



WASON WANICHAKORN Associated Press

## DEADLY QUAKE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Rescuers work at the site of a high-rise under construction that collapsed in Bangkok after a magnitude 7.7 quake struck Myanmar and Thailand on Friday, killing more than 150 people. **WORLD, A3**

## Palisades and Eaton firefighters show higher mercury, lead levels, study finds

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

The immediate risks faced by the firefighters who were on the front lines battling the Palisades and Eaton fires that tore through Los Angeles County may have abated, but long-term health concerns remain.

A team of researchers tested the blood of a group of 20 firefighters who were called to duty when the wildfires hit Los Angeles County communities, and found that they had levels of lead and mercury in their blood that was significantly higher than what health experts consider to be safe — and also higher than firefighters exposed to a forest fire.

The results are part of the longer-term L.A. Fire Health Study, which is investigating the health impacts of the January fires on those exposed to the toxic materials released into the environment. The team includes researchers from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, UC Davis, the

University of Texas at Austin, and the USC Keck School of Medicine.

“What you need to worry about is some of these metals that, when they get burned, they get up in the air,” said Dr. Kari Nadeau, chair of the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and one of [See Firefighters, A10]

## Foreign students are on high alert amid arrests

California campuses take extra caution after the U.S. revokes roughly 300 visas.

BY JAWEED KALEEM

Ali, a UCLA student who joined pro-Palestinian protests last year, avoided arrest when riot police dismantled the school's encampment last May. An international student who took part in a surge of campus activism around Israel's war in Gaza, he was wary of having a record that could affect his visa. But he did not otherwise hide his activism.

Now, as federal authorities act on President Trump's directive to deport international student activists he accuses of being anti-Semitic “pro-Hamas” terrorism supporters, Ali has taken new precautions. He's moved out of his apartment — the address listed with the government — and is staying with a friend. He attends classes but avoids social events. He carries a piece of paper with the number for a 24-hour hotline faculty set up for students detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As more arrests unfold, fears among California inter-

national students are growing — and frustrations mounting — as they accuse campus administrators of not doing enough to protect them in the state with the largest foreign student population in the nation and universities at the forefront of national activism.

“It's a matter of time before it gets here,” said Ali, who did not want his full name, nationality, area of study or age published because he is worried about being tracked. “This is free speech. Isn't this what this country is supposed to be known for?”

Speaking at a news conference Thursday during a visit to Guyana, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the government had initiated a widespread review of student activists' visas and revoked at least 300.

“We do it every day. Every time I find one of these lunatics, I take away their visa,” Rubio said. He added: “I hope at some point we run out because we have gotten rid of all of them, but we're looking every day for these lunatics that are tearing things up.”

He later clarified that it has been “primarily student visas, some visitors visas” and that the government has canceled some visas over [See Students, A6]



Associated Press

**RUMEYSA OZTURK**, a 30-year-old doctoral student at Tufts University, was detained by Department of Homeland Security agents earlier this week.

## Families of missing seek clues at ex-cartel ranch



Jalisco state attorney general's office

**SHOES HAVE** become the new symbol of Mexico's “disappeared,” now exceeding 120,000 people. Officials recently found remains and personal items at Rancho Izaguirre, a former cartel training ground in Jalisco.

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL

**TEUCHITLÁN**, Mexico — The anguished mother arrived on a motorcycle, the bike kicking up a cloud of dust as it swerved to a halt before strands of red and yellow crime-scene tape. Heavily armed cops blocked access to the place known as Rancho Izaguirre. But even from far off, María Luz Ruiz said she sensed his presence. “I feel that my son was here,” she said, 12 years after he vanished.

She was among a steady stream of relatives of the missing arriving at the ranch entrance, all hoping to find some trace of vanished loved

ones. On a shirtsleeve, Ruiz wore a purple-and-white ribbon — an homage to the disappeared — while a white rose poked out from the top of a bag.

Police in riot gear blocked her and others from proceeding down the unpaved entry road, lined with stands of prickly pear cactus, here in the outskirts of Teuchitlán, a town now tainted with the horrors, real and imagined, of Rancho Izaguirre — a former cartel training camp.

“Teuchitlán: National Shame,” read a banner at an angry rally this month in Guadalajara, where protesters chanted, “Narcos out!” and assailed politi- [See Mexico, A4]

## ‘Swatting’ incidents on the rise and elusive for state to prosecute

Lawmakers look to close loophole as false threats to schools and hospitals spark chaos.

BY CLARA HARTER

Earlier this month, the Claremont Police Department received a chilling 911 report: A caller said they were holding someone captive inside a Claremont McKenna College restroom, carrying a bomb and preparing to shoot anyone they saw on campus.

The call triggered a massive deployment of law en-

forcement and SWAT team members and sent waves of panic coursing through campus as students scrambled to find cover.

But the crisis was fake, the result of a “swatting” call, a hoax 911 report made in the hope of generating a large law enforcement response.

The incident took place one day after a similar threat prompted a lockdown of Loma Linda University's Children's Hospital.

Swatting is a growing problem across the state and country. But California law can make it challenging to hold people accountable [See Swatting, A8]

## Modular housing rises as rebuild solution

Fire survivors love speed and simplicity, but builders' promises have failed before.

BY LIAM DILLON

The sense of loss Sue Labella feels after the Pacific Palisades home she'd lived in for almost 50 years burned down in January's wildfire is matched only by her desire to return.

To come back as fast as possible, the 83-year-old widow has decided on a home radically different from the 1939 Tudor where she and her husband raised their two daughters. Rather than competing with thousands of other displaced homeowners for a contractor, building materials and a team of construction work- [See Modular, A10]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

**MYCHAL WILSON**, whose home was destroyed in the Palisades fire in January, takes a factory tour of modular home builder Cover this month in Gardena.

### L.A. Times sues city over Bass' texts

Officials are accused of unlawfully withholding and deleting her messages during fires. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Justices face test on 'war' powers

Trump and his lawyers say the Supreme Court must stand aside on detentions. **NATION, A5**

### Weather

Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 68/52. **B8**

### Radio stations fight funding cuts

Republicans decry NPR, PBS and other networks as being “left-wing echo chambers.” **BUSINESS, A7**

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