

Israeli Military Invades Gaza, With Sights Set On Hamas Operations

After a 10-Day Air War, a Ground Assault Is Aimed at Tunnels Under the Border

By JODI RUDOREN and ANNE BARNARD

JERUSALEM — Israeli tanks rolled into the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday night and naval gunboats pounded targets in the south as Israel began a ground invasion after 10 days of aerial bombardment failed to stop Palestinian militants from showering Israeli cities with rockets.

Israeli leaders said the incursion was a limited one focused on tunnels into its territory like the one used for a predawn attack Thursday that was thwarted. They said it was not intended to topple Hamas, the militant Islamist movement, from its longtime rule of Gaza.

As rockets continued to rain down on Israeli cities, a military spokesman said the mission’s expansion was “not time bound” and was aimed to ensure Hamas operatives were “pursued, paralyzed and threatened” as it targeted “terrorist infrastructure” in the north, south and east of Gaza “in parallel.”

As midnight approached Thursday, residents of some sparsely populated farmland in northern Gaza were cowering in

their homes, afraid to answer mobile phones or peek out windows. Some sent text messages reporting that they could hear tank shelling, heavy artillery, and F-16s dropping bombs. Moussa al-Ghoul, 63, who lives northwest of Beit Lahiya, said his neighborhood had turned into “a war zone” with tanks surrounding his home, having destroyed those of two of his sons. He said shells were landing “everywhere.”

Gaza news outlets reported that electricity had been cut to 80 percent of the coastal territory after cables bringing power from Israel were damaged.

After the early-morning tunnel episode, the day settled into an extended calm as both sides observed a United Nations request for a five-hour humanitarian pause in the fighting. But by 3 p.m., the violence roared back as the Palestinian death toll neared 250 and more than 120 rockets rained on cities throughout southern and central Israel all afternoon and evening.

“We will strike Hamas and we

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YOUTH’S LAST HOURS An indictment suggests motivations of three Israelis accused of abducting and killing a Palestinian teenager. PAGE A11

MILITANTS’ ARSENAL Makeshift rockets, smuggled in by ship and tunnel, have shaken Israelis with their frequency and range. PAGE A11



JACK GUEZ/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Israeli soldiers near the Gaza Strip on Thursday. Israel’s assault came in answer to an attack by militants through a tunnel.

Governor Brokers Deal to Avert Strike on Long Island Rail Road

By MATT FLEGENHEIMER

Travelers on the Long Island Rail Road were spared a debilitating midsummer strike on Thursday, when the railroad and its unions reached an agreement three days before a planned walkout.

Prodded by an 11th-hour, if unsurprising, intervention by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, the sides completed a deal that the governor called “a compromise by both parties” four years after the last contract expired.

The unions received raises of 17 percent over six and a half years. But following a national trend in which workers shoulder an increasing share of their health costs, the railroad employees will, for the first time, contribute a portion of their pay, 2 percent, toward their health coverage.

Throughout the week, labor leaders suggested a strike was all but certain on the railroad, which accounts for about 300,000 rider trips on weekdays. At the same time, the railroad’s operator, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, cast the workers as greedy public employees and warned that a deal too favorable to the unions could affect future fare increases and capital funding.

Assembled for a news conference at the governor’s Manhattan office, where the sides were summoned on Thursday morning for final negotiations, transportation and union officials appeared to set aside any lingering distrust.

Thomas F. Prendergast, the authority’s chairman and a Cuomo

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JETLINER EXPLODES OVER UKRAINE; STRUCK BY A MISSILE, OFFICIALS SAY



DMITRY LOVETSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The fiery crash left debris strewn across several square miles in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, near the Russian border.

Fallen Bodies, Jet Parts and a Child’s Pink Book

By SABRINA TAVERNISE

GRABOVO, Ukraine — Incongruously, given that the plane fell from more than 30,000 feet, many of the bodies strewn about in the smoldering wreckage of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 were largely intact. A woman in a black sweater lay on her back, blood streaming from her face, her left arm raised as if signaling someone. Another victim, naked except for a black bra, lay on the field, her gray hair mixing with the green grass, one leg broken and her body torn.

