



YOUSSEF AL ZANOUN Associated Press

AFTER AN ISRAELI airstrike destroyed a building, people examine the huge mound of rubble in Gaza City.

U.S., Israel reject calls for truce

As international anger rises, Rubio and Netanyahu stand firm, saying Hamas must be eliminated and all hostages released

BY MATTHEW LEE
AND SAMY MAGDY

JERUSALEM — Israel and the United States showed a unified front Monday in the face of growing international anger over Israel's airstrikes on Hamas leaders in Qatar and its intensifying bombardment of Gaza City.

As Arab and Muslim leaders met in Doha to condemn

Israel's attack last week in Qatar and new rounds of criticism were aired over Israeli plans to occupy Gaza City, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stood shoulder to shoulder in Jerusalem and downplayed the furor that had, at least for a short time, taken the Trump administration aback.

Rubio planned to pay a

quick visit to Qatar on Tuesday, as the administration appears keen to ease tensions between its two close allies, before flying on to London to join President Trump on his state visit to Britain.

"We understand they're not happy about what happened," Rubio told Fox News. But "we still have Hamas, we still have hostages, and we still have a war. And all those things still

have to be dealt with, and we are hopeful that Qatar and all of our gulf partners will continue to add something constructive."

There were no signs of U.S. frustration with Israel's latest actions, although Trump had made clear his displeasure with Israel's unilateral strike on Hamas in Qatar.

Both Netanyahu and Rubio said the only way to end

TikTok seems set to avert U.S. ban

President Trump, in online post, hints at deal amid upbeat talks with Chinese officials.

BY QUEENIE WONG

President Trump, who years ago led the charge to ban TikTok from the U.S., seemed to claim credit for saving it in a move he said should delight young voters.

Trump and negotiators suggested Monday that the short video platform owned by Chinese company ByteDance will avert a ban.

It is a remarkable turn of events that could end a years-long saga around the fate of the popular platform, which has become one of the most desirable assets in technology, even as it has been used as a geopolitical pawn reflecting the volatility of relations between China and the U.S.

Trump on Monday suggested that U.S. and Chinese officials struck an agreement ahead of a Wednesday deadline for ByteDance to sell TikTok to a non-Chinese owner because of national security concerns.

"A deal was also reached on a 'certain' company that young people in our Country very much wanted to save. They will be very happy!" Trump wrote in a post on his social media platform.

Trump said he would be speaking Friday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Trump's post came on the same day Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters there was a "framework" for a TikTok deal and it was expected to be finalized Friday. U.S. and Chinese officials have been holding trade talks in Spain.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and TikTok didn't respond to questions about the deal.

Li Chenggang, China's international trade representative and vice minister of commerce, said the U.S. and Chinese officials had

[See TikTok, A10]

Eaton fire cleanup left toxic soil behind

Unsafe lead levels found in yards even after Army Corps work

BY NOAH HAGGERTY



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE LEAD in Altadena's soil is thought to come from burned lead paint, which can damage the brain.

The Eaton fire left significant levels of lead in Altadena's soil, according to a final report on soil testing from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hauled away debris and soil from destroyed properties, but that did not completely remove the contamination, the report, released Friday, found.

Meanwhile, homeowners whose homes are still standing, or partially damaged, both within and outside the burn scar, also face significant contamination.

Most experts think the lead in the soil comes from incinerated lead paint that coated most homes built before the paint was banned in 1978. The findings are important because lead can permanently damage the brain, leading to developmental and behavioral issues in kids.

Lead was the only contaminant found in most of the testing. But in Pacific Palisades, the county also noted one cadmium and thallium hot spot and arsenic, a carcinogen, in another location.

[See Lead, A7]

Evidence links suspect to Kirk death, FBI says

As the investigation unfolds, scrutiny of Patel's performance as bureau director grows.

BY RICHARD WINTON,
NATHAN SOLIS,
SALVADOR HERNANDEZ
AND HANNAH FRY

Federal officials announced Monday that investigators found DNA and other evidence linking Tyler Robinson to the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk as FBI Director Kash Patel faces increasing scrutiny over his leadership during the probe.

