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Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 • \$3



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# No U.S. shift after Gaza aid deadline

Washington doesn't impose consequences even as Israel has largely failed to meet its demands

BY MIRIAM BERGER  
AND JOHN HUDSON

TEL AVIV — The State Department confirmed Tuesday that Israel will face no policy consequences for the lack of aid reaching the hunger-ravaged Gaza Strip, following a warning last month from the Biden administration that it had 30 days to improve access or potentially lose some U.S. military assistance.

"I certainly don't have a change in U.S. policy to announce today," State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel said Tuesday, the day the 30-day deadline expired. "We have seen some steps being taken. There need to be some additional steps that are also taken,"

he added. "There is nobody in this administration saying that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is pristine. ... It continues to be a crisis."

Israel has largely failed to comply with the three main demands of the U.S. letter, according to aid groups and U.N. officials, which included surging humanitarian aid across the enclave, resuming access for commercial trucks and ending the isolation of the north. Humanitarian organizations say the policies have brought the Palestinian enclave to the brink of mass starvation.

"Things are going from bad to worse," U.N. humanitarian coordinator Muhannad Hadi told The Washington Post on Friday

SEE GAZA ON A11



EYAD BABA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**TOP:** Palestinians head from Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip toward Jabalya on Tuesday after Israeli evacuation orders. **ABOVE:** Palestinians gather Tuesday at a destroyed house in Nuseirat. Israel has largely failed to comply with U.S. demands for surging aid to Gaza outlined in an Oct. 13 letter.

# Trump taps Fox host Hegseth for defense secretary

VETERAN'S NOMINATION CAPS FRENETIC DAY

President-elect quickly names loyalists to top jobs

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF  
AND JOSH DAWSEY

President-elect Donald Trump made his most significant Cabinet choice and set up his toughest Senate confirmation battle yet, tapping Pete Hegseth, a Fox News host and veteran, to be secretary of defense.

Trump has taken a special interest in staffing the Pentagon, believing he was stymied by civilian and military leaders who resisted demands in his first term to withdraw troops deployed overseas and use the military to put down domestic unrest. Hegseth

has long kept close ties to Trump, and the former president has continued praising him and watching Fox News even while criticizing the network as a whole.

Hegseth, who served in the Army National Guard in Iraq and Afghanistan, touted his military record and best-selling books in pursuing the nomination. His selection was not widely expected before Trump announced it Tuesday evening.

"Pete is tough, smart and a true believer in America First," Trump said. "With Pete at the helm, America's enemies are on notice

SEE TRUMP ON A6

**CIA selection:** John Ratcliffe was intelligence chief in first Trump term. **A4**

**Deportations:** Migrant advocates say Mexico is unprepared for influx. **A12**

# Musk, Ramaswamy to attempt 'drastic' change

Business executives will run brain trust on cutting spending and regulations

BY JEFF STEIN AND  
ELIZABETH DWOSKIN

President-elect Donald Trump announced Tuesday that he is appointing business executives Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead a new commission on cutting government spending and regulation, handing an enormous portfolio to the tech billionaire who gave political and financial support to his presidential bid.

In a statement, Trump said that his billionaire ally and his former Republican primary rival will lead the Department of Govern-

ment Efficiency, an idea championed by Musk. Trump said the department would operate outside of government to drive "drastic change," while partnering with the White House and its budget office to provide recommendations to slash regulations, cut staff and overhaul federal operations. Musk has adopted the nickname "DOGE" for the commission, a reference to a meme-based cryptocurrency he also touted.

It is not clear how the effort will be funded or whether its recommendations will be approved, because federal spending is controlled by Congress and the White House. Still, Republicans are poised to control the House, Senate and White House, giving the GOP the opportunity to implement at least some of the commission's proposals — potentially triggering major repercussions

SEE MUSK ON A4

# Airman is sentenced to 15 years for Discord leaks

BY STEPHANIE MORALES  
AND DAN LAMOTHE

BOSTON — Jack Teixeira, the Massachusetts Air National Guard member responsible for a sprawling leak of classified information, was sentenced Tuesday to 15 years in prison in a case that shook the U.S. national security community and exposed the ease with which government secrets can spread online.

