

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Netanyahu backs truce in Lebanon

Ceasefire stage set with Hezbollah; US seeks deal on Gaza

By Josef Federman, Kareem Chehayeb and Bassem Mroue
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel approved a United States-brokered ceasefire agreement with Lebanon's Hezbollah on Tuesday, setting the stage for an end to nearly 14 months of

fighting linked to the war in the Gaza Strip.

The ceasefire would mark the first major step toward ending the regionwide unrest triggered by Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. But it does not address the devastating war in Gaza, where Hamas is still holding dozens of hostages and the conflict is more

intractable.

Hours before the ceasefire with Hezbollah was to take effect, Israel carried out the most intense wave of strikes in Beirut and its southern suburbs since the start of the conflict and issued a record number of evacuation warnings. At least 42 people were killed in strikes across the country, according to local au-

thorities, as Israel signaled it aimed to pummel Hezbollah before the ceasefire takes hold at 4 a.m. local time on Wednesday.

Another huge airstrike shook Beirut shortly after the ceasefire was announced.

There appeared to be some lingering disagreement over whether Israel would have the right to strike Hezbollah if it believed the militants had violated the agreement, something Prime Minister Benja-

min Netanyahu insisted was part of the deal but which Lebanese and Hezbollah officials have rejected.

Israel's Security Cabinet approved the ceasefire agreement after it was presented by Netanyahu, his office said. President Joe Biden, speaking in Washington, called the agreement "good news" and said his administration would make a renewed push for a ceasefire in

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Varun, left, and Surbhi Arora entertain their kids Aarav, 9, and Aayra, 1, while beginning their monthlong trip to India at O'Hare International Airport on Tuesday as Thanksgiving holiday travel begins. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicago's airports prep for nearly 2M holiday travelers

TSA predicts this year will be busiest Thanksgiving ever nationally for air trips

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

With worries of long lines on her mind, Surbhi Arora woke up early to allow extra time to check in for her family's flight to India Tuesday morning. The monthlong holiday trip marks her 1-year-old daughter's first to the country, and a chance to catch up with grandparents, she said. "We were dreading coming to

the airport. We got here like 2½ hours early," Arora said as she organized luggage and chased her daughter through the hallways at O'Hare International Airport.

"But I think they've done a good job of streamlining stuff," added Arora, 40, of the northwest suburbs. "I think they're doing a pretty good job. It's smooth."

Chicago's airports are preparing to welcome more than 1.8

million travelers between Tuesday and next Monday on what the Transportation Security Administration predicts will be the busiest Thanksgiving ever nationally for air travel. The TSA expects to screen 18.3 million people during the seven-day stretch, which would be 6% more than last year.

"Fortunately, our staffing is also at the highest levels that they have ever been," TSA Adminis-

trator David Pekoske said. "We are ready."

At O'Hare, nearly 1.5 million travelers are expected to pass through, according to the Chicago Department of Aviation, an 11.4% "significant surge" compared with last year. Meanwhile, the traffic at Midway Airport is expected to stay consistent with last year.

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MICHAEL MADIGAN TRIAL

Videos show developers brought to see speaker

Jurors hear FBI mole: 'I'll continue to get you legal business'

By Jason Meisner and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

House Speaker Michael Madigan was never known for his warm and fuzzy demeanor during his lengthy career, but in a private conversation with then-Ald. Daniel Solis at his downtown law firm in June 2018, Madigan seemed borderline giddy.

The two Democratic power brokers had just met with a West Loop developer about possibly hiring Madigan's firm to reduce property taxes when Solis, who unbeknownst to the speaker was secretly cooperating with federal investigators, asked if he had a moment for a private talk.

Minutes later, Solis' hidden video camera was rolling in Madigan's office, where Solis, under the direction of the FBI, told the speaker he was thinking about retiring before the end of his next term and asked for help getting an appointment to a state board position.

And Solis said he would keep scratching Madigan's back too.

"I'll continue to get you legal business," Solis told Madigan on the video, which was played for jurors Tuesday at Madigan's corruption trial. "I've got all kinds of stuff happening in the South Loop and in the West Loop."

Solis then dropped even bigger bait, telling Madigan he could introduce him to Harry Skydell, the New York-based developer of the massive \$300 million Old Post Office renovation whom Madigan's counterpart, Ald. Edward

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INSIDE

What to chew on after turkey dinner

15 sports topics to talk about on Thanksgiving instead of the forbidden three E's — election, Elon and Eberflus. **Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports**

Billionaires don't let politics stop business

JB Pritzker was the mystery buyer who paid Ken Griffin \$19 million for the top two floors of a Near North Side building. **Business**



Mayor Brandon Johnson, left, walks with then-aide Ronnie Reese on May 25, 2023, at 63rd Street Beach to discuss safety planning for Memorial Day weekend. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Mayor's ex-press director faced harassment claims

Staffers filed complaints before his termination

By Alice Yin, Jake Sheridan and Gregory Royal Pratt
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson's former communications director, Ronnie Reese, was accused of sexual harassment, misogyny, racism and other abusive behavior before he was terminated late last month, according to three internal complaints City Hall staffers filed against him.

The alleged behavior ranged from unwanted physical contact to making disparaging comments about marginalized groups and intimidation tactics, according to the complaints, which were included in personnel records the Tribune obtained this week via a Freedom of Information Act request.

Reese indicated to staffers that

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TODAY'S WEATHER



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Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

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