Patel said Monday that Robinson had sent a text before the shooting, saying he had an opportunity to "take out" Kirk and "he was going to do it because of his hatred for what Charlie stood for." It is unclear whom Robinson sent the text to, or whether that person alerted law enforcement. A similar message allegedly had been contained in a note that was destroyed but recovered by law enforcement, Patel told Fox News.

"We learned some shocking things when we spoke to

Slaying has fueled anti-trans wave

Fierce debate around transgender rights has escalated sharply across the U.S. **NATION, A5**

his family and friends," Patel said in the interview.

The FBI said it collected a screwdriver containing Robinson's DNA on the rooftop of a building at Utah Valley University and a firearm wrapped in a towel that had been discarded in a nearby wooded area. The towel also had Robinson's DNA on it, Patel said, adding that the firearm was still being processed for forensic evidence.

Kirk, 31, was a beloved figure in the conservative movement who in death won praise for using dialogue to make his case. He was known for his unfiltered, hard-right opinions on heated topics such as abortion, immigration and gender identity, comments that frequently drew fierce criticism, particularly on college campuses he visited. His death by a single gunshot during a speaking engage-

[See Kirk, A6]

Is urban shade the price of fire safety?

'Zone zero' rule to create buffer around buildings comes with drawbacks, critics say.

BY JEANETTE MARANTOS

Depending on whom you talk to, the proposed new defensible space rules for "zone zero" will help save homes in very high fire hazard severity zones, or decimate much of Southern California's urban tree canopy without really deterring the types of wildland fires that destroyed much of Altadena, Pacific Palisades and Malibu this year.

Either way, the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Zone 0 Advisory Committee will probably get an earful of comments during its public meeting Thursday at the Pasadena Convention Center. The committee will be presenting its proposed rules for creating "fire defensible spaces" or "ember-resistant zones" within five feet of buildings

in very high fire hazard severity zones protected by city and county firefighters as well as all areas protected by state firefighters. These five-foot-wide buffers are now widely known as "zone zero."

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection was initially tasked with creating specific zone zero regulations in 2020, after the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 3074, said Yana Valachovic, a technical advisor to the board who serves as the county director and forest advisor for both the UC Cooperative Extension in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, as well as for the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Fire Network.

But on Feb. 6, in the wake of the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires, Gov. Gavin Newsom gave the board until Dec. 31 to finalize the regulations.

Here are the main points in the proposed zone zero regulations, published in August and now up for public comment:

[See Buffer, A7]

California lawmakers OK dense housing bill

BY JACK FLEMMING

California lawmakers just paved the way for a whole lot more housing in the Golden State.

In the waning hours of the 2025 legislative session, the state Senate voted 21 to 8 to approve a landmark housing bill that overrides local zoning laws to expand high-density housing near transit hubs. It will head to Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk in October.

The controversial legislation, Senate Bill 79, had squeaked through the state Senate by a narrow margin earlier this year, but since it was amended in the following months it required a second approval.

One of the more ambitious state-imposed efforts to increase housing density in recent years, the bill was introduced in March by Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), who emphasizes that

the state needs to take immediate action to address California's housing shortage. It opens the door for taller, denser housing near transit corridors such as areas around bus stops and train stations: up to nine stories for buildings adjacent to certain transit stops, seven stories for buildings within a quarter of a mile and six stories for buildings within half a mile.

Single-family neighborhoods within half a mile of transit stops would be subject to the new zoning rules.

Height limits are based on tiers. Tier 1 zoning, which includes heavy rail lines such as the L.A. Metro B and D lines, allows for six- to nine-story buildings, depending on proximity to the transit hub. Tier 2 zoning — which includes light rail lines such as the A, C, E and K lines, as well as bus routes with dedicated lanes — allows for five- to eight-story buildings.

[See SB 79, A6]



City of Santa Monica

COLOR ME PINK

Researchers release a fluorescent pink dye into Santa Monica Bay to study how currents may be contributing to poor water quality. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

It pays to attend 2-year colleges

Two L.A.-area schools make a top 25 list based on a price-to-earnings metric. **LEARNING, A8**

Highs and lows from the Emmys

Times staff unpacks the awards show's most memorable moments. **ENTERTAINMENT, E1**

Weather
Sunny, very warm.
L.A. Basin: 92/69. **B6**



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