

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Gaza's Hamas rulers say cease-fire reached with Israel today

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza's Hamas rulers said today they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the two sides since a 2014 war.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said Egyptian mediators intervened "after the resistance succeeded in warding off the aggression."

Israeli Cabinet minister Arieh Deri told Israel's Army Radio that he expected calm to be restored.

The Israeli military struck dozens of militant sites in Gaza overnight as rocket fire continued toward southern Israeli communities into early this morning, setting off air raid sirens in the area throughout the night.

The military said it hit drone storage facilities, military compounds, and rocket and munition workshops across the Gaza Strip. The overnight Hamas rocket fire reached the city of Netivot for the first time since the 2014 war. A home was struck, but no one was wounded.

Neither Israel nor the Palestinian factions in Gaza went full bore in their attacks, a sign that neither side was interested in escalating hostilities. Militants in Gaza did not fire long-range rockets at Israel's major cities, as they did in 2014, and Israeli airstrikes zeroed in on only unmanned military targets.

With neither side appearing interested in a full-blown conflict, a tense calm appeared to be holding today as Israeli children went to school in the morning.

Gowdy disputes Trump's 'spy' claim, says FBI acted properly

WASHINGTON — There is no evidence that the FBI planted a "spy" on President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign, a senior House Republican said today, directly contradicting Trump's repeated insistence that the agency inserted a "spy for political reasons and to help Crooked Hillary win."

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Oversight Committee and a longtime Trump supporter, was briefed last week by the Justice Department and FBI following reports that investigators relied on a U.S. government informant in its investigation into Russian election meddling.

"I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do when they got the information they got and that it has nothing to do with Donald Trump," Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, told Fox News on Tuesday.

Gowdy's comments are particularly striking because of his role as a powerful GOP watchdog who took on Democrat Hillary Clinton in his committee's investigation into the 2012 attacks on American in Benghazi, Libya, while she was secretary of state. The probe unearthed the existence of Clinton's private email server, which triggered an FBI inquiry and crippled her 2016 presidential campaign against Trump.



AP Photo/Jeff Roberson Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens has announced his resignation, effective Friday.

Missouri governor resigns amid swirling investigations

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens announced Tuesday that he will resign, ending a tumultuous 17 months in office marked by criminal probes into his political and personal life, including a widening investigation that arose from an affair with his former hairdresser.

He plans to leave office Friday and will be succeeded by Lt. Gov. Mike Parson. The 44-year-old governor spent nearly six months fighting to stay in office after the affair became public in January in a television news report that aired immediately following his State of the State address.

The Republican governor has repeatedly denied any criminal wrongdoing. He announced his plan to depart as the Legislature met in a special session to determine whether he should be impeached.

Lawmakers pressuring Greitens to step down included many Republicans, who feared that his troubles could jeopardize the GOP's chances of defeating incumbent Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill in a race considered essential to the party's hopes of keeping control of the Senate.

Greitens, a former Navy SEAL and Rhodes scholar, came into office criticizing "corrupt career politicians." He repeatedly clashed with fellow Republicans on issues such as lawmaker pay and his moves to create a majority on the State Board of Education that would fire the education commissioner — a priority Greitens never fully explained.

Gowdy announced in January that he would retire from Congress at the end of the current term and return to work in the justice system.

Trump has zeroed in on, and at times embellished, reports on the informant, calling it "spygate" and tweeting that it was "starting to look like one of the biggest political scandals in U.S. history."

Barr blames Ambien for tweet after show canceled

NEW YORK — The maker of Ambien said today that "racism is not a known side effect" after Roseanne Barr cited the insomnia drug in explaining the tweet that led ABC to cancel her show.

Hours after ABC pulled the plug on "Roseanne" because of her offensive tweet about former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett — and quickly

breaking a promise to stay off Twitter — the comedian was busy posting on the social media platform.

Barr tweeted that what she did was unforgivable and urged supporters not to defend her. She said of the Jarrett tweet, "It was 2 in the morning and I was ambien tweeting."

The drug maker Sanofi took to social media to say that "while all pharmaceutical treatments have side effects, racism is not a known side effect of any Sanofi medication."

Barr later tweeted that she has had odd experiences while taking the drug late at night. "I blame myself, not Ambien," she tweeted.

After not mentioning Barr's firing in a campaign-style rally in Tennessee Tuesday night, President Donald Trump broke his silence on Twitter. He noted that Robert Iger, chief executive of ABC parent Walt Disney Co., called Jarrett to tell her that ABC did not tolerate Barr's comments.

"Gee, he never called President Donald J. Trump to apologize for the HORRIBLE state-

ments made and said about me on ABC," Trump wrote.

Trump reveled in the success of "Roseanne" after Barr's character in the show came out as a supporter of his presidency.

"Roseanne" was an instant hit when it returned this spring after a two-decade hiatus. But after Barr's tweet that likened Jarrett, who is black, to a cross between the Muslim Brotherhood and the "Planet of the Apes," ABC canceled the show in a one-sentence statement from network entertainment president Channing Dungey. She called it "abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values."

Alberto triggers mudslides, threatened dam is OK

MARION, N.C. — Mudslides triggered by the soggy remnants of Alberto forced evacuations below a dam early today and closed a highway in western North Carolina as the center of the storm lashed the nation's midsection hundreds of miles away.

About 2,000 people were evacuated for several hours after emergency managers said the Lake Tahoma dam was in danger of "imminent failure." Heavy rain triggered landslides at the dam and along Interstate 40, which was closed near Asheville.

Several schools were closed in western North Carolina because of flooding.

Radar showed rain extended as far south as the Gulf Coast, where the storm came ashore at the Florida Panhandle on Monday, to the Great Lakes region.

Forecasters warned the leftovers of the Atlantic hurricane season's first named storm were still capable of causing treacherous flooding as heavy precipitation spreads deeper into the nation's midsection. Flash flood watches and warnings were in effect for parts of several states from Alabama through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, the Carolinas and Virginia and West Virginia.

Inmate on leave kills 3 in Belgium, setting off terror probe

LIEGE, Belgium — A knife-wielding prison inmate on a 48-hour leave stabbed two police officers Tuesday in the Belgian city of Liege, seized their service weapons and shot them and a bystander to death before being mowed down by a group of officers, setting off a major terror investigation into the country's most savage assault since 2016 suicide attacks.

Prime Minister Charles Michel acknowledged the assailant, who had a lengthy criminal record that included theft, assault and drug offenses, had appeared in three reports on radicalism but was still allowed to take a leave from prison.

"Is our system working when we see that these kind of people are running free?" asked vice premier Alexander De Croo, echoing the thoughts of many in a nation where armed police and gun-toting soldiers still patrol the streets in the wake of the March 2016 attacks that left 32 people dead at the Brussels airport and subway system.

Tuesday's attack happened outside a cafe in the eastern city of Liege when the assailant crept up on the two female officers from behind and stabbed them repeatedly.

TV SCHEDULE table with columns for channels (A, L) and times (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows of program listings.

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