

At least 95 killed at Iran memorial

Blasts strike city where general slain by U.S. in 2020 was being honored

BY SARAH DADOUCH, MOHAMAD EL CHAMAA, KAREEM FAHIM AND LOVEDAY MORRIS

BEIRUT — At least 95 people were killed and scores injured Wednesday in two blasts that struck the central Iranian city of Kerman, where thousands of mourners had gathered to commemorate Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani on the fourth anniversary of his assassination in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq in 2020.

Bahram Eynollahi, Iran's health minister, was quoted by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) as saying 95 people were killed and 211 were injured. An earlier toll provided by officials, of 103 killed, was lowered because names were repeated on a list of victims, he said.

The deputy governor of Kerman, the slain general's hometown, said the incident was a "terrorist attack," according to IRNA. The explosions occurred about a half-mile from Soleimani's burial place, on a road to the graveyard, and roughly 20 minutes apart, the agency reported.

Before the blasts, the state-run live broadcast had shown thousands of mourners filling the street, moving calmly in a procession.

SEE IRAN ON A9

A salvo by GOP finds its target at Harvard

Gay's resignation is latest fallout as party continues to take fight to colleges

BY LAURA MECKLER, SUSAN SVRLUGA AND DANIELLE DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

The resignation of Claudine Gay as president of Harvard University marks the culmination of a conservative war on higher education, long fought on campuses and in statehouses but this time triggered by hard questions from Republicans in Washington and their allies.

The fallout raised numerous questions, including how the GOP might continue to pressure universities, which they charge are overwhelmingly liberal, intolerant of conservative views, and overly concerned with questions of race and identity.

"A reckoning is coming to higher education," said Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), whose questioning during a congressional hearing led to the resignations of the president of the University of Pennsylvania and then, on Tuesday, Gay. "This is just the beginning of exposing the rot in our most 'prestigious' higher education institutions."

Many worried about meddling by lawmakers in academic freedom and the affairs of

SEE HARVARD ON A5



AZIZ TAHER/REUTERS

Mourners gather in Lebanon for the funeral of a Hamas member who was killed along with Saleh Arouri, a top militant leader.

Killing of Hamas leader signals shift in strategy

BY STEVE HENDRIX

JERUSALEM — When a pair of drone-fired missiles slammed into an apartment building in south Beirut on Tuesday, killing a top militant leader and his lieutenants, it appeared to mark a shift in Israel's war against Hamas.

For three months, Israel has pressed a full-scale military invasion of Gaza, leveling much of the Strip and killing more than 22,000 people in its pursuit of the militants who planned and carried out the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. To date, it had not acted on another stated war aim: targeting the

Assassination in Lebanon shows Israel's military may be starting to fight two-front war

heads of Hamas "wherever they are."

Now, as the conflict enters its fourth month, Israel has apparently made good on that threat, risking a wider war along its border with Lebanon even as it begins to draw down troops in Gaza for the first time.

Military leaders said that the partial withdrawal was possible now that attacks have weakened Hamas in the north and that it would allow thousands

of reservists to return home and go back to work. Washington also has been placing pressure for months on Israel to pull back from what President Biden has described as "indiscriminate bombing" and reduce the devastating civilian death toll.

The events come amid growing concerns about the war's economic toll in Israel and the gradual return of protests and domestic political intrigue.

While few analysts see an end to the violence in Gaza, they detect an evolution.

"We are on to Stage 3," former Israeli deputy national security adviser Chuck Freilich said, referring to the phase of warfare expected to follow the initial response to the October attacks and the sustained air and ground war inside the enclave. "I think we're moving into a new mode, something

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Al-Shifa: U.S. bolsters case that hospital was a Hamas base. **A9**

'Punishment': Hezbollah leader warns of response to killing. **A10**



TAYLOR GLASCOCK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

To buy their own homes, millennials are back to living with their parents

BY JULIAN MARK AND ELI TAN

At 26, Brandon Paulin couldn't believe he was still living with his parents.

Already the mayor of his hometown in Indian Head, Md., Paulin still slept in his childhood room. He watched friends he grew up with move into their own apartments after finishing college — and he longed for similar self-sufficiency with his fiancée,

Sky-high rent, tough housing market force many young adults to rely on their families

Alex Mourousias with his cat, Mancer, in Chicago last month. After living on his own for years, he stayed with his dad in 2020 and then his mom in 2021 to save for a down payment.

Taryn, who lived 30 minutes away and was also living at home to save money.

But it also meant he'd never paid a dime in rent, offsetting the awkwardness of being an adult under his parents' roof. It paid off in June 2022, when he and his now-wife finally had enough saved for a down payment on a two-bedroom house with a nice yard for their beagles, Bella and Lilo.

"It wasn't the conventional

SEE HOMEOWNERS ON A5

ELECTION 2024

Limping out of the gate, Trump now at full sprint

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, JOSH DAWSEY AND MARIANNE LEVINE

As Donald Trump prepared to announce his presidential campaign in November 2022, some of his advisers tried to talk him out of jumping into the race so early. They struggled to fill Mar-a-Lago's gilded ballroom for a rambling kickoff speech that his own allies said was lackluster. Trump looked tired, almost grudging, as he spoke right after a disappointing midterm election that some Republicans blamed him for. The FBI had searched his home, and he was under multiple criminal investigations.

Thirteen months later, on the cusp of 2024, Trump stepped through the mist of a fog machine into a roaring arena in New Hampshire, where, as in every early state, he holds a wide lead over GOP rivals. Before thousands of cheering fans, he marveled at how he had built his advantage in the face of 91 criminal charges ranging from paying hush money to an adult-film star, to mishandling classified material, to trying to overturn the 2020 election.

"I consider it a great badge of

SEE TRUMP ON A6

Supreme Court: Trump asks to keep his name on ballots. **A3**



JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

In December, supporters await former president Donald Trump in Iowa, which holds the first GOP nominating contest this month.

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Total solar eclipse Read all about the roughly four-minute event this April that will cool the air, stir nocturnal animals and be visible to tens of millions of Americans. **A16**

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Economic woes in Maryland predate the pandemic, according to a first-of-its-kind analysis released by the state comptroller's office. **B1**

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LOCAL LIVING
A couple dispense advice on living small after spending two years dwelling in the 72-square-foot cargo hold of a Ram ProMaster van.

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