

## U.S., allies see hope for Gaza cease-fire

Latest plan has closed some gaps, but escalation remains a key concern

This article is by John Hudson, Frances Vinall, Victoria Bisset, Hazem Balousha and Missy Ryan

JERUSALEM — The United States and its allies said Friday they have presented a “bridging” proposal to Hamas and Israel for a cease-fire and hostage deal, potentially bringing within reach by the end of next week an agreement that officials hope can put an end to 10 months of fighting in the shattered Gaza Strip.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt, in a joint statement after two days of talks in the Qatari capital, Doha, expressed hope that months of fitful negotiations would finally yield an agreement to end a conflict that has killed tens of thousands and plunged the Middle East into a renewed cycle of violence and instability.

“We’re much, much closer than we were three days ago,” President Joe Biden told reporters in the Oval Office. “I don’t want to jinx anything,” he added, but said, “We’re close.”

The joint statement from the mediating nations said their proposal “bridges remaining gaps” between Israel and Hamas and would allow “a swift implementation of the deal.”

SEE CEASE-FIRE ON A9

### ELECTION 2024

## Fights with health-care giants went only so far

Records of Harris, Walz show wavering desire to take on corporate power

BY DAN DIAMOND AND LAUREN WEBER

Before he was Minnesota governor — and long before he was tapped as Vice President Kamala Harris’s running mate — Tim Walz was a congressman willing to defy political wisdom: He got into a public spat with the largest employer in his district.

The world-famous Mayo Clinic had acquired and then shut down services at small hospitals across the region, angering Walz, who said he was worried about the impact on patients “blindsided” by the moves. “It’s just hubris,” Walz said in 2017. “These big consolidations of health care, [we’re] going to have to deal with this across the country.”

Seven years later, politicians in both parties increasingly agree: It’s time to take on the health-care conglomerates they say are contributing to higher prices and reduced access. The Biden administration has ramped up antitrust scrutiny of the health industry, and some lawmakers and experts

SEE HARRIS ON A5

**Polling:** Harris has opened up a second path to victory. **A4**

**McDonald’s:** Harris touts her time working at the fast-food chain. **C1**



PHOTOS BY ED RAM FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Many POWs are raw recruits

‘They’re children’: Ukraine’s capture of so many young men poses a significant test for Putin

BY SIOBHÁN O’GRADY, TETIANA BURIANOVA, MARY ILYUSHINA AND SERHIY MORGUNOV

In the basement of a prison in northeastern Ukraine, dozens of Russian soldiers — some wounded, most barely adults — sat huddled on metal bunk beds Friday, dressed in mismatched T-shirts and flip flops. In one tile-floored cell secured with a heavy metal door, “Garfield” played on a TV in the corner.

The prisoners of war are not seasoned fighters who were caught in battle in Ukraine, but Russian soldiers captured at home after a surprise Ukrainian incursion into Russia last week. Many are among Russia’s youngest men: conscripts fulfilling

their year-long mandatory military service who were never supposed to see combat, let alone enter Ukraine.

The capture of so many unprepared young men poses a significant challenge for the Kremlin. It also serves as a test case for Ukraine on how to handle such a large number of Russian POWs who could be seen as especially valuable bargaining chips in future negotiations or exchanges.

Conscription service is a politically explosive subject in Russia, where all men must serve in the military once they turn 18. After Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin promised concerned mothers that conscripts

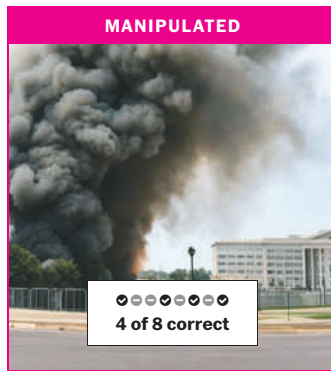
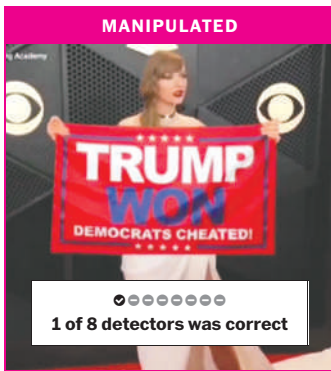
SEE UKRAINE ON A10



**Captured Russian soldiers including 20-year-olds Denis, left, and Nikita are shown in a cell in a Ukrainian prison on Friday. Several wounded soldiers interviewed by The Post explained how they suffered injuries in battle before capture.**

## We put these images through eight popular deepfake detection tools. They struggled to tell what was real.

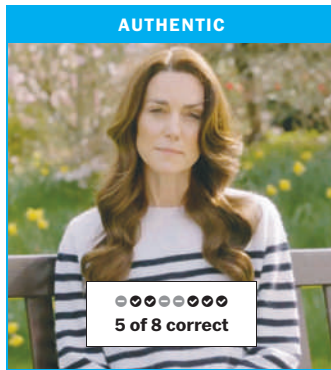
These images are fake. But they tricked people into thinking they were real and went viral.



