



Mostly cloudy 65/55 • Tomorrow: Cloudy, rain 61/47 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 • \$3

Bombing resumes in Gaza with more dead

Israel-Hamas deal breaks down as pause ends and civilian casualties mount

This article is by Miriam Berger, Michael Birnbaum, Kareem Fahim, William Booth and Ruby Mellen

JERUSALEM — Despite pleas by world leaders, the seven-day humanitarian pause in fighting in Gaza ended Friday with aerial bombardment and rocket fire, with Israel and Hamas blaming the other for the renewed hostilities.

Just hours after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken departed from Tel Aviv, Israeli jets began striking 200 targets in the Gaza Strip, while rockets arced toward Israel and reports of Palestinian casualties rolled in.

Blinken said the Israeli government had agreed to “a clear plan” to avert civilian deaths before it resumed its assault on southern Gaza, amid intensifying U.S. pressure on Israel to reduce the war’s grave humanitarian toll.

By Blinken’s account, he was forceful with Israeli leaders and received assurances that they would change how they wage the war.

Speaking on the sidelines of the U.N. climate conference Friday in Dubai, Blinken blamed Hamas for ending the temporary truce. The militant group “began firing rockets before the pause had ended,” he said, and “reneged on commitments it made in terms of releasing certain hostages.”

Blinken praised Israeli efforts to protect Palestinian civilians, “including making sure that they have the information they need, and that there are ways to accommodate them.”

The Gaza Health Ministry reported Friday that 178 Palestinians had died after hostilities resumed. Patients with severe injuries overwhelmed what was left of Gaza’s health system, medical officials said.

SEE GAZA ON A9

Vt. shooting: Uncertain futures for three injured Palestinian teens. **A3**

Hunger strike: A pro-Gaza protest is staged near the White House. **B1**

SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR 1930-2023



MATT YORK/AP

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, shown in 2005, overcame early sexism to rise to the highest court in the land. She served on the Supreme Court from 1981 until her retirement in 2006.

Pathbreaking jurist played key role at center of high court

First female justice defied categorization as she shaped landmark cases

BY FRED BARBASH

Sandra Day O’Connor, the first female U.S. Supreme Court justice, whose independence on a court that was often ideologically divided made her the pivotal vote in numerous closely contested cases and one of the most powerful women of her era, died Dec. 1 in Phoenix. She was 93.

The cause was complications from advanced dementia — probably Alzheimer’s disease — and a respiratory illness, according to an announcement by the court. Justice O’Connor had said in 2018 that she had dementia and was exiting

public life.

In her nearly quarter-century as a justice, from her swearing-in on Sept. 25, 1981, after being appointed by President Ronald Reagan, to her retirement on Jan. 31, 2006, to care for her husband, who had Alzheimer’s, Justice O’Connor tried to avoid what she called “giant steps you’ll live to regret.”

She rejected the idea of eliminating the right to abortion, for example, in part because “an entire generation has come of age” relying on it. She co-wrote the principal opinion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

SEE O’CONNOR ON A6

Santos expelled from Congress on bipartisan vote

ETHICS REPORT SPARKS HISTORIC MOVE

Lawmaker becomes 6th ever kicked out of House

BY AMY B WANG AND MARIANA ALFARO

The House voted Friday to expel Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.) from Congress — an action the chamber had previously taken only five times in U.S. history, and not for more than 20 years — in response to an array of alleged crimes and ethical lapses that came to light after the freshman lawmaker was found to have fabricated key parts of his biography.

The resolution to expel Santos passed in a 311-114 vote, easily exceeding the required two-thirds threshold for removal, with numerous Republican lawmakers turning against Santos in what was the third effort to expel the New York congressman this year. Two Democrats voted present, and eight lawmakers did not vote.

Nearly half of House Republicans voted to oust Santos even though some GOP leaders voiced concerns about setting a precedent by expelling a lawmaker who had not been convicted of a crime.

The vote followed the release two weeks ago of a 56-page House Ethics Committee report

that accused Santos of an array of misconduct, including stealing money from his campaign, deceiving donors about how contributions would be used, creating fictitious loans and engaging in fraudulent business dealings. Santos, the report alleges, spent hefty sums on personal enrichment, including visits to spas and casinos, shopping trips to high-end stores, and payments to a subscription site that contains adult content.

