



PALESTINIANS on the outskirts of Gaza City seek to flee to the southern Gaza Strip to escape Israeli forces’ relentless bombardment.

HOSTAGE RELEASE DELAYED, ISRAEL REPORTS

It is unclear when Gaza cease-fire might begin. Aid groups seek longer truce window.

By Jamey Keaten and Isabel Debre

GENEVA — International aid groups say they are ready to deliver thousands of truckloads of food, water and other supplies to the besieged Gaza Strip if a temporary cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war takes hold Thursday as hoped.

However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s national security advisor announced in a statement released late Wednesday that the planned hostage-for-prisoner swap with the militant group Hamas has been delayed until at least Friday.

Tzachi Hanegbi said that contacts on the deal were continuing. “The release will begin according to the original agreement between the parties, and not before Friday,” he said.

The swap was to take place as part of a four-day truce in the Gaza Strip that had been expected to begin Thursday. Hanegbi gave no explanation for the delay, and it was not immediately clear when the cease-fire might begin.

The surprise announcement came after Israel and Hamas earlier Wednesday agreed to the four-day cease-fire — a diplomatic breakthrough that would free dozens of hostages held by militants as well as Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, and bring a large influx of aid to the besieged territory.

Some hailed it as an important first step, but many said Wednesday that a four-day truce isn’t enough to meet overwhelming needs after seven weeks of fighting that has displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in miserable conditions.

[See Gaza, A4]

COLUMN ONE

From prison to halls of power

At 17, he committed a crime that brought a 162-year term. In his 20s, he gets a second chance at life and a job in the state Capitol.



JARAD NAVA says that while in prison he worked to improve himself as restitution, a way to make amends for his violent crime.

By Hannah Wiley
REPORTING FROM SACRAMENTO

In his tan suit and gold tie, Jarad Nava blends in easily at the California Capitol, as though he’s always belonged to its mahogany and rose-hued halls.

But underneath the button-down shirt — unseen and unimaginable to those who don’t know his story — tattoos evoke his former life: on his arms, the name of a park his gang claimed as territory, rolling dice and an inked-over “P” that had represented Pomona; on his chest, flames licking up the base of his neck.

Just a few years ago, Nava was serving a 162-year sentence for a crime he committed when he was 17.

Now 28, the young man who once thought he’d never see the outside of a prison works as an assistant for the state Senate Public Safety Committee, an influential panel of lawmakers who [See Rehabilitation, A10]

The long road to repairing the 10

The freeway is open, but many details of the restoration process are unknown.

By Nathan Solis, Thomas Curwen and Ashley Ahn

With traffic again flowing above, construction crews in hard hats and high-visibility vests are busy surveying the scene: the belly of the 10 Freeway in downtown L.A.

Here, where earlier this month a massive fire scorched the roadway, large timber and steel structures have been erected to take the weight off seven rows of damaged concrete columns.

But what is actually going on under the freeway?

For all the accolades officials gave for reopening the 10 in days rather than weeks, state leaders have publicly

said little about the precise damage caused by the fire, exactly how Caltrans plans to make fixes and how much the repairs will cost.

Though the shored-up freeway is safe for drivers again, repairs to the damaged overpass will take months, officials said. None of the damaged columns that hold up the overpass east of Alameda Street have been repaired yet, according to California Department of Transportation spokesperson Michael Comeaux.

“Columns damaged by the fire will need to be repaired. The repair strategy may vary between individual columns depending on the extent of damage. The repairs will include the removal of any damaged concrete, patching of the damage, and wrapping the columns with steel casings,” Comeaux said in an email.

The scene at the dam- [See Freeway, A7]

Home prices near a record high

With rates up too, only 11% of households in L.A., O.C. can afford the median residence.

By Andrew Khouri

Southern California home prices are nearing a record high at a time of sky-high mortgage rates, a double blow that’s hammering housing affordability across the region.

In October, the average home price for the six-county region climbed 0.12% to \$831,080, according to data from Zillow. It was the eighth consecutive monthly increase, leaving prices just 1% below the all-time high reached in 2022.

“I don’t understand how people are affording these insane mortgages,” said Nicholas Uribe, a 31-year-old property manager who is trying — so far unsuccessfully — to buy a single-family home in the San Fernando Valley.

Although prices are slightly lower than during the peak, a home is drastically more unaffordable. In October, the monthly payment on the typical L.A. County home was \$4,830, according to Zillow. In June 2022, when prices peaked and rates were lower, the typical payment was nearly \$900 less.

Some experts say they don’t expect prices or mortgage rates to drop considerably in the near future — a forecast that, if realized, could dash the hopes of people like Uribe.

In theory, he should be better off than he is. In 2019, he paid \$329,000 for a Sylmar townhome that his agent now estimates is worth about \$500,000.

He’s also making more money. But despite his higher paycheck and home equity, he feels stuck.

With interest rates roughly double what they were in 2019, Uribe said he could barely afford to buy a comparable townhome at today’s prices, let alone the [See Housing, A7]



Derek Gee Buffalo News

DEADLY BLAST AT U.S.-CANADA BORDER

A speeding vehicle crashed and exploded at a Niagara Falls, N.Y., checkpoint, killing two. Terrorism is not suspected, governor says. **NATION, A5**

Dog illness in L.A. County

At least 10 cases of a mysterious respiratory disease seen in the U.S. have been reported locally. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Extra thanks for former Angel

Tim Salmon recounts harrowing 25 minutes when a freak monsoon hit his houseboat on family trip. **SPORTS, B10**

Weather
Partly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 71/54. **B6**



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