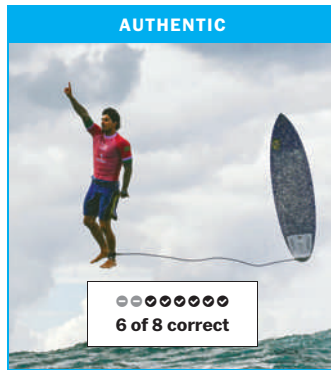
These photographs are real. But they raised suspicions and went viral.



HAZEM BADER/AFP



BBC STUDIOS



JEROME BROUILLET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

See why AI detection tools can fail to catch election deepfakes. **STORY, A14**

## D.C. man is found guilty in killing of 13-year-old

Manslaughter conviction in predawn shooting over suspected car break-ins

BY KEITH L. ALEXANDER

A D.C. Superior Court jury found a former parks and recreation employee guilty Friday of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of an unarmed 13-year-old last year, rejecting a more serious second-degree murder charge while still determining that he bore some criminal responsibility in the killing.

The jury spent less than a day deliberating in the case against 42-year-old Jason Lewis, who prosecutors said fatally shot Karon Desean Blake in the predawn dark after he saw the teen with others appearing to break into cars in his Brookland neighborhood.

Karon’s death sparked outrage in the District, drawing comparisons to the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin as he walked through a Florida neighborhood. Prosecutors repeatedly played the teen’s dying words, captured

on surveillance video, for the jury: “I’m sorry. I’m sorry. I’m just a kid. I was just playing, man.”

Lewis called the deadly encounter “devastating” this week in his first public comments on the killing, emphasizing in court testimony that he had spent his career working to keep District youth out of trouble. He argued that he had acted in self-defense, believing to have heard a gunshot that night; prosecutors countered that the evidence did not support that.

Manslaughter, according to District laws, is not murder. It is defined as an unlawful killing of a person, voluntary or involuntary, without the intent to kill. Lewis faces up to 45 years in prison. Had he been convicted of second-degree murder of a minor, he would have faced a maximum of 60 years, according to District sentencing guidelines.

Judge Anthony C. Epstein, over prosecutors’ objections, allowed Lewis to remain on home confinement and GPS monitoring until sentencing in October.

The jury also found Lewis guilty of three counts of possession of a firearm during a crime of violence and two charges of

SEE VERDICT ON A2

### IN THE NEWS

**New coronavirus vaccines** Treatments to summer variants are slated for approval next week, but overall demand remains low. **A7**

**Tennis pro’s debut** Applause and adversity followed 18-year-old Clervie Ngounoue into the DC Open, five minutes from where she grew up. **B1**

#### THE NATION

**The FDA** authorized the first at-home syphilis test as infections hit a 70-year high. **A3**  
**Illegal crossings** at the border dropped in July to the lowest level in nearly four years. **A7**

#### THE WORLD

**After Venezuela’s** disputed presidential vote, some in the opposition say the only choice is to stand firm and reject proposals for a new election. Others aren’t so sure. **A8**

#### THE ECONOMY

**As politicians** debate the meaning of “pro-family,” people must reconcile economic factors in deciding whether to have kids. **A11**  
**Biden promised** to end drilling on federal land, but the United States is producing more oil than ever. **A12**

#### THE REGION

**Virginia** released draft guidance that recommends restricting cell-phone use from “bell to bell” in schools. **B1**  
**A teen** was sentenced to 25 years for attempted murder after repeatedly firing at another teen on a school bus in Maryland. **B1**

#### STYLE

**An author** who found a Project 2025 duffel bag ended up with more than he bargained for when a police officer knocked on his door. **C1**

#### SPORTS

**Sports Illustrated** celebrated its unlikely journey to its 70th anniversary this week. **D1**

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