

# The Boston Globe

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## ‘Worst humanitarian crisis that I’ve seen’

Local aid workers race to help from afar as Haiti’s lurch toward anarchy worsens

By Adam Piore  
GLOBE STAFF

Fitznel Pierre was traveling in Washington, D.C., earlier in March, when his 10-year-old son called him from Port-au-Prince.

“Papa, Papa, we’re on the streets — we’re on the streets!” his son cried, explaining that armed gangs had set the police station near their home on fire, forcing them to flee. “We don’t know where to go.”

Pierre, who runs the Port-au-Prince-based Committee for Peace and Development of Haiti, had flown to Washington to speak to a regional human rights body about the 1,375 victims of sexual violence he’d documented as part of a three-year study conducted by his small human

rights organization.

But on Feb. 29, three days into the weeklong trip, his hometown was plunged into anarchy, when armed gangs launched a series of coordinated attacks, shutting down the airport and ports, attacking hospitals and police stations, rampaging through upscale neighborhoods, and slaughtering innocent civilians.

After talking to his son, Pierre burst into tears.

Unable to return home, Pierre has since decamped to a relative’s home in Hyde Park, part of a small army of aid workers doing what they can to help Haiti amid a series of unprecedented challenges. The current crisis is the culmination of

HAITI, Page A6



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF

From Hyde Park, Fitznel Pierre offers staffers of his human rights group in Haiti advice and encouragement.

## T aims for electric trains in 2027

Commuter rail service on Fairmont Line would be 1st test of cleaner, faster cars

By Taylor Dolven  
GLOBE STAFF

The MBTA appears to be committed to a date when electric trains will finally carry passengers on its commuter rail system: 2027.

The T’s commuter rail contractor, Keolis Commuter Services, wants to buy and operate battery electric trains on the Fairmount Line with 20-minute weekday and 30-minute weekend frequencies by then, according to a document the transit agency published last week. The document was first reported by StreetsBlog Mass.

Electric trains, common throughout much of the world, can accelerate faster and hit higher maximum speeds, and run quieter and cleaner than diesel.

Currently, the Fairmount Line’s diesel trains run every 45 minutes, at best, on weekdays and every 90 minutes on weekends.

Advocates have for years urged the T to provide subway-like frequencies and electric trains on the Fairmount Line, which runs entirely within the city of Boston, from South Station to Readville through communities where most residents are Black and Latino. Emissions from diesel locomotives contain particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen, which have been shown to be harmful to

ELECTRIC TRAINS, Page A10

‘I certainly haven’t heard of anyone . . . having any sort of negative experience.’

GREG MYREN, who lives blocks away from a shelter housing migrants in Cambridge



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Five-year-old friends who were born in Chile to Haitian parents drew pictures at the Valente Branch of the Cambridge Public Library recently. The director of Cambridge’s libraries said the buildings are a “welcoming place for folks to be able to come in.”

## FEARFUL WARNINGS, THEN LITTLE CHANGE

Overflow shelters housing migrants not causing disruption, neighbors report

By Daniel Kool  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Perry Eaton’s neighbors warned that migrants moving into Dedham would cause trouble. Last month, someone passed fliers around the neighborhood, which is nestled between a pair of hotels converted into state overflow shelters, warning that expanding services for the migrants would create “catastrophic” traffic and “inevitable” loitering, and leave the community’s security “compro-

mised.”

But weeks later, Eaton and other neighbors said those fears haven’t materialized.

On a recent weekday morning, Eaton said traffic in and around his horseshoe-shaped neighborhood on Robinwood Road has remained consistent since the shelters opened weeks ago.

“It’s hard to tell any real difference in the day to day,” Eaton, 34, said.

