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## Blinken presses Netanyahu on Gaza aid

U.S. diplomat questions Israeli leader about dire conditions in north

BY ADAM TAYLOR, JOHN HUDSON AND HAJAR HARB

TEL AVIV — Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel on Tuesday to press Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on increasing aid to the Gaza Strip, as U.S. officials warned that Israeli actions were causing conditions there to rapidly deteriorate and, if they are not reversed, could risk U.S. military support.

Blinken, in his hours-long meeting with Netanyahu, “emphasized the need for Israel to take additional steps to increase and sustain the flow of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and ensure that assistance reaches civilians throughout Gaza,” State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said. The official Israeli summary of the Blinken-Netanyahu meeting made no mention of humanitarian aid for the territory.

In a letter to Israel earlier this month, Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin outlined “urgent and sustained” steps they said the leadership should take to help alleviate civilian suffering in the enclave, including surging aid and commercial imports, rescinding evacuation orders once the fighting is over, and allowing humanitarian workers “continued access” to sealed-off northern Gaza.

Since Oct. 5, the Israeli military has ramped up operations in the north, where it says Hamas fighters are regrouping. More than 500 people have been killed in the offensive so far, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which says dozens more bodies are lying in the streets or trapped under the rubble. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

“I personally performed some surgeries in the street with the very little medical equipment I have,” said Mahmoud al-Hajj Ahmad, a general surgeon from northern Gaza who has been sheltering in the Beit Lahia area. Rescue workers say just one hospital — Kamal Adwan — is functioning, but at limited capacity.

Conditions in northern Gaza “are beyond catastrophic,” said Georgios Petropoulos, head of the Gaza office for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of

SEE BLINKEN ON A15

**Israeli war plans:** The FBI probes alleged leak of a U.S. analysis. **A2**

**‘May God keep us safe’:** A week in the life of a Gaza surgeon. **A13**

## Israel expands strikes in Beirut



BILAL HUSSEIN/AP



BILAL HUSSEIN/AP



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

An Israeli missile — shown in three successive photos — destroys a high-rise in the suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday, a short time after the military issued evacuation orders. The strikes expanded into new neighborhoods of the Lebanese capital, a day after a U.S. envoy visited the country to discuss a possible path to a cease-fire. **Story, A14**

## ELECTION 2024

# Early voting leaps to historic start as GOP doubts fade

A FOE IN 2020, TRUMP WARMS TO PRACTICE

Experts warn against drawing conclusion from surge

BY AMY GARDNER, PATRICK MARLEY, COLBY ITKOWITZ AND YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ

Americans are voting ahead of Election Day in historic numbers this year. That includes Republicans, who appear to be responding favorably to a new message from former president Donald Trump: It’s okay to vote early.

Dozens of states have opened in-person early-voting locations, and turnout has been robust. In Georgia, more than 1.6 million people had cast in-person ballots by midmorning Tuesday — nearly one-third of the total vote from four years ago. North Carolina hit 1.4 million Tuesday, the sixth day of early voting. And in Nevada, Republicans voting in person have outnumbered Democrats — a reversal from four years ago.

Nationwide, more than 18 million Americans have cast ballots in person or by mail so far this year, according to the Election Lab at the University of Florida. That’s more than 10 percent of the

overall total who cast ballots four years ago.

What’s less clear is whether the initial burst of voting enthusiasm will last — and to what extent it reflects a shift from heavy rates of mail voting four years ago during the coronavirus pandemic.

Republican participation appears to at least partially reflect Trump’s change of heart on early voting, which he slammed without foundation in 2020 as riddled with fraud but has heavily promoted this campaign season.

“If you have a ballot, return it immediately,” Trump told an Atlanta rally crowd on Oct. 15, the first day of early voting in Georgia. “If not, go tomorrow as soon as you can go to the polls and vote.”

Trump’s rhetoric in 2020 — which included false allegations

SEE VOTING ON A7

**Crass conduct:** Trump’s antics get attention; Harris doesn’t mind. **A5**

**Stumping for Swifties:** A pitch for Harris votes at a Miami concert. **C1**

## Russia blamed for fake video smearing Walz

Adversaries weigh plans to foster post-election violence, officials say

BY JOSEPH MENN AND DAVID NAKAMURA

U.S. intelligence officials on Tuesday said Russians seeking to disrupt the U.S. elections created a faked video and other material smearing Democratic vice-presidential nominee Tim Walz with abuse allegations and are considering fomenting violence during and after the vote.

