

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Israel expands ground offensive

Palestinians in Gaza say they are running out of places to go

By Najib Jobain and Kareem Chehayeb  
Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military said Sunday its ground offensive had expanded to every part of Gaza, and it ordered more evacuations in the crowded south while vowing that operations there against Hamas would be “no less” as strong as its shattering ones in the north.

Heavy bombardment followed evacuation orders, and Palestinians said they were running out of places to go in the sealed-off territory bordering Israel and Egypt.

Many of Gaza’s 2.3 million people are crammed into the south after Israel ordered civilians to leave the north in the early days of the war, which was sparked by the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians.

The United Nations estimates that 1.8 million Gazans have been displaced. Nearly 958,000 of them are in 99 U.N. facilities in the south, said Juliette Toma, director of communications at the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

After dark, gunfire and shelling were heard in the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah as flares lit the sky. In Gaza’s second-largest city of Khan Younis, Israeli drones buzzed overhead. U.N. human rights chief Volker Türk urged an end to the war, saying civilian suffering was “too much to bear.”

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the death toll there since Oct. 7 has surpassed 15,500, with more than 41,000 wounded. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths, but it said 70% of the dead were women and children.

A Health Ministry spokesman asserted that hundreds had been killed or wounded since a week-long cease-fire ended Friday.

“The majority of victims are still under the rubble,” Ashraf al-Qidra said.

Fears of a wider conflict intensified.

A U.S. warship and multiple commercial ships came under attack in the Red Sea, the Pentagon said. Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthis rebels claimed attacks on two ships they described as being linked to Israel but did not acknowledge targeting a U.S. vessel.

Hopes for another temporary truce in Gaza were fading. The

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KATIE MILLER

### ‘The Nutcracker’ remains timeless

Joffrey Ballet’s version of the holiday classic opened Saturday afternoon at the Lyric Opera House, delivering all of its magic and wonder. **Arts & Living**



Stephan Koruba, right, a family nurse practitioner and clinical supervisor, talks with Noelis Guaregua, 31, a migrant from Venezuela, outside the 9th District police station in Chicago’s Bridgeport neighborhood on Wednesday. Koruba works for the Night Ministry. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE**

## Volunteer networks help migrants with health care

Groups provide services at police stations as some question availability at shelters

By Nell Salzman  
Chicago Tribune

Noelis Guaregua, who is eight months pregnant, wasn’t receiving prenatal care at the city-run migrant shelter where she’s staying, so she set out on a mile-long walk in freezing temperatures to a police station where she’d heard she could find food and medicine.

Originally from Anzoátegui, Venezuela, the 31-year-old had traveled for over two months with

her family to get to the United States. She arrived at the city’s shelter on the Lower West Side last Tuesday.

“I didn’t see any medical services. They didn’t give me anything,” she said in Spanish about the shelter. “*Servicios médicos, no vi. No me dieron nada.*”

Mutual aid networks and free and charitable organizations have stepped up to provide health needs to migrants who are sleeping on the floor at police stations

and waiting for space in one of the 26 brick-and-mortar shelters around the city.

But it is not uncommon for migrants to turn — or, in some cases, return — to police stations looking for basic medical resources, as necessities in shelters can be sparse or nonexistent. It’s not dissimilar from what migrants faced in their countries of origin.

Ahead of Chicago’s brutal winter, the city has committed

to “decompressing,” or moving out migrants from police stations into shelters and churches. Still, almost 600 migrants are sleeping outside or on the lobbies of precincts across the city, waiting for placement.

And with migrants repeatedly returning to police stations, advocates are concerned about whether the care provided at shelters is adequate or enough.

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Diane Adams sits on her front porch on Oct. 19 in the Grand Crossing neighborhood of Chicago. Adams is a patient at one of five city-run mental health clinics. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Mental health plan’s small start seen as ‘down payment’

Push to reopen clinics carries big political implications for mayor

By Jake Sheridan  
Chicago Tribune

At roughly 0.1% of the city’s recently passed \$16.77 billion budget, the initial cost of Mayor Brandon Johnson’s effort to begin reopening Chicago’s city-run mental health clinics is minuscule.

But the political ramifications are potentially huge.

Johnson rode into office on

a progressive wave powered by unions and activists who have long advocated that Chicago should return to having 19 city-run clinics, as it did in the 1980s, instead of just five.

The mayor’s answer in his first budget was far from a full response. While he cautioned supporters that reopening the clinics would take time, his budget called for restoring only two clinics and placing them in yet-to-be-determined locations.

Still, by including \$5.2 million to expand mental health services and \$15.9 million to double staffing for the city’s team of behav-

ioral health professionals who respond to mental health and substance abuse crises, Johnson is trying to show he isn’t dropping the ball on the issue while preaching patience and signaling a more robust response is yet to come.

Those behind the “Treatment Not Trauma” campaign would have a right to be skeptical. Mayors Richard M. Daley and Rahm Emanuel both closed mental-health clinics, and Mayor Lori Lightfoot backed away from a campaign promise to reopen

Turn to Treatment, Page 4

## Chicago teen going to climate summit

She’s among 6 in area who will give young people a voice in Dubai

By Adriana Pérez  
Chicago Tribune

Danica Sun, 17, recalls the first moment she felt the call to do something for the environment was a bit cliché: As an elementary school kid, she was unnerved by one of the many viral photos of bedraggled, emaciated polar bears floating on melting slabs of ice.

But the issue really hit home a few years later when she was working on a school report about permafrost — a frozen layer of soil below the ground’s surface — thawing in the Arctic and releasing thousands of tons of methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

“I realized that climate change isn’t just some future issue that only impacts polar bears,” Sun said. “I realized it’s happening now and it impacts me and everyone around me, and especially my generation. At that point, I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, I really need to do something about this.’”

Now, the high school senior’s activism has taken her to a faraway land and one much warmer than the North Pole — Dubai in the United Arab Emirates — for the 28th annual United Nations

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