

The Washington Post

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Wounded people, including children, are brought to al-Aqsa Hospital following Israeli attacks in Deir al-Balah. In a statement Sunday, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said only five doctors remained at al-Aqsa Hospital to treat the wounded as supplies dwindle.

Key hospital evacuated as fighting pushes closer

Few options remain for treatment and shelter of civilians in central Gaza

BY CLAIRE PARKER,
SARAH DADOUCH,
HAJAR HARB
AND JOHN HUDSON

CAIRO — Israeli attacks around central Gaza’s last remaining hospital caused hundreds of displaced civilians to flee over the weekend and forced most medical workers to evacuate, leaving wounded people with no good options for seeking care as fighting intensifies in the area.

Organizations including Doctors Without Borders, the International Rescue Committee and Medical Aid for Palestinians have pulled their staff from al-Aqsa Hospital in recent days, after the surrounding areas in the Deir al-Balah region came under drone attacks and sniper fire, and residents received warnings from the Israel Defense Forces to evacuate.

The heavy fire and pullout of major international medical organizations sparked panic among displaced civilians sheltered in the area.

SEE GAZA ON A9

Ruined homes: Some Gazans have returned, amid uncertain future. **A8**

Rescue of U.S. soldier’s mother from Gaza involved risks, negotiation

BY HOPE HODGE SECK
AND DAN LAMOTHE

Each night was the same. From his home in California, Fadi Sckak would dial his mother, Zahra, who was sheltered with her brother-in-law amid the rubble and tank fire in Gaza City’s besieged Sabra neighborhood. Often, he’d have to call more than 60 times before a connection was made and she was able to assure her son that, yes, she was still alive.

Fadi’s father, Abedella, had

died on Nov. 26. Eight days earlier, the 56-year-old had been struck in the calf by what the family believes was a stray Israeli bullet as the couple fled what remained of their home for the past 15 years. Without medical care, Abedella’s condition steadily deteriorated. First his legs went numb. He stopped talking. And then, he was gone.

Late last month, in an act of desperation, Fadi Sckak, 25, contacted the news media to make a public plea for help. Aided by

SEE RESCUE ON A10

United finds loose bolts on doors of grounded planes

FAA REQUIRES CHECKS OF 737 MAX 9 CRAFT

Pressure light on damaged Alaska jet to be examined

BY LORI ARATANI
AND KELLY KASULIS CHO

United Airlines on Monday said preliminary inspections of grounded Boeing 737 Max 9 planes have turned up loose bolts and other issues with the part of the aircraft that failed on an Alaska Airlines flight over Portland, Ore., last week, raising concerns of a systematic problem with the jetliner.

In some cases, the bolts needed additional tightening, the carrier said. The inspections of more than 100 Alaska and United planes manufactured by Boeing were ordered by the Federal Aviation Administration after a door plug blew out of the Alaska jet midflight Friday, causing injuries and chaos.

The finding could compound the woes at Boeing, which has struggled to rebuild its reputation since an earlier model of the Max was grounded after two crashes killed 346 people several years ago. Investigations revealed problems with the design of an automated system on that plane, which had not been fully disclosed to the FAA.

Friday’s incident did not cause any fatalities, even though a piece of the plane broke off midflight, leaving passengers exposed to the open air. And the National Transportation Safety Board continues to investigate the cause, gathering evidence that scattered across the Portland area, including the door-like plug, which landed in a schoolteacher’s backyard.

“As operators conduct the required inspections, we are staying in close contact with them and will help address any and all



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The midair loss of a door plug left a huge hole on an Alaska Airlines flight from Portland, Ore., to Ontario, Calif.

findings,” Boeing said in a statement. “We are committed to ensuring every Boeing airplane meets design specifications and the highest safety and quality standards. We regret the impact this has had on our customers and their passengers.”

United’s discovery of the loose bolts occurred as part of preliminary inspections that have been ongoing since Saturday. The discovery was first reported by the Air Current, an aviation news site. On Monday, the FAA said airlines can begin inspections in earnest using guidance from Boeing and the agency.

One hundred seventy-one Boeing 737 Max 9 planes have been grounded amid the investigation into the rapid depressurization.

