found that younger students are much more likely to improve with extra help than older students are, a powerful argument

LITERACY, Page A10

52% of students were classified as below benchmark or showing risk of reading difficulty

About 27% of students were at the highest levels of risk

SOURCE: West Ed
GLOBE STAFF

Ethics report and fraud claim from one of their own push House to expel Santos

By Jim Puzzanghera and Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — House Republicans finally reached their limit on New York Representative George Santos.

After a year of bizarre and disturbing revelations about his falsified background and a slew of criminal charges of laundering campaign money, the final straw that led to his expulsion from the House on Friday came from a Nov. 16 ethics report that found he had abused the political system itself, and in eyebrow-raising fashion.

"He stole from donors to spend at Ferragamo and Hermes and [on] Botox and OnlyFans porn website," said Representative Nicole Malliotakis of New York, one of dozens of Republicans who changed their position from a month ago and voted to expel Santos on Friday. "You don't do that. You don't steal from donors and then spend it on personal luxury boutique shops."

Santos, 35, became just the sixth House member in history to be expelled, and the first



ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Representative George Santos (rear, center) and members of his staff boarded an elevator as they headed to the Capitol ahead of a vote to expel him from the House.

who wasn't already convicted of crimes or who had demonstrated "disloyalty to the Union" during the Civil War. The vote was 311-114, with two lawmakers voting "present." Almost half his fellow Republicans — 105 — joined with all but two Democrats to provide the two-thirds majority needed for expulsion, even though the move narrows the already thin GOP majority.

Santos, who has admitted embellishing his resume but denied doing anything criminal, had survived two previous expulsion efforts, with many lawmakers hesitant to set a precedent of expulsion before a criminal conviction.

But the scathing 56-page report from the bipartisan House Ethics Committee, and Santos' failure to "meaningfully coop-

SANTOS, Page A7

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR 1930-2023

Pathbreaking jurist who saw need for law to be flexible

First woman on Supreme Court became a key swing vote



SCOTT APPLEWHITE/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Justice O'Connor arrived at the Capitol in 1981, shortly after the Senate had confirmed her nomination.

By Mark Feeney
GLOBE STAFF

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court and its swing vote during much of her 25-year tenure as an associate justice, died Friday in Phoenix. She was 93.

The high court said she died of complications related to advanced dementia and a respiratory illness.

Justice O'Connor had announced in October 2018 that she was suffering from dementia and would be withdrawing from public life. "Since many people have asked about my current status and activities," she wrote in a public letter, "I want to be open about these changes, and while I am still able to, share some personal thoughts."

"A daughter of the American Southwest, Sandra Day O'Connor blazed an historic trail as our Nation's first female Justice," Chief Justice John Roberts said in a statement issued by the court. "She met that challenge with undaunted determination, indisputable ability, and engaging candor."

Named to the nation's highest court by President Reagan in 1981, Justice O'Connor liked to jokingly refer to herself as "the F.W.O.T.S.C.," or First Woman on the Supreme Court. It's a mark of her path-breaking role that more than a doz-

O'CONNOR, Page C10

'Where other justices are attracted by bright lines, she is able to find the finest of distinctions.'

KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN

Stanford Law School dean, in 1993 interview



HARRY CABLUCK/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

Justice O'Connor, seen in 2003, announced in 2018 that she would be withdrawing from public life.

Pot official's suspension explained

O'Brien denies claim she made racist remarks, seeks to postpone hearing

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

An outside investigator reported in September that the state's top cannabis regulator, Shannon O'Brien, made a series of racist and "culturally insensitive" remarks, including referring to Asian people as "yellow," while sowing turmoil within the agency she was appointed to lead — revelations that prompt-

ed Treasurer Deborah Goldberg to suspend O'Brien days later, new records show.

The allegations, which Goldberg included in an October letter to O'Brien, detail the reasons behind Goldberg's abrupt decision to suspend O'Brien, with pay, as chair of the state's Cannabis Control Commission, a move that kicked off a months-long political saga. The accusations

haven't previously been released.

Goldberg's letter is now public because O'Brien herself included it in documents submitted Friday in Suffolk Superior Court, along with a lengthy response from O'Brien denying the allegations.

O'Brien is asking a judge to postpone an administrative hearing scheduled for Tuesday in which O'Brien was expected to challenge her suspension, arguing that the private meeting

O'BRIEN, Page A10

Boston reached a tentative contract agreement with its largest police union, in what could be a major milestone for Mayor Michelle Wu's administration. **B1.**

California-based tech giant Broadcom is closing an office in Downtown Crossing and axing 150

jobs there as part of a much broader cost-cutting effort following the completion of its VMware acquisition. **D1.**

Donald Trump can be held civilly liable for the actions of the mob that attacked the US Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, an appeals court ruled. **A2.**

Don't get cold feet



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