Moments after the expulsion vote, Santos left the chamber and headed down the Capitol steps to his car, trailed by dozens of reporters.

“You know what? As unofficially already no longer a member of Congress, I no longer have to answer a single question from you guys,” Santos said before his car pulled away.

Santos has long denied wrongdoing and resisted calls to resign, claiming at a news conference Thursday that fellow House

SEE SANTOS ON A4

‘So predictable’: Ouster rouses old feelings of shame for Brazilians. **A4**

Bye, George: Scenes from the final act of a Washington farce. **C1**



RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

“I no longer have to answer a single question from you guys,” former congressman George Santos told reporters after the vote.

ELECTION 2024

Weeks ahead of Iowa, DeSantis’s woes grow

Super PAC turmoil, Haley endorsement coup among latest blows

BY HANNAH KNOWLES, MICHAEL SCHERER AND JOSH DAWSEY

Ron DeSantis’s presidential bid is facing extraordinary turmoil approximately six weeks before the Iowa caucuses, with internal disputes erupting into public view as Republicans eager to stop Donald Trump increasingly pin their hopes on a rival contender.

The chairman and CEO of the super PAC running much of DeSantis’s operation have both stepped down in recent days after other allies of the governor took the unusual step of starting another super PAC late in the race. The vast political network led by

Charles Koch — once drawn to DeSantis — endorsed Nikki Haley as it looks to stop Trump, promising the support of its ready-made field program. Some senior campaign aides are increasingly gloomy about their chances, according to a person close to DeSantis. “People increasingly think it’s over. It’s a dumpster fire,” said the person, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

The fresh blows come at a critical time in the GOP primary campaign, with Trump dominant in national and early-state polls and a growing sense that he may be unstoppable. DeSantis entered the race with high expectations and formidable resources. But his struggles as a candidate — including his strained small talk, sometimes awkward smiles and perceived aloofness — have drawn

SEE DESANTIS ON A5

Debate: DeSantis vs. Newsom was a noisy, confusing spectacle. **C1**

RIISING INDIA, TOXIC TECH

Stanching a signal, stoking unease

In a nation notorious for cutting the internet, ethnic turmoil tests its blackout tactics



ILLUSTRATION BY SHUBHADEEP MUKHERJEE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; AFP/GETTY IMAGES; BIPOLOV BHUYAN/SOPA/SIPA/AP

BY ANANT GUPTA AND GERRY SHIH IN CHURACHANDPUR, INDIA

During times of civil unrest and political turmoil, authorities around the world frequently cut access to the internet to control their populations and throttle the flow of information. The militaries in Sudan and Myanmar pulled the plug when they carried out armed coups in 2021. Iran flipped the switch when protesters flooded the streets following last year’s death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in police custody.

But the country that most frequently deploys the tactic is not an authoritarian state such as Russia or China, digital rights groups say.

It is India.

Between 2016 and this past May, India accounted for more than half of all the shutdowns recorded worldwide by an inter-

SEE INDIA ON A10

IN THE NEWS

‘Price gouging’ President Biden ramped up his criticism of big businesses for not lowering prices, part of his effort to respond to voter discontent over the economy. **A14**

Case appears dead Theodore McCarrick, 93, a former D.C. archbishop, was found unfit for trial in Wisconsin on sex assault charges. **B1**

THE NATION The Education Department’s failure to update its financial aid guidelines may lessen awards for students. **A2**

Trump can be held civilly liable over Jan. 6, an appeals court ruled. **A5**

THE WORLD Methane emissions from coal mines in China complicate global climate negotiations. **A8**

A majority of Russians support continuing the war in Ukraine, a report found. **A12**

THE ECONOMY As Elon Musk’s X devolves, news outlets are turning to Reddit, but choosing a community can be fraught. **A13**

The UAE announced a \$30 billion clean energy fund as it tries to quell doubts about its plans to move away from fossil fuels. **A14**

THE REGION Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) is proposing drastic cuts in spending on transportation to curb a multibillion-dollar budget shortfall. **B1**

Alexandria Mayor Justin M. Wilson (D) announced in his newsletter that he won’t seek reelection in 2024. **B1**

SPORTS The Capital Centre changed the sports landscape in the D.C. area — and provided a home for the Capitals and Bullets — when it opened 50 years ago. **D1**

The Commanders hope simplifying their schemes helps fix their struggling defense. **D1**

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