

The Boston Globe

Serving our community since 1872

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

Biden pushes Israel harder

Tells Netanyahu aid in future may hinge on civilian deaths

By Peter Baker
NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON — President Biden threatened on Thursday to condition future support for Israel on how it addresses his concerns about civilian casualties and the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, trying for the first time to leverage American aid to influence the conduct of the war against Hamas.

During an evidently tense 30-minute call with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, Biden went further than ever before in pressing for change in the military operation that has inflamed many Americans and others around the world. But the White House stopped short of directly saying the president would halt arms supplies or impose limits on their use, as fellow Democrats have urged.

“President Biden emphasized that the strikes on humanitarian workers and the overall humanitarian situation are unacceptable,” according to a White House summary of the call. “He made clear the need for Israel to announce and implement a series of specific, concrete, and measurable steps to address civilian harm, humanitarian suffering, and the safety of aid workers. He made clear that US policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel’s immediate action on these steps.”

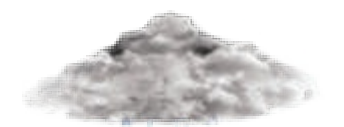
The statement was the sharpest the White House has issued on Israel’s conduct in the six months of its war against Hamas, underscoring the president’s growing frustration with Netanyahu and anger over this week’s killing of seven aid workers.

The first man to receive a kidney transplant from a genetically engineered pig was released from the hospital, less than three weeks after the milestone operation. B1.

Cambridge biotech Amylyx Pharmaceuticals pulled its controversial ALS drug off the market after it failed to provide any benefit in a clinical trial. B5.

A federal judge refused to throw out the classified documents prosecution against Donald Trump, turning aside defense arguments. A2.

The renovation of the Lenox, Boston’s first public housing development for Black tenants, has been completed after years of delays. B1.



Rebooting

Friday: Showers, breezy. High 43-48. Low 34-39.

Saturday: More of the same. High 41-46. Low 33-38.

High tide: 8:44 a.m., 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:19 Sunset: 7:15

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

VOL. 305, NO. 96
*
Suggested retail price
\$3.50



Another drenching, with a twist



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

Meredith Knowles, a runner, waded through the flooded causeway on Edward Foster Road in Scituate as the storm dragged on Thursday.

Heavy rain brings flooding risk again, but this time snow causes other problems

Snow was on the menu farther north, and in Nashua, Yanzel Castillo, 11, threw some at his 8-year-old sister, Yarizmel Zamora.



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

By Daniel Kool
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT
and Carlos Muñoz and John R. Ellement
GLOBE STAFF

With much of New England already saturated by a particularly rainy start to the year, the heavy rains and snow that pounded the region over a two-day period have increased the risk of flooding, with light additional rainfall in the weekend forecast.

While not at a record pace, rainfall totals across New England are 5 to 10 inches higher than average for this time of year, said Globe meteorologist Ken Mahan, and all that water

hasn’t much time to drain naturally.

“When water has nowhere to go, it moves horizontally, and so it makes this storm and new storms more prone to flooding in low-lying areas, including rivers and streams, often causing river levels to rise to flood stages,” Mahan said. “It takes a while for that water to subside and percolate back into that soil.”

Flood warnings remain in effect in parts of Rhode Island until 2 a.m. Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Additional warnings are in place near Framingham through 8 p.m. Friday, the service’s Boston office said.

NOR’EASTER, Page A7

With struggles of WBUR and GBH, is this town big enough for both?

By Aidan Ryan
GLOBE STAFF

For years, public radio — set up as a public service outside the fluctuations of the commercial market — seemed insulated from the storm the internet unleashed on the news industry.

But when the pandemic hit and office workers stopped tuning in to NPR on their commutes to work, that shift accelerated a worrisome trend: a downturn in radio listeners, which preceded a decline in ad-

vertiser dollars. Now, Boston’s two public radio stations are confronting rising costs and the fact that their traditional business models have transformed — and won’t ever be the same.

The shifts have forced WBUR and GBH to try to find new audiences and spurred questions about whether the market can still sustain two NPR news stations — a rarity even in the nation’s largest cities. Both have recently announced serious financial challenges and

warned that staff layoffs may be coming, with WBUR last week also offering employee buyouts. And it’s unclear whether listeners can make up WBUR’s sponsorship shortfall with donations, which have not grown fast enough in recent years.

“This year came harder and faster than we planned for,” WBUR chief executive Margaret Low said in an interview.

Commercial news companies have struggled to adapt to the digital age.

PUBLIC RADIO, Page A6

‘I see her as more working on policy with the governor and trying to get things done, not necessarily just running all over the place.’

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, *president of Waltham’s City Council and the Massachusetts Municipal Association*

A different kind of team player

Driscoll makes her voice heard as lieutenant governor

By Matt Stout and Samantha J. Gross
GLOBE STAFF

There are few issues Kim Driscoll hasn’t touched as Governor Maura Healey’s second in command.

She was the one on the phone, providing a near-daily sounding board for Newton’s mayor, during a contentious teachers strike. She rallied supporters in Milton over a state-mandated yet controversial housing plan. And it was Driscoll who squeezed into a Hadley senior center last fall with mayors and town administrators, helping craft a wish list of local priorities — including the power to raise local taxes on hotel stays, cars, and meals, estimated to cost taxpayers



DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/GLOBE STAFF

Kim Driscoll has become a trusted adviser to Governor Maura Healey in the past year.

\$150 million this year — that became the foundation of a wide-ranging municipal bill Healey unveiled in January.

“I was like, oh wow. . . . Our hands, our input is all over that bill,” said Easthampton Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, one of the 50-plus officials who brainstormed ideas with Driscoll in that October meeting. “And the only reason why our fingerprints are in that bill is because of Kim Driscoll.”

In her year-plus as lieutenant governor, the Salem Democrat has emerged in the Healey administration as a powerful voice on policy and a deft hand in translating it on the ground, elevating a role that technically carries few formal

DRISCOLL, Page A6



ALEXA GAGOSZ/GLOBE STAFF

Melissa Potter has faced a number of problems at 1890 Broad St. in Cranston, R.I., including flooding, heat issues, and rats.

Tenants find new strength by banding together

As union, they target R.I. landlord for overdue fixes

By Alexa Gagosz
GLOBE STAFF

CRANSTON, R.I. — Melissa Potter swung open the flimsy storm door of her ground-floor apartment to reveal a several-foot drop into a trench filled with muddy brown water. Pieces of trash from a nearby dumpster floated in the muck, and mounds of dirt lay just beyond it.

“Look, I have a moat outside my door. But this is no castle,” said Potter, 46, who moved into the apartment building on Broad Street in March 2022 with her fiancé.

Potter has spent most of her career working with adults who have developmental disabilities. The \$1,150-a-month one-bedroom apartment was supposed to be a “fresh start” for the couple, but after suffering from a brief illness, her fiancé died just two months later, in May 2022. Since then, Potter has battled problems that include flooding, mice and rats, a faulty heating system, and a landlord she calls “unresponsive” and “negligent.”

Potter isn’t the only frustrated tenant in the building. Last Friday, Potter and nine other renters at 1890 Broad St. in Cranston, which is owned by

TENANTS, Page A7