

Israel knew about Hamas’s attack plan over a year ago

Blueprint was dismissed by military as being beyond the group’s scope

By Ronen Bergman and Adam Goldman
NEW YORK TIMES

TEL AVIV — Israeli officials obtained Hamas’s battle plan for the Oct. 7 attack more than a year before it happened, documents, emails, and interviews show. But Israeli military and intelligence officials dismissed the plan as aspirational, considering it too difficult for Hamas to carry out.

The approximately 40-page document, which Israeli authorities code-named “Jericho Wall,” outlined, point by point, exactly the kind of devastating invasion that led to the deaths of about 1,200 people.

The translated document, which was reviewed by The New York Times, did not set a date for the attack, but described a methodical assault designed to overwhelm the fortifications around the Gaza Strip, take over Israeli cities, and storm key military bases, including a division headquarters.

Hamas followed the blueprint with shocking precision. The document called for a barrage of rockets at the outset of the attack, drones to knock out the security cameras and automated machine guns along the border, and gunmen to pour into Israel en masse in paragliders, on motorcycles, and on foot — all of which happened on Oct. 7.

HAMAS, Page A4

A mother’s pain — and pride — as son speaks out after being shot

By Kevin Cullen
GLOBE STAFF

BURLINGTON, Vt. — After a hellish 36-hour trip from their home in the West Bank, Elizabeth Price and her husband, Ali Awartani, finally got to their son’s hospital bedside Wednesday.

Hisham Awartani, 20, was groggy, just out of surgery when they arrived, Price said.

“Hi, baby boy,” she said she told him, stroking his hair.

Ali Awartani bent down and kissed his son’s hand.

Five days after Awartani and his lifelong friends Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Ali Ahmad were shot on a quiet street near the University of Vermont campus, some of their families arrived at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Price spoke to the Globe by phone from the hospital and in an interview in the hospital lobby.

At the moment they were attacked Saturday evening, the victims, who are Palestinians attending college in the United States, were speaking a mix of English and Arabic and wearing keffiyehs, Palestinian scarves. Investigators are trying to de-

SHOOTING, Page A5



CALEB KENNA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Elizabeth Price said her son Hisham Awartani is “incredibly resilient.”

Mass. lawmakers reach shelter deal

But Republicans able to block it for now, citing a need to stem flow of migrants

By Matt Stout
GLOBE STAFF

Weeks after talks stalled ahead of the holiday break, Massachusetts Democratic leaders on Thursday unveiled a deal on a \$2.8 billion spending bill that would pour hundreds of millions of dollars into the struggling emergency shelter system and mandate the state create overflow sites for families with nowhere else

to go.

Leaders in the Democrat-led House and Senate released the wide-ranging package more than two weeks after closing out formal sessions for the year without an agreement. The delay stalled a \$250 million infusion into the shelter system, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for raises owed to state employees and already agreed

to in dozens of union contracts.

The package, however, ran into an immediate roadblock.

The few Republican members of the House — who have opposed the shelter funding without tying it to measures to stem the flow of migrants into the system — blocked the bill from advancing by using a parliamentary move. That forced Democrats, who hold a supermajority, to adjourn the informal session and schedule another for Friday. In informal sessions, a lone objection can stall legislation.

House Speaker Ron Mariano called the holdup “incredibly disappointing,” arguing that the changes House Republicans are seeking were already voted down weeks ago.

GOP leaders said they also will try to force both chambers to meet in a formal session, where debate and roll calls are allowed. But Democratic leaders indicated Thursday that they are not considering calling such a session, leaving it unclear what the next step may be.

“House Democrats are committing,” he said.

LEGISLATURE, Page B4

‘From a practical standpoint, getting the work done — it’s just a total disaster.’

JAMES KELLEY, owner of Cambridge Landscape



LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Genaro Hernandez of Cambridge Landscape used a gas-powered leaf blower on a commercial property in Central Square.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR FOR GAS LEAF BLOWERS

Over landscaper objections, Cambridge could be next to institute a ban

By John Hilliard
GLOBE STAFF

In Cambridge, the buzz of gas-powered leaf blowers might become a thing of the past, as city councilors could decide next week whether to bar most uses of the equipment over concerns they create too much noise, pollute the air, and risk worker safety.

The proposed ordinance, which would follow similar measures implemented in towns like Arlington, Belmont, and Lexington,

would require Cambridge residents to end their use of most gas-powered leaf blowers by March 2025, with businesses doing likewise the following year.

It’s a critical measure for protecting the health of residents, as well as the landscape crews who work in the city, according to Cambridge City Councilor Patricia Nolan, who led the charge and brought the proposal before the council.

“It’s really important that we do every-

thing we can to work on behalf of the larger community public health, and this is one element of it,” Nolan said.

But the proposal, which officials will likely vote on at a meeting Monday, has been met with some criticism, including from James Kelley, owner of Cambridge Landscape. Kelley said a ban could backfire: electrical blowers are not as powerful as their gas-powered counterparts, and they can take

LEAF BLOWERS, Page A9

Like his candidacy, Kennedy’s campaign breaks mold

By Tal Kopan
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — His family has an unmatched political pedigree and numerous relatives have served in public office. But Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is running for president as a political neophyte, surrounded not

by seasoned campaign professionals but by an unconventional assortment of novices from across and outside the political spectrum.

Kennedy’s campaign has been financed by millions in donations from a motley group of supporters that include a sizable group who

share Kennedy’s vaccine skepticism. A Globe analysis of his spending shows a similar pattern as his base of support. Kennedy is spending heavily on private security as well as outside consultants with limited to no political experience, with a smaller investment in traditional political

advertising and grass-roots operations. The campaign also has a taste for glitz, with pricey hotel stays and large catering budgets, as Kennedy spends significantly on travel.

The picture that emerges is a campaign that largely resembles its

KENNEDY, Page A8

Representative George Santos made clear he wouldn’t resign before an expulsion vote and depicted himself as a victim of a smear campaign. **A2.**

Plans for a soccer stadium in Everett hit another major setback after legislative leaders dropped a key measure. **B5.**

VOL. 304, NO. 154

*

Suggested retail price
\$3.50



0 947725 4

Justice David A. Lowy will step down from the SIC in February to become general counsel for the University of Massachusetts system. **B1.**

The Biden administration is proposing new restrictions that would require the removal of virtually all lead water pipes to try to prevent another public health catastrophe. **A2.**

Shane MacGowan, the brilliant but chaotic songwriter, died at 65. As frontman for the Pogues, he reinvigorated interest in Irish music in the 1980s by harnessing it to punk rock. **C10, G1.**



A sprinkle in time

Thursday: Light rain later. High 53-58. Low 42-47.

Friday: Cloudy but warm. High 48-53. Low 39-44.

High tide: 1:40 a.m., 1:42 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:53 Sunset: 4:13

Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C10.



NATHAN KLIMA FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

SHINING MOMENT —

December is here and the holiday season is officially in full swing after the 82nd annual tree lighting on Boston Common Thursday night.