Teixeira arrived in U.S. District Court here with a buzz cut and wearing an orange jumpsuit, appearing before Judge Indira Talwani after pleading guilty in March to six federal charges, including the willful retention and transmission of national defense information that the U.S. government classified as top secret. Teixeira, who turns 23 next month, had asked for a prison sentence of 11 years; prosecutors sought a sentence of nearly 17.

Teixeira addressed the court briefly, apologizing in a voice that was at times shaky.

SEE DISCORD LEAKS ON A9

# Chasing a nuclear clock, and a view of how life ticks

Physicists in Colorado move toward a timekeeping revolution and a deeper understanding of existence

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

BOULDER, COLO. — It was close to midnight on a Wednesday in May when physics graduate student Chuankun Zhang fired a specialized laser at a tiny radioactive crystal nestled in a vacuum chamber and was startled to see a tall, narrow peak emerge on a computer screen.

"Hmmm," Zhang texted to his colleagues, attaching a screenshot. He was just settling into the first shift of a laborious multiday experiment to try to trigger the "tick" of a new kind of ultraprecise clock that physicists have been dreaming about for two decades. The peak was the first clue that he and his colleagues had done it.

"Whoa!" shot back Jake Higgins, a postdoctoral researcher, still awake.

Pulled out of bed by scientific FOMO, Higgins and the rest of the "XUV Gang" — so called because their laser deploys light in the extreme ultraviolet — returned to the basement lab at JILA, a research institute of the University of Colorado at Boulder and the National Institute of

SEE CLOCK ON A8



JOANNA KULESZA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Graduate students Chuankun Zhang and Jack Doyle in the lab at JILA, a research institute at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where they and others are working toward a nuclear clock.**

# As Trump's staffing gels, China hawks are circling

BY CATE CADELL  
AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA

In a sweeping shift toward a hard-line approach, the new Trump administration is tipped to put some of Washington's most ardent China critics in key foreign policy positions — signaling a potentially more confrontational stance with Beijing.

President-elect Donald Trump has announced Rep. Mike Waltz as his pick for national security adviser and is expected to nominate Sen. Marco Rubio as secretary of state, according to people familiar with the transition team's thinking. Both men have been proponents of tough China policy, advocating for a diplomatic and security pivot to Asia to counter the growing influence of the Chinese Communist Party.

The transition from vocal legislators into high-stakes diplomatic roles could prove challenging, not least because of Trump's transactional tendencies — in his first term, he lifted sanctions on a

SEE CHINA ON A6

## IN THE NEWS

**Tulsa Race Massacre** A memorial service honored the first person identified from remains exhumed from mass graves. **A3**

**Archbishop resigns** The most senior cleric in the Church of England stepped down after an independent review concluded that he had mishandled allegations of sexual abuse. **A13**

**THE NATION** **A federal jury** ordered a U.S. contractor to pay \$42 million over abuses at Abu Ghraib prison. **A2** **A judge** delayed his decision on whether to toss Donald Trump's convictions in Manhattan. **A4**

**THE WORLD** **China showcased** its ambitions to challenge the United States with a new stealth fighter. **A10** **An emperor penguin** was found on an Australian beach, thousands of miles from home. **A12**

**THE ECONOMY** **The Trump** administration could scale back the Federal Trade Commission's efforts under Chair Lina Khan to rein in Big Tech. **A15** **The president-elect** is said to be considering trying to halt a potential U.S. ban on TikTok next year. **A16**

**THE REGION** **Federal prosecutors** dropped a criminal case against a Maryland sheriff accused of illegally obtaining machine guns and renting them out. **B1** **A U.S. judge** defended the justice system's handling of Capitol riot cases amid talk of potential pardons by Trump. **B1**

**STYLE** **Oscar and Tony** winner Eddie Redmayne undergoes another transformation to star in "The Day of the Jackal." **C1**

**FOOD** **In D.C.** and around the country, cookbook stores are feeding a growing appetite for community hubs. **E1**

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The Washington Post  
Year 147, No. 54034

