

Israel, Hamas extend truce

The agreement will add two days to the cease-fire. Eleven more hostages and 33 prisoners are freed.

By Tia Goldenberg, Jack Jeffery and Samy Magdy

TEL AVIV — Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past Monday, raising the prospect of further exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war.

Eleven Israeli women and children freed by Hamas entered Israel on Monday night in the fourth swap under the original four-day truce, which began Friday and had been due to run out. Qatar said Israel was to release 33 Palestinians from its prisons, mostly teenagers.

The deal for two additional days of cease-fire, announced by Qatar, raises hopes for further extensions, which would also allow more aid into Gaza. Conditions there have remained dire for 2.3 million Palestinians, battered by weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground offensive that have driven three-quarters of the population from their homes.

Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released. After the announcement by Qatar — a key mediator in the conflict, along with the United States and Egypt — Hamas confirmed that it had agreed to a two-day extension “under the same terms.”

[See Mideast, A4]



Photographs by Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

PEOPLE who traveled from China huddle next to a fire at a camp in Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif., near the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Migrants struggle in desert camps

A remote San Diego County community has become a hot spot for border crossings

By Melissa Gomez

JACUMBA HOT SPRINGS, Calif. — For the last three months, residents in this remote border community in southeastern San Diego County have seen their population nearly double, climbing from 600 to 1,200 as migrants from around the globe cross over from Mexico.

They cross into the punishing desert terrain at a point where the 30-foot steel border wall erected across the county in the Trump era abruptly ends, transitioning to erratic fencing and boulders riddled with gaps.

Once on American soil, the migrants subsist in makeshift open-air camps, where the number of tents are not nearly enough for the number of migrants. For warmth, they huddle around campfires fueled by brush and felled trees. When it's time to sleep, many are left to rely on plastic



MIGRANTS line up to receive wristbands from a U.S. Border Patrol agent that note the day they came to the camp.

tarps and thin blankets to shelter them from the wind and nighttime lows that can fall below 40 degrees.

Jacumba Hot Springs is not an official U.S. Customs and Border Protection detention site. But the sheer number of migrants crossing the border day after day has made it an unofficial one. The Border Patrol has stationed field agents nearby to keep watch over the camp, and migrants say authorities have told them to wait there for transfer to an official processing facility. Border Patrol gives them wristbands printed with the day they arrived. Often, women and children get picked up quickly. But for many others, their time at the camps can stretch for days.

A senior official with Customs and Border Protection who spoke on background acknowledged the camp is serving as a sort of informal holding spot. Agency resources are spread

[See Migrants, A12]



OMAR EL-QATTAA AFP/Getty Images

PEOPLE walk Monday in Gaza City, where buildings have been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombardment. “I hope they’ll extend this truce,” a new mother said.

Gazans make most of war’s pause

Palestinians take note of losses and stock up on water, food and fuel. Some visit graves and seek medical care.

By Nabil Bulos and a special correspondent

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — She was born at dawn in a crowded shelter here on the first day of the truce between Israel and Hamas. Her parents named

her Israa — just like her mother.

“Her arrival was an omen of peace,” said Israa abu Aaser, cradling her newborn. “There was quiet and no bombings.”

The family has been living in a corner of the shelter, their apartment razed by bombs like so much else in the Gaza Strip. Bilal abu Aaser had spent all day cobbling together scraps of wood to make a crib for his 3-day-old daughter.

“The cold and the hunger made her cry all the time,” he said. “I had to do something.”

“I’m afraid for my daughter in a place like this,” said his wife. “I can barely keep her clean and warm.”

It was early Monday, the final day of the deal to pause the fighting. The new parents wondered how they would care for their child if in 24 hours the bombardment started anew.

“I hope they’ll extend this truce,” Israa abu Aaser said.

She got her wish, at least for a bit longer. On Monday evening, after intense mediation efforts by Qatar and Egypt, the militant group Hamas announced a two-

[See Gazans, A4]

Citibank accused of ethnic bias in lawsuit

By Laurence Darmiento

When Mary Smbatian started hearing rumors a few years ago that Citibank was closing the accounts of Armenian Americans in the San Fernando Valley, she thought it impossible the giant Wall Street bank would

ever shutter hers.

A residential loan broker who also runs an apartment management business, the Encino resident had been a Citibank client for more than a decade, with both company and personal accounts, as well as credit cards issued through the bank.

Then, on Feb. 1 of last

year, she got a letter from Citibank informing her that all of her accounts and cards were being closed — without any reason provided. What ensued was chaos, as Smbatian scrambled to get her money back, open new accounts elsewhere and save her businesses.

“This was a mess. This

[See Citibank, A9]

College stresses more than ever

Post-affirmative action, Asian Americans still worry over admission to top universities. CALIFORNIA, B1

LAFC duo play give and take

Playoff win was keyed by the efforts of a scorer and a goalie, who share French bond. SPORTS, B10

Gearing back up for showbiz

L.A. prop houses that took a big hit during dual strikes prepare for the return of production. CALENDAR, E1

Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 73/48. B6

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‘I’ve been waiting for you’: Man arrested in shooting of 3 of Palestinian descent

By Alexandra E. Petri and Noah Goldberg

When a federal agent knocked on the door of apartment No. 6 at 69 N. Prospect St. in Burlington, Vt., a tall, thin man with a beard and goatee stepped out into the hallway with his hands by his waist, palms up. From inside came the sound of a television.

“I’ve been waiting for you,” Jason Eaton told the officer, according to court documents released Monday. He appeared nervous.

“Why’s that?” a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives asked. Other federal agents and local police were canvassing the area and the building.

Eaton requested a law-

yer. Eaton, 48, was arrested Sunday afternoon in connection with the shooting of three college students of Palestinian descent the night before, leaving at least one of the men in serious condition. He pleaded not guilty Monday morning to three counts of attempted murder.

Police have not yet declared a motive, but the case is being investigated as a possible hate crime, Burlington Police Chief Jon Murad said.

“There is more investigation to be done, and that includes trying to determine motive,” Murad said at a news conference Monday morning. “We still do not know as much as we want to know.”

[See Shooting, A12]



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