The faked content accused Walz of inappropriate interactions with students while a teacher and coach. The posts drew millions of views on social media, falsely tarring the Minnesota governor ahead of Nov. 5.

The officials said the Russian videos were part of the most active attempt by another country to tilt the 2024 election. They added that Russian government agencies and contractors, which generally seek to boost Republican former president Donald Trump’s campaign, are consider-

ing trying to instigate physical violence in the fraught period after voters cast their ballots.

“Some of these influence efforts are aimed at inciting violence and calling into question the validity of democracy as a political system, regardless of who wins,” a senior intelligence official told reporters in the latest of a series of background election-threat briefings. Russia is “potentially seeking to stoke threats towards poll workers, as well as amplifying protests and potentially encouraging protests to be violent,” the official added.

This was the first such briefing to raise the specter of violence, and the officials struck a tone of greater urgency in describing the disinformation challenges and their limited abilities to counteract them.

“The point of this is information is power,” the senior official said. “We’ve been trying to get as much information about these tactics, their methods and how they are manifesting out to the American people, so that they can be as informed as possible.”

The Russian Embassy did not respond to emails seeking comment.

SEE VIDEO ON A6

## A sudden closure, years in the making

BY LAUREN LUMPKIN AND MARISSA J. LANG

On the day Eagle Academy abruptly closed, teachers at the D.C. charter school had been unpacking supplies, moving furniture and hanging bright posters covered with the names of students who were supposed to fill classrooms.

There had been rumblings of financial troubles, but the school’s leaders told families over the summer they had a plan: Another charter school had agreed to take over Eagle’s two campuses in Congress Heights

Parents, officials did not fully grasp financial woes at D.C.’s Eagle Academy

and Capitol Riverfront.

But the D.C. Public Charter School Board, an independent city oversight body, blocked that plan. Eagle Academy unexpectedly was shuttered in August, less than a week before the new school year, leaving roughly 350 prekindergarten through third-grade students, plus their teach-

ers, scrambling.

Closures over finances are relatively rare among the District’s vast network of charter schools — which educate nearly half of the city’s 98,000 public school students and are privately run, taxpayer-funded and free for families to attend. The schools have more freedom in how they operate and teach, though each must provide regular reports to the city.

Eagle Academy had shown signs of financial shakiness as enrollment declined over several years, relying at times on credit

SEE ACADEMY ON A22

## In college hoops, it pays to be male

New gender gap has emerged in name, image and likeness earnings

BY ALBERT SAMAHA AND EMILY GIAMBALVO

By the time she took the court for the final March Madness of her college career, Shaylee Gonzales had built her brand into a bona fide small business.

A starting guard at the University of Texas, she had endorsement deals with Steve Madden, Skims and Whataburger. She had 88,000 followers on Instagram and 200,000 followers on TikTok, more than the team’s other four starters combined. Yes, she had

been second-team all-conference the previous season and had aspirations to go pro, but she was under no illusions about what was driving her growing income.

“It didn’t matter how well I played on the court,” she said. “Those brands just looked at how many followers you had.”

Gonzales offered those brands a valuable commodity: the chance to be associated with women’s college basketball. The sport’s popularity has surged in recent years, drawing television ratings that rival those of the men’s

college game and producing superstars more famous than any men’s player. All those new eyes started tuning in just as college athletes were permitted to get paid for their name, image and likeness, or NIL.

But while the women have exceeded the cultural relevance of their male counterparts, most continue to earn far less, according to an analysis of NIL records obtained under state public records laws by The Washington Post plus interviews with athletes,

SEE NIL ON A8

## IN THE NEWS

Trump’s legal ally Mike Davis, a combative presence on right-wing media, has positioned himself to help the former president select judges if he’s elected again. **A12**

Bracing for political chaos D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser and other city leaders shared plans for handling the election and its aftermath. **B1**

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With pandemic relief funds spent, Chicago’s public school system is facing a crisis. **A3**  
Hackers hit the popular online archive Wayback Machine, knocking it offline, for now. **A11**

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Former Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo was sentenced to two decades in prison. **A16**

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More than 10,500 creative professionals signed an open letter condemning “unlicensed use of creative works” to develop AI. **A18**

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A pizza chain’s ads playing on Marion Barry’s cocaine use have drawn backlash from his widow and associates. **B1**

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The former CEO of Abercrombie & Fitch, Mike Jeffries, was arrested on sex-trafficking and prostitution charges. **C5**  
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Americans are losing faith in the government’s ability to protect their food. Is the system to blame? **E1**

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