After weeks of resistance and increasingly

public hostility, residents in four towns that saw new shelters open in recent months told the Globe there appear to be minimal disruptions to their daily routines. In Dedham and Quincy, several residents said they rarely interact with — and some hardly even see — the hundreds of migrant families staying in overflow shelter sites. Meanwhile, in the dense areas of Cambridge, migrant families are sharing public community spaces with their new

SHELTERS, Page A10

## 2 of 4 suspects admit guilt in concert attack

Tajikistan citizens are charged in Russian court as death toll exceeds 130

GLOBE NEWS SERVICES

MOSCOW — Two of the four suspects charged with carrying out the concert hall attack in Moscow that killed more than 130 people admitted guilt for the incident in a Russian court Sunday.

Moscow’s Basmanny District Court formally charged Dalerdzhon Mirzoyev, 32; Saidakrami Rachabalizoda, 30; Mukhammadsobir Faizov, 19; and Shamsidin Fariduni, 25, with committing a group terrorist attack resulting in the death of others. The offense carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

The court ordered that the men, all of whom are citizens of Tajikistan, be held in pre-trial custody until May 22.

Mirzoyev and Rachabalizoda admitted guilt after being charged, the court said. Faizov was brought to court directly from a hospital in a wheelchair and sat with his eyes closed throughout the proceedings. He was attended by medics while in court, where he wore a hospital gown and trousers and was seen with multiple cuts.

RUSSIA, Page A6

## Detained and, he says, beaten by ICE

Former Boston man accuses immigration agents of weeks of abuse before deportation

By Ivy Scott  
GLOBE STAFF

A 41-year-old Boston man who was a permanent US resident is accusing immigration officials of subjecting him to weeks of abuse in detention last year before deporting him: beatings that dislocated his jaw, gave him a concussion, and sprained multiple ligaments; extended periods of solitary confinement; and denial of access to medical care and proper appeal for his complaints.

An incident report from a Plymouth County detention center obtained by the Globe describes correctional officers pepper-spraying the man before placing him in “leg irons” and a restraining chair, and transporting him to solitary confinement, where his lawyers said he spent nearly four weeks. Medical re-

ICE, Page A7

I decided that if [redacted] was not going to follow my orders I would deploy a short burst of OC to his facial region in an attempt to gain his compliance. I once again ordered [redacted] to stand up and turn around to be handcuffed or I would spray him with OC and that I didn't want to do that, he simply said you have to do what you have to do. At this point I lowered my stance slightly to get a better angle since [redacted] was looking down still in what appeared to be an attempt to avoid a potential OC spray to his person. I deployed a 1 second burst of OC to [redacted]'s facial region aiming for his forehead specifically. After the spray I let the OC take effect for approximately 30 seconds and then when I felt it was having its desired effect I again ordered [redacted] to get down off his bunk and put his hands behind his back to be handcuffed.

In an incident report, the correctional officer who pepper-sprayed Monte describes his own actions and rationale.

SOURCE: General Grievance Statement, submitted by Monte on Nov. 4, 2023; Plymouth County Correctional Facility Disciplinary Report Note: Unit G is the solitary confinement unit, according to Monte’s attorneys; OC, or oleoresin capsicum spray, is the official name for pepper spray



### Blowing cool

**Monday:** Breezy, partly sunny.

High 38-43, low 33-38.

**Tuesday:** Occasional rain.

High 39-44, 37-42.

Sunrise: 6:38. Sunset: 7:02.

Obituaries, **C9**.

Comics and Weather, **D5-6**.

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**On Monday, former president Donald Trump could see a judge set a trial date in his criminal hush-money case. And he may also watch New York’s attorney general begin to collect assets in the \$454 million judgment against him arising from his civil fraud case. A2.**

**Israeli leaders say they intend to start a ground operation in the southern city of Rafah to root out Hamas's remaining forces there,** as details emerge of the dire conditions inside Gaza’s largest hospital after a raid a week ago. **A4.**

**New federal regulations should drive down electric vehicle costs for consumers in Massachusetts** and result in more choices on the showroom floor, experts say. **B1.**