SEE BOEING ON A14

A physics lesson: How an iPhone survived the 16,000-foot drop. **A14**

Austin leaves ICU amid rising uproar over secrecy

BY DAN LAMOTHE,
MATT VISER
AND MISSY RYAN

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, whose failure to disclose his need for emergency hospitalization has ignited a firestorm, was moved out of intensive care on Monday, as Democrats and Republicans intensified their calls for accountability, and senior officials at the White House and Pentagon struggled to defuse the uproar.

Austin, 70, remains under doctors’ supervision at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland. He was taken there by ambulance Jan. 1, while in “severe pain” with undisclosed complications from a Dec. 22 medical procedure that included an overnight stay, administration officials said.

But their halting explanations of the situation, and Austin’s lack of transparency about what led to his health crisis, have only amplified the scrutiny following revelations that Austin’s senior staff declined to disclose the issue to the White House for days. The Pentagon said Monday

SEE AUSTIN ON A18

BY BARRY SVRLUGA

Josh Harris spoke rather flatly, and someone from another town who roots for another team might have taken his address about the future as, well, boring. But Harris is from Washington. He owns the Washington Commanders. And in Washington, where it concerns the local NFL franchise, he might as well have donned a top hat, twirled a cane in the air and jigged across the stage in Ashburn as he sang his answers. The tune is just that different.

Monday was about moving on from Ron Rivera as coach and chief football decision-maker because that was a silly setup from Day 1. But much more than that, Monday was about Harris further distancing himself — in style, substance, word and deed — from his predecessor, he who shall not be named (yet). Before Harris makes the hires that will determine whether his group is a success with the Commanders, jump for joy at that. It’s encouraged and allowed.

Where to start? How

SEE SVRLUGA ON A2

PERSPECTIVE

For the Commanders, a promising step forward



CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Commanders quarterback Sam Howell begins the process of packing up at team headquarters in Ashburn, a few hours after the team fired coach Ron Rivera following a disappointing 4-13 season.

Peaks, valleys: Rivera is out after four years at the helm, a tenure with no shortage of highs and lows. **D1**

House GOP fears repeat of last year’s fractiousness

BY MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR

In late December 2022, incoming Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.) pledged that in the first two weeks of the House Republican majority, the conference would pass 11 “ready-to-go” bills that would contribute to “making our ambitious agenda a reality.”

While House Republicans eventually passed eight of those proposals — and a handful of other partisan measures — their agenda never fully materialized. None of the proposals they tout as “promises kept” were among the 29 bills signed into law by President Biden last year, making this House Republican majority complicit in the most ineffective year for Congress in decades.

Last year’s track record was no surprise for House Republicans, who point to deep personal tensions, profound ideological differences and a hard-right wing willing to disrupt government functions as reasons their fractious conference has struggled to govern. And they remain skeptical

SEE GOP ON A6

Florida GOP: Chair facing sexual assault investigation is ousted. **A5**

IN THE NEWS

Biden in S.C. Speaking at a Black church where nine people were killed in 2015, he said Republicans are “trying to steal history.” **A4**

Criminal sentencing D.C. Council members will decide whether a man who spent 27 years in prison for murder should serve on a city panel that drafts and modifies guidelines. **B1**

THE NATION
A U.S. spacecraft suffered fuel loss, threatening a lunar mission. **A3**
Longtime NRA leader Wayne LaPierre and others misused millions in dues and fees, a New York prosecutor said. **A7**

THE WORLD
Pope Francis called for a global ban on surrogacy in a speech. **A11**
Landlocked Ethiopia’s quest for the sea could end up providing a diplomatic outlet for Somalia. **A12**

THE ECONOMY
The technology trends to watch this year, including the use of AI tools in a contentious election year. **A13**
A study found “nanoplastics,” measuring less than one micrometer, are even more common than microplastics in bottled water. **A18**

THE REGION
D.C. launched an effort to rethink Chinatown, spurred by a plan by the owner of the Wizards and Capitals to move the teams. **B1**
A dispute over a historic Black cemetery buried beneath a parking lot went before the Maryland Supreme Court. **B1**

STYLE
Business Insider’s parent company will “review the processes” regarding articles about the wife of a critic of the Harvard president who resigned. **C1**

HEALTH & SCIENCE
These exercises can determine if you’re as fit as most people your age. **E1**

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