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RIZEK ABDELJAWAD Xinhua/Sipa USA

People leave their homes Monday in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah.

California bill limits self-service checkout stations

BY ANDREW SHEELER
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California grocery and drug stores would be prohibited from operating self-service checkout stations without adequate staffing, under a proposed law being considered in Sacramento.

The bill is being championed by organized labor and opposed by business groups.

Under Senate Bill 1446, by Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, D-Los Angeles, grocery and drug stores would be required to provide at least one cashier-run checkout station, and self-service checkout stations would be limited to no more than two such stations per one employee monitor, who must not have any other duties assigned.

In addition, the bill would require self-service checkout stations to be limited to 10 items or fewer.

The bill also would require stores that are looking to implement new technology that would significantly affect or reduce employee job duties to conduct a study prior to implementation. They would also have to notify and solicit input from employees at least 60 days before drafting the study and to provide employee or collective bargaining representatives with the study at least 60 days before implementation.

The bill is co-sponsored by the California Labor Federation, the Prosecutors Alliance of California and the United Food and Commercial Workers, Western States Council.

The bill's author said that the intention behind the bill is

SEE RAFAH, 4A

SEE BILL, 4A

Israeli military orders civilians to evacuate eastern Rafah

BY VIVEK SHANKAR AND MATTHEW MPOKE BIGG
NYT News Service

Israeli warplanes pounded targets in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah on Monday as its military told about 110,000 people sheltering there to leave, heightening fears among Palestinians that Israel was inching closer to invading the city in defiance of international pressure.

On Monday night, the Israeli military said it was "conducting targeted strikes against Hamas terror targets in eastern Rafah."

Earlier in the day, the military dropped leaflets in eastern Rafah ordering people to evacuate temporarily to what it described as a humanitarian zone, and said it would also notify people by text messages, phone calls and broadcasts in Arabic. An Israeli military spokesperson would not say if or when troops would enter the city, but described the evacuation as "part of plans to dismantle Hamas" and to bring back hostages taken on Oct. 7.

Thousands of people were leaving the city, according to the Palestine Red Crescent Society,

which said Monday that there had been "escalating Israeli airstrikes" in areas east of Rafah. The extent of any casualties was not immediately clear.

Israel's closest allies, including the United States, have been urging it not to mount a large ground operation in Rafah, saying it would take a heavy toll on civilians, more than 1 million of whom have crammed into the city to escape fighting elsewhere. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected those calls, saying Israel needs to defend itself and eliminate Hamas, which at-

tacked Israel on Oct. 7.

Hours after the evacuation order, President Joe Biden spoke by phone with Netanyahu and "reiterated his clear position on Rafah," according to a White House statement.

The order came a day after officials said months of talks over a cease-fire and the release of hostages had hit an impasse, with Israel and Hamas still sharply at odds over the duration of any truce. Hamas wants a permanent cease-fire while Netanyahu has expressed open-

Judge warns Trump of jail time for violating gag order

BY ALAN FEUER, WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM, BEN PROTSESS AND JONAH E. BROMWICH
NYT News Service

NEW YORK
The judge overseeing Donald Trump's criminal trial in Manhattan held the former president in contempt for a second time in two weeks, fining him \$1,000 Monday for breaking a gag order that bars him from attacking jurors, and warning that he could jail him for "a direct attack on the rule of law."

Addressing Trump personally, Judge Juan M. Merchan said that financial penalties had failed to serve as a sufficient deterrent and time behind bars could be next.

"The last thing I want to do is



BRENDAN MCDERMID USA TODAY NETWORK

Former President Donald Trump arrives Monday for his criminal trial in Manhattan.

put you in jail," Merchan said, adding quickly, "But at the end of the day I have a job to do."

As the judge delivered his remarkable admonition, Trump stared straight at him, blinking but not reacting, and when the judge concluded, the former president shook his head.

Prosecutors from the Manhattan district attorney's office,

which brought the case against Trump accusing him of falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal, had argued that Trump had committed four violations of the order, which also prevents attacks on prosecutors, witnesses and others. But Merchan concluded that only one of

SEE TRUMP, 4A

Judge scales back DA's lawsuit over homeless camps

BY DARRELL SMITH
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A Sacramento judge will allow District Attorney Thien Ho's court bid to crack down on the city's homeless camps to go forward but not before rejecting two key pieces of the DA's lawsuit.

The significantly scaled back suit is a setback for Ho, who sued the city in September and has been a sharp and frequent critic of official Sacramento's response to the city's homeless crisis.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Jill H. Talley's final ruling came Monday. Ho's lawsuit alleged the city caused a public nuisance by allowing homeless camps to exist on

public property and violated the state's Water Code by allowing waste from city encampments to end up in the American and Sacramento rivers.

Only the D.A.'s third allegation — that the city violated the state's Fish and Game Code by allowing its homeless to pollute creeks and streams — survived the Monday ruling.

"The city has failed to establish that it is not subject to liability" under state law, Talley wrote.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg said the focus now should be on solving the city's homelessness crisis and took a swipe at the lawsuit:

"Anyone who is serious

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