



Israeli troops capture Rafah crossing

Incursion disrupts aid delivery, sends civilians fleeing by the thousands

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS, HEBE FAROUK MAHFOUZ, CLAIRE PARKER AND SHIRA RUBIN

JERUSALEM — Israeli forces seized control of the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday, shutting down the flow of aid and sending thousands of civilians fleeing as they opened a new front in the months-long war to eradicate Hamas from the territory. In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it had



TOP: Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike Tuesday in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip. The incursion appeared more limited than the large-scale offensive Israel had threatened. ABOVE: A girl wounded in the strike at a Rafah hospital.

gained “operational control” of the Palestinian side of the crossing as part of a “precise counterterrorism operation” in Rafah, which shares a border with Egypt. The incursion Tuesday appeared limited, falling short of the large-scale ground offensive Israel has threatened in Rafah. But it also shut down the crossing, a key entry point for aid to southern Gaza, triggering immediate concern over the delivery of food, fuel and other supplies to Palestinians displaced by the war. U.N. Secretary General António Guterres called for the crossings to be reopened immediately, urging Israel to stop any escalation and engage in diplomacy.

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TikTok sues over U.S. law that could ban app

Cites First Amendment in case that could prove to be an existential fight

BY DREW HARWELL

TikTok and its parent company ByteDance challenged the U.S. government in a legal filing Tuesday over a new law forcing the sale or ban of the social media giant, igniting a high-stakes court battle in Washington that could prove to be an existential fight for one of the world’s most popular apps. President Biden signed a law last month demanding that China-based ByteDance sell TikTok within a year or be banned across the United States, arguing that the Chinese government could use the app to spy on Americans or secretly shape public opinion. But the companies in their petition for review contend that the law violates the First Amendment rights of its 170 million U.S. accounts in an “extraordinary and unconstitutional assertion of power” based on vaguely expressed national security concerns. “Banning TikTok is so obviously unconstitutional, in fact, that

even the Act’s sponsors recognized that reality, and therefore have tried mightily to depict the law not as a ban at all, but merely a regulation of TikTok’s ownership,” the challenge states. “In reality, there is no choice,” it adds. A forced sale “is simply not possible: not commercially, not technologically, not legally.” The case will set up a showdown for the Biden administration, which has touted the law as a way to avoid the pitfalls that doomed the Trump administration’s previous attempt to ban the app. A loss in court for the government would set back years of backroom federal strategizing that produced one of the few national technology policies passed by Congress in two decades. A win would force a change in control over the biggest foreign-owned tech platform to achieve mainstream prominence in the United States, disrupting what has become a potent force in the online creator economy and a popular driver of American entrepreneurship and entertainment. ByteDance, a private company that valued itself last year at \$268 billion, has vowed to fight what it calls an unconstitutional government overreach.

SEE TIKTOK ON A15

How the call to ban cellphones went through at one school



BY JOANNA SLATER IN MANCHESTER, CONN.

When Raymond Dolphin became assistant principal of a middle school in Connecticut two years ago, it was clear to him that the kids were not all right. The problem was cellphones. Students were using the devices in class, despite a rule against it. Social media was exacerbating nearly every conflict among students. When Dolphin walked the hallways or surveyed the cafeteria, he invariably saw heads bent over screens. So last December, Dolphin did something unusual: He banned them.

Illing Middle School math teacher Justin Pistorius and student Michael Wilson, who signed a petition urging school leaders to reconsider a phone ban.

The experiment at Illing Middle School sparked objections from students and some parents, but it has already generated profound and unexpected results. Dolphin likened prohibiting cellphones to curbing consumption of sugary foods. “In a matter of months, you start feeling better,” he said. What unfolded at the school reflects a broader struggle underway in education as some administrators turn to increasingly drastic measures to limit the reach of a technology that is both ubiquitous and

SEE CELLPHONES ON A9

Plans develop to muscle up for a global trade war

Trump advisers explore legal theories to justify a new ‘universal’ tariff

BY JEFF STEIN

Donald Trump’s economic advisers are eyeing aggressive new legal justifications to impose tariffs on all imports, seeking to buttress a second-term plan that would reshape the U.S. economy, according to public and private comments by top aides. On the campaign trail, Trump has repeatedly promised to enact a “ring” around the U.S. economy by enacting a tariff of at least 10 percent on goods imported from any other nation. Trump’s plan would target more than \$3 trillion in annual imports and risks sending inflation soaring in what probably would prove the biggest escalation of trade hostilities in decades, ratcheting up the standoffs that marked his first term. But the Constitution gives power over both taxation and regulation of foreign commerce

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