

Palestinian Authority's leadership steps down

Government resignation paves way for overhaul after war in Gaza

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, HAZEM BALOUSHA AND STEVE HENDRIX

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Authority's prime minister presented the resignation of the entire government on Monday, opening the way for a revitalized administration that the United States and its allies envision taking on an expanded role in post-war Gaza.

The United States and several Arab countries have been pushing a plan — openly opposed by the Israeli government — that would see Gaza eventually administered by the Palestinian Authority, which has long been marred by dysfunction and is hugely unpopular among Palestinians.

Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said in a news conference Monday that he had tendered the government's resignation to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas because of the "significant political, security and economic developments" stemming from Israel's war in Gaza, alongside increased violence in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Abbas accepted the resignation, but asked the government to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new one is formed, according

SEE GAZA ON A12

Leadership shift: Hurdles remain for Palestinian governance. **A11**

Antiwar protest: U.S. airman dies after setting himself on fire. **B1**



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Palestinians line up to receive food in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, on Monday. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh's government but asked leaders to stay until a new government is formed.

Hamas chief hiding among hostages, officials say

But killing Sinwar would risk lives, with no guarantee of crippling group's leadership

BY SHANE HARRIS

The Israeli military is confident that Hamas leader Yehiya Sinwar, the alleged architect of the Oct. 7 attacks, is hiding inside a labyrinthine network of tunnels beneath southern Gaza. But he is surrounded by a human shield of hostages intended to deter an operation to capture or kill him, frustrating Israel's efforts to dismantle the terrorist organization and bring the more than four-month-long war to a close.

The Israeli operation in Gaza cannot conclude until Sinwar is either captured, killed or no longer in a position to run the



MOHAMMED ABED/AF/GETTY IMAGES

Yehiya Sinwar, center, seen in April, is the alleged architect of the Oct. 7 attack.

organization, current and former Israeli officials said in interviews. Underscoring the necessity of eliminating the terrorist leader, and the degree to which the war hinges on that mission's success, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a meeting of his Likud party faction earlier this month, "We will kill the Hamas leadership. ... We must not end the war before then."

But pinpointing Sinwar's location may not be as difficult, tactically or politically, as mounting a military operation to neutralize him without also killing or injuring many of the hostages believed to be nearby, according

SEE SINWAR ON A11

Justices wary of state rules regulating social media

Fla., Tex. laws banning removal of some content draw sharp questioning

BY ANN E. MARIMOW AND CAT ZAKRZEWSKI

A majority of the Supreme Court seemed broadly skeptical Monday that state governments have the power to set rules for how social media platforms curate content, with both liberal and conservative justices inclined to stop Texas and Florida from immediately implementing laws that ban the removal of certain controversial posts or political content.

Even as justices expressed concern about the power of social media giants that have become the dominant modern public forum, a majority of the court seemed to think the First Amendment prevents state governments from requiring platforms such as Facebook and YouTube to host certain content.

The high court's decision in the two cases, likely to come near the end of the term in June, will have a significant impact on the operation of online platforms that are playing an increasingly important role in U.S. elections, democ-

SEE COURT ON A5

D.C. officials unveil \$400M plan to fix downtown

BY MICHAEL BRICE-SADDLER

D.C. officials unveiled recommendations Monday to revive the city's ailing downtown and help return the revenue it generates to pre-pandemic levels — emphasizing public safety as worries about crime escalate and reconceptualizing corridors that once catered to 9-to-5 employees as office vacancies rise.

The long-awaited Downtown

Rise in crime, potential departure of Capitals, Wizards add urgency

Action Plan was set in motion by Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) nearly a year ago and is a linchpin of the District's "Comeback Plan" that she announced to begin her

third term and includes a goal of increasing downtown's population by 15,000 residents. The downtown plan contains short- and long-term initiatives with a price tag of \$401 million over the next five fiscal years, identifying the need for a "resilient and adaptable mixed-use downtown" that can draw new residents, visitors and businesses.

The downtown plan was originally expected to be released last

fall, but the groups leading the effort, including the DowntownDC and Golden Triangle business improvement districts, extended the public comment period due to high levels of interest. Ongoing concerns about the city's revenue paired with recent developments downtown — including last year's historic rise in violent crime across the city and Ted Leonsis's December announce-

SEE DOWNTOWN ON A18



EMILY ELCONIN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Bryan Schultz works on an isometric drawing for blueprints for a heating system at the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333 Training Center in Lansing, Mich.

Can Biden close deal with union workers?

Despite legislative victories, many are still unsure that they'll vote for the president

BY JEFF STEIN

LANSING, MICH. — Wearing a green beanie and leather work boots, Jakeob Carson walked into new member orientation on a recent Monday excited to earn nearly double what he did at his last job.

Carson is part of the biggest-ever crop of apprentices at the local United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, which is in the midst of a boom that its officials describe with adjectives like "unfathomable," "historic," and "unprecedented." The union is expanding by 20 percent, in part to fill jobs at two huge new electric

vehicle battery plants tied to a massive climate bill that President Biden and Democrats in Congress pushed into law in 2022. Union leaders credit those investments for the bonanza.

Yet it's not clear whether rank-and-file members agree — or if they're even aware how the president's initiatives have spurred the building trades' fastest-ever growth spurt.

"I don't see really how politics affects my life or this job," said Carson, 25, as he finished the first class of orientation, on the history of the U.S. labor movement.

SEE UNIONS ON A14

IN THE NEWS

Sweden cleared for NATO Toppling a final obstacle, Hungary's parliament approved the long-delayed bid to join the alliance. **A10**

Mental health emergencies The Justice Department weighed in on a lawsuit over D.C.'s response to 911 crisis calls, saying sending police may violate disability law. **B1**

THE NATION **A New York** prosecutor requested a gag order against Donald Trump in his upcoming trial. **A2** **A former FBI** informant accused of lying about the Bidens will remain in jail. **A3**

THE WORLD **On Cat Island** in China, an adoptable feline population of 400-plus roams freely. **A8** **A prisoner swap** was in the works shortly before Alexei Navalny's death, an aide said. **A10**

THE ECONOMY **An expected order** by President Biden is designed to stem the flow of Americans' sensitive data to hostile countries such as China. **A13** **The Federal Trade Commission** sued to block the merger of supermarket giants Kroger and Albertsons. **A18**

THE REGION **A nurse** was strangled in Prince George's County by a longtime friend she had asked for moving help, prosecutors allege. **B1** **A trial began** for a man accused of killing a Richmond high school graduate minutes after he received his diploma. **B1**

STYLE **At Avavav's** Milan Fashion Week show, the audience didn't waste an opportunity to throw garbage at models. **C1** **HEALTH & SCIENCE** **Vivid descriptions** of migraine auras helped The Post create video illustrations of the sensory disturbance. **E1**

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