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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

Top Hamas leader killed in explosion in Lebanon

Citing Israel's vow to hunt down attackers, US official says it's 'just the beginning'

By Ben Hubbard, Ronen Bergman, Aaron Boxerman, Euan Ward, and Eric Schmitt
NEW YORK TIMES

Hamas on Tuesday accused Israel of killing Saleh Arouri, a top leader of the group, along with two commanders from its armed wing, the Qas-sam Brigades. Arouri is the most senior Hamas figure to be killed since Israel vowed to destroy

► Boston-area doctors and nurses with ties to the Middle East feel urge to act. B1.

the organization and eliminate its leadership after a deadly Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7.

Arouri was assassinated in an explosion in a suburb of Beirut, Lebanon's capital, marking the first such assassination of a top Hamas official outside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in recent years. It comes as officials across the region are worried about the war in Gaza igniting a wider conflagration.

Israeli officials would not comment on whether their forces had targeted Arouri, but officials from Lebanon and the United States ascribed the attack to Israel. A senior US official said it was most likely the first of many strikes that Israel would carry out against Hamas operatives connected to the Oct. 7 assault.

"No one is safe if they had any hand in planning, raising money for, or carrying out these at-

MIDEAST, Page A4

Company seeking new contract faces more scrutiny over prisoner treatment

By Adam Piore
GLOBE STAFF

The national prison health care behemoth Wellpath is already on shaky ground in Massachusetts after rampant accusations of inadequate care and staffing.

Over the past two years, the privately owned company lost two of its contracts in the state, the sheriff's departments of Suffolk and Barnstable counties. Now the company's future with what is

Wellpath has been named as defendant in more than 1,000 lawsuits in US federal courts filed by prisoners and others.

denials of care, and inappropriate use of restraints and solitary confinement for people with mental health needs.

As Correction Department officials prepare to open bids later this month, prisoner advocates have launched a campaign to block Wellpath from getting the next contract and politicians have begun to weigh in.

"Wellpath's healthcare services have caused

WELLPATH, Page B4

At center of heat, Gay quits

Harvard leader embroiled in controversies on war, campus antisemitism, and plagiarism allegations

By Mike Damiano and Hilary Burns
GLOBE STAFF

CAMBRIDGE — Claudine Gay's tenure as the first Black president of the nation's oldest and most prestigious university came to a bitter end Tuesday after her brief term was derailed by controversies stemming from the Israel-Hamas war, campus antisemitism, and allegations of plagiarism in her scholarly works. A daughter of Haitian immigrants who

rose through the sharp-elbowed politics of higher education to reach the pinnacle of academia, Gay described her decision to resign as "difficult beyond words" in a message sent to the Harvard University community.

But she said that "after consultation with members" of Harvard's top governing board, it became clear to her that "it is in the best interests of Harvard for me to resign so that our community can navigate this moment of ex-

traordinary challenge with a focus on the institution rather than any individual." She will return to teaching and scholarship as a tenured faculty member.

Harvard provost Dr. Alan Garber will serve as interim president, the board said Tuesday.

Gay's resignation is an embarrassment for the elite university and its powerful oversight board, known as the Harvard Corporation, which selected Gay and helped orchestrate her ascension from within Harvard's ranks.

Gay's six-month tenure as president is the shortest in Harvard's history.

GAY, Page A6



ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Claudine Gay, who was named president a little over a year ago, faces pressure to respond to a letter written by pro-Palestinian student groups.



KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES



JEENAH MOON/BLOOMBERG



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Gay's testimony before a congressional committee sets off a firestorm. Billionaire investor Bill Ackman, a Harvard alum, presses the university to remove her.

Insider named interim president as board looks for some stability

By Elizabeth Koh and Daniel Kool
GLOBE STAFF AND GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Alan M. Garber, a physician and economist who as provost helped guide Harvard University through the COVID-19 pandemic, was named interim president Tuesday, following weeks of controversy that culminated in the resignation of president Claudine Gay.

In selecting Garber, Harvard's powerful oversight board turned to a university insider and a medical scholar to steady the institution amid recent tumult. As provost the last 12 years, Garber, 68, has overseen faculty relations and a host of administrative departments, including student affairs. He played

key roles in navigating various campus disputes, from graduate student unionization efforts to the Supreme Court's ruling that barred colleges from directly considering race in admissions decisions.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Alan's broad and deep experience, incisive judgment, collaborative style, and extraordinary institutional knowledge to carry forward key priorities and

GARBER, Page A6



Alan M. Garber has been provost for 12 years.

A tumultuous tenure

►► **Dec. 15, 2022:** Claudine Gay is selected as the 30th president of Harvard University, becoming its first Black leader. She was previously a professor and dean at Harvard.

►► **Oct. 7, 2023:** Hamas attacks Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking some 240 hostages back to the Gaza Strip. Within hours, more than 30 student groups at Harvard sign a letter that blames Israel and includes no criticism of the killings.

►► **Oct. 9:** Under pressure to respond to the students' letter, Gay and other Harvard administrators issue a statement that angers supporters of Israel.

►► **Oct. 10:** Gay then issues a second statement under her name alone that says, "I condemn the terrorist

atrocities perpetrated by Hamas."

►► **Dec. 5:** Appearing before a Republican-controlled congressional committee, Gay gives an equivocating answer on whether calls on campus for "the genocide of Jews" violate Harvard rules.

►► **Dec. 7:** Gay apologizes for her testimony, acknowledging, "Words matter."

►► **Dec. 10:** First plagiarism allegations against Gay surface publicly over her 1997 doctoral dissertation.

►► **Jan. 1:** The publication the Free Beacon reports more plagiarism allegations against Gay, bringing the total number to nearly 50.

►► **Jan. 2:** Gay resigns.

Black academics fear opportunity has been missed

By Deirdre Fernandes and Jason Laughlin
GLOBE STAFF

When Claudine Gay was named the first Black president of Harvard University in December 2022, Shardé Davis, an associate professor of communications at the University of Connecticut, was thrilled. And nervous.

"It's certainly a pride point," Davis recalled. "These moments that you never think someone who looks like you would be in such a high position of power. . . . But she already had a target on her back from the get-go."

For Black academics such as Davis, that celebration soured into shock and disappointment on Tuesday when Gay an-


BLACK ACADEMICS, Page A7

A MOMENT FOR BAGELS

With more local shops and pop-ups in Boston and Cambridge, there are more choices than ever before. Rebelle Bagels (right) will be opening in Kendall Square this year, with its artisanal specialties. G1.



REBELLE BAGELS



Jan. tan

Wednesday: Pleasant. High 40-45. Low 30-35.
Thursday: Showers. High 39-44. Low 20-25.
High tide: 4:04 a.m., 4:20 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:13 Sunset: 4:23
Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C9.

A water main break at Brigham and Women's Hospital disrupted in vitro fertilization services for more than 300 people. **B5.**

Boston's Haitian American community rejoiced about the choice of Ruthzee Louijeune to be City Council president. **B1.**


Tens of thousands of women who are not pregnant are ordering abortion pills just in case they might need them someday, a study found. **A2.**

A startup plans to launch the first TV news network driven by artificial intelligence,

with stories read by animated digital avatars. **B5.**

Russian missiles and drones hammered Kyiv, officials said, in a large-scale attack on the Ukrainian capital and other cities that killed at least five. **A3.**

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