



Rain 61/50 • Tomorrow: A shower and t-storm 56/49 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

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JONATHAN NEWTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Workers start to clear the channel of the twisted metal and concrete of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, as authorities turn their focus toward salvage operations.

Effects of Key Bridge's collapse only starting

Baltimore mayor endures racist attacks online

BY EMMANUEL FELTON

It was just after 1:30 Tuesday morning when Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott (D) says he received the call from the city's fire chief.

"He said, 'Sir, the Key Bridge collapsed,'" said Scott, who was awake with a 3-month-old child when the call came in. "I said, 'Repeat that.' He said, 'The Key Bridge collapsed, a ship hit it, it's gone, sir.'"

Scott, 39, said he threw on his official Baltimore city jacket and headed for the scene, calling the governor, the presidents of the state Senate and city council, and the city administrator along the way. When he arrived at the shore of the Patapsco River to see the wreckage, "you

SEE MAYOR ON A7



MICHAEL A. MCCOY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Key Brewery is among the Baltimore businesses that will have to deal with logistics issues connected to the loss of the bridge.

City braces for economic blow from port's closure

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

BALTIMORE — Trucks still rumble down Holabird Avenue while freight trains sound their horns. But the lunchtime crowd at Vinny's Cafe, a popular Italian joint favored by dockworkers, is lighter than usual. And people here confess to an uneasy feeling they liken to the first days of the coronavirus pandemic.

Less than a week has elapsed since a mammoth ocean freighter struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge, marooning the Port of Baltimore behind a barricade of crooked steel and shattered concrete.

With the shipping channel clogged with debris, the people and businesses who depend on the port for their living are in limbo. The docks

SEE BRIDGE ON A6

How Muslim woman's visit by FBI rallied right wing

BY HANNAH ALLAM

The video begins with a door opening onto a recent bright spring day. Three visitors, identifying themselves as FBI agents, stand in the yard of a woman who makes it clear they are not welcome.

Using her phone to record the exchange, she lays into the agents, demanding to see their credentials. When they tell her they want to "have a conversation with you about some social media posts," the woman, sounding incredulous, asks: "So we no longer live in a free country?"

There will be no conversation, the woman tells them, and refers them to her attorney. The agents remain courteous, if thrown off their game. One of them starts to explain, "Facebook gave us a couple screenshots of your accounts," but she isn't having it. Eventually, the visitors give up and walk back to their silver Nissan SUV.

"This is Rolla Abdeljawad in Stillwater, Oklahoma," the woman

SEE FBI ON A4

Thousands in Israel call for Netanyahu to resign

As frustration mounts over stalled negotiations, families of hostages join anti-government protests

BY SHIRA RUBIN
AND LOUISA LOVELUCK

TEL AVIV — Tens of thousands of demonstrators flooded Israel's streets for a second straight night Sunday, calling for immediate elections and for the government to urgently negotiate the release of more than 100 hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza.

The twin demands represented a merging of two distinct protest movements — one including the families of hostages, the other led by civil society and the political opposition — which could become the greatest threat yet to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right government.

On Sunday, the protesters moved from "Hostage Square" plaza in Tel Aviv to the parliament in Jerusalem, waving Israeli flags and chanting for the removal of the country's longest-serving leader. From inside the building, Netanyahu addressed his critics in a prime-time address.

"The pain of the families of the hostages breaks my heart; I think it breaks all of our hearts," he said. "Anyone who says that I'm

SEE ISRAEL ON A12



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Demonstrators at a protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday night. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been largely insulated from external pressure by a public that overwhelmingly supported the war in Gaza and had no appetite for wartime elections, but recent protests show the tide may be shifting.

Democratic Party divisions: Tensions over the war are shaping a heated U.S. House primary in New York. A3

Office building market drags

REPAYMENT DATES LOOM FOR LOANS

Struggles could threaten smaller regional banks

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

More than \$900 billion in loans backing office buildings, retail centers, hotels, warehouses and more will come due this year — and analysts who track commercial real estate are already worried that this slice of the economy could soon threaten regional banks and municipal finances.

That hefty amount — roughly 20 percent of all commercial real estate loans on the books nationwide — faces deadlines for repayment this year. But coming on the heels of a dismal 2023, when hundreds of billions of loans coming due got short-term extensions, experts are on high alert that 2024 may not go better.

The near-failure in March of New York Community Bancorp and its rescue through \$1 billion in new investments led by former treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin's private equity firm, reignited concerns about regional banks that began after two firms collapsed in spring 2023. Midsized banks underwrite a huge volume of loans for commercial real estate, so if developers and property owners have a hard time paying them off, that could set off a chain reaction in the financial sector, too.

"There are going to be challenges," said Matt Reidy, director of commercial real estate economics at Moody's. "It could look a lot like last year."

The office market could bring

SEE LOANS ON A4

To keep D.C. sports teams, mayor played the long game

BY MICHAEL BRICE-SADDLER,
MEAGAN FLYNN
AND JONATHAN O'CONNELL

One detail stood out to D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser on the December morning that the billionaire owner of the Wizards and Capitals, Ted Leonsis, announced he was moving the Washington teams to Virginia: He hadn't signed a thing.

There was no contract, "no real commitment," Bowser (D) said — only a handshake with Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) that in Bowser's eyes meant D.C. still had a shot.

From that point, Bowser said in an interview Friday, she decided, "we were going to put our foot on the gas." Over the next several months, periodically over drinks at the Waldorf Astoria, Bowser would quietly work to bring Leonsis back to the negotiating table, sweetening D.C.'s offer just as Leonsis's plans were falling apart in Virginia's General Assembly. She insisted for months publicly that D.C. remained in the game. Few shared her optimism at the onset.

But on Wednesday, Bowser got her ultimate told-you-so moment,

SEE ARENA ON A8

IN THE NEWS

A papal message In an accounting of a world in crisis, Francis used the pulpit of his Easter address to call for a cease-fire in Gaza. A11

A weekend salvo Donald Trump and allies invoked religion in grievances that included an attack on the White House's recognition of Transgender Day of Visibility. A8

THE NATION **Punxsutawney Phil** now has two kids growing up in his shadow. A2
A \$7.5 billion allocation to help build out EV charging stations has produced only seven in more than two years. A5

THE WORLD **A month after** a mass kidnapping, Nigerian families are still pleading for answers. A10
A data dump has provided a rare glimpse into the machinery of Indian politics. A12

THE ECONOMY **For a federally run** website, IRS Direct File is a pleasant surprise, Shira Ovide writes. A13

THE REGION **A former Fairfax** County student's Title IX lawsuit over alleged sexual abuse raises questions about schools' responsibilities. B1

The presidential first pitch, long a staple in Washington, now seems to be a ballpark bygone. B1
Two members of a Virginia nonprofit's board launched a fight against prison video call fees that has led to their resignations and a new state bill. B1

STYLE **Everyone thought** Beyoncé was turning toward country music, but "Cowboy Carter" feels directionless, Chris Richards writes. C1
It's a bare-bones era for Boston Market, the once-highflying chicken chain now down to fewer than 30 locations. C1

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