Residents spoke of bodies falling from the sky, looking like rags or clumps of ash, before the plane came to a jolting rest in a large wheat field dotted with purple

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

A Kremlin strategy heightens suspicions after a crash. Page A8. Worrying signs over increasingly dangerous skies. Page A9.

flowers and Queen Anne’s lace, having trailed debris over several miles of sparsely populated Ukrainian farmland.

“It was horrible,” said a separatist rebel who was part of the rescue crew and would give only his first name, Sergei. “We were in shock.”

The road to the crash site in eastern Ukraine, not far from the Russian border, was lined with fire engines and other emergency vehicles. Separatist militiamen, plentiful in this rebel-con-

trolled territory, urged journalists to take photographs.

There were no houses in the immediate vicinity. The only visible structure was a poultry operation with long white coops in the distance.

Rescue workers had already tied small white strips of cloth to tree branches along the debris path to mark the locations of the bodies. As darkness descended on the field, the workers gathered in throngs near a line of ambulances and rescue cars. Dogs barked in the distance, and the air smelled bitter.

Pieces of the plane were scattered across the road and field: a seat back with its television display cracked; a giant white piece of the tail with the plane’s insignia.

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ELAINE STRITCH, 1925-2014

Broadway’s Enduring Dame, Brassy to the End

By BRUCE WEBER and ROBERT BERKVIST

Elaine Stritch, the brassy, tart-tongued Broadway actress and singer who became a living emblem of show business durability and perhaps the leading interpreter of Stephen Sondheim’s wryly acrid musings on aging, died on Thursday at her home in Birmingham, Mich. She was 89.

Her death was confirmed by a friend, Julie Keyes. Before Ms. Stritch moved to Birmingham last year to be near her family, she lived for many years at the Carlyle Hotel in Manhattan.

Ms. Stritch’s career began in the 1940s and spanned almost 70 years. She made her fair share of appearances in movies, including Woody Allen’s “September” (1987) and “Small Time Crooks” (2000), and on television; well into her 80s, she had a recurring role on the NBC comedy “30 Rock” as the domineering mother of the television executive played by Alec Baldwin.

But the stage was her true professional home. Whether in musicals, nonmusical dramas or solo cabaret shows, she drew audiences to her with her whiskey voice, her seen-it-all manner and the blunt charisma of a star.

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MICHELLE V. AGINS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

AN APPRAISAL Elaine Stritch at the Café Carlyle in 2011. An assessment of her career by Charles Isherwood, Page A20.

NATIONAL A12-15

A Nice Place to Visit

Fund-raising in Iowa, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey enjoyed his celebrity status among Republicans far from the source of his troubles. “I will be back,” he said. “I will be back a lot.”

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\$25 Fine for Marijuana

A relatively lenient marijuana law went into effect in the District of Columbia. Possessing up to an ounce of the drug carries a penalty of \$25.

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INTERNATIONAL A3-11

Egypt Increases Fuel Prices

Egypt’s president slashed the fuel subsidies that millions rely on, but surprisingly little unrest followed.

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NEW YORK A16-19

City to Help Young Migrants

New York City has formed a task force amid a surge in unaccompanied Central American children.

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SPORTSFRIDAY B10-14

McIlroy Leads British Open

Rory McIlroy shot a first-round 66, and Tiger Woods was three back.

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WEEKEND C1-24

A Very Public Mistake

Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz star in “Sex Tape,” a comedy about a married couple who scramble to keep a home-made erotic video private.

PAGE C1

Arab Art, Up to Date

“Here and Elsewhere,” a new exhibition at the New Museum on the Lower East Side, looks at art “from and about the Arab world.” Public architecture and politics are among the many subjects covered in the show.

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BUSINESS DAY B1-9

G.M. Draws a Line on Recalls

The carmaker’s chief was back on Capitol Hill, facing sharp criticism from lawmakers. But she said there were limits to what the company would do to address its many recalls.

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Microsoft Lays Off Thousands

The move by the tech giant is the first major change by the chief, Satya Nadella. The cuts, up to 18,000 workers, are the largest in company history.

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Hunger for Sports at Fox

In Time Warner, Rupert Murdoch covets a lucrative lineup of national sports broadcasting rights.

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OBITUARIES A19-21

Johnny Winter Dies at 70

Mr. Winter, a Texas-bred guitarist and singer, was known for his blazing riffs, his collaborations and a fierce dedication to the blues.

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EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Paul Krugman

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