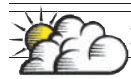


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Democracy Dies in Darkness

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024 • \$3

Trump's risky N.Y. defense strategy

Former president seeks to deny, delay and denigrate through trial

BY DEVLIN BARRETT, JOSH DAWSEY, PERRY STEIN AND MARK BERMAN

The opening of Donald Trump's first criminal trial on Monday will put to the test a defense strategy his lawyers have been honing for a year — a confrontational gambit that has angered the judge and could cost the presidential candidate dearly when it comes to a verdict.

Fight for every scrap of evidence. Push for every possible delay. The approach has succeeded so far in Trump's three other pending criminal cases, potentially pushing all of them into or past November's presidential election. Surprisingly it is in Manhattan, at a courthouse notorious for lengthy delays before many criminal trials, that the former president and presumptive Republican nominee will face his first judgment day.

Trump's defense strategy in SEE TRIAL ON A5



MICHAEL CADENHEAD/THE WASHINGTON POST

An issue of impartiality

New Yorkers discuss whether they could serve on Trump's jury. A6-A7



CHRISTOPHE VAN DER PERRE/REUTERS

A police officer inspects the remains of a rocket booster near Arad, Israel, on Sunday. According to Israeli authorities, it critically injured a 7-year-old girl, part of an attack in which Iran launched more than 300 drones and missiles combined toward Israel.

Biden counsels Netanyahu to avoid regional escalation

BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND MATT VISER

The Biden administration on Sunday congratulated Israel — along with itself and allies — on their “spectacular” success in fending off an unprecedented barrage of more than 300 Iranian missiles and armed drones, even as it made clear its desire for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government to declare victory and refrain from striking back.

The United States remains “committed to defending Israel,” a senior administration official said, and “what you saw last night,” as Israeli air defense — supplemented by U.S. planes

and warships — shot down 99 percent of the Iranian fires, “is what that means in practice. ... We are ready to do it again if we have to.”

But this official and others who spoke in official briefings, background interviews and on television throughout the day, emphasized that the United States would not participate in any offensive Israeli response against Iran.

“Our aim is to de-escalate regional tensions” and prevent the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza from becoming a wider conflagration, the senior official said.

The attack, launched from Iranian territory and by its SEE UNITED STATES ON A10

Tehran crosses old red lines as it creates ‘new equation’

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE

With its first-ever direct military attack on Israel, Iran crossed old red lines and created a precedent in its decades-long shadow war with the Jewish state.

Iran “decided to create a new equation,” said the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, in an interview with state-run television Sunday. “From now on, if Israel attacks Iranian interests, figures and citizens anywhere, we will retaliate from Iran.”

As a show of force, the attack was unprecedented in scope, involving more than 300

drones and missiles combined, but analysts said it was also carefully choreographed — giving Israel and its allies time to prepare, and providing the Israeli government a possible off-ramp amid fears of a widening war.

The assault was designed with the knowledge that Israel's “multi-layer systems would prevent most of the weapons from reaching a target,” said Sima Shine, head of the Iran program at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv. “That outcome made space for Netanyahu and senior leaders to strike a more measured tone than they could SEE IRAN ON A13

Israel mulls answer to Iran

ALLIES PUSHING FOR RESTRAINT

U.S.-led coalition fends off barrage from Tehran

BY SHIRA RUBIN, STEVE HENDRIX AND LOVEDAY MORRIS

TEL AVIV — For several hours on Saturday night, as Iranian missiles streaked through the skies, millions of people in Israel and across a restless region held their breath.

On Sunday morning, Israelis awoke to find their country relatively unscathed, fortified by widespread global support after months of international isolation. The nightmare scenario leaders here had long warned about — a direct attack from Iran — provided a public showcase of the regional coalition and high-tech systems built to repel such an assault.

The five-hour barrage, in retaliation for a deadly Israeli strike on an Iranian diplomatic facility in Damascus, Syria, was massive, involving hundreds of attack drones and guided missiles, and supporting fire from at least some of Iran's regional proxies. But it also came with some warning and appeared to be calibrated to head off a wider war. Israel leveraged its sophisticated air defense technology and its network of anti-Iran allies, giving its forces operational freedom across large swaths of Middle Eastern airspace. In the end, most interceptions occurred outside of Israeli territory, the military said.

Even Jordan, one of the fiercest public critics of Israel's war SEE ATTACK ON A14

House divided

Congress faces added pressure to pass aid bill. A11

A sleepless night

Israelis awaiting Iran's missiles recount their fear. A13

Pleas for stability

Arab governments ask for calm in the region. A18

Arizona abortion clinic copes with confusion

With a near-total ban set to go into effect soon, patients are fretting

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

PHOENIX — The staff at the Camelback Family Planning abortion clinic has been through this before, legislative measures and court decisions threatening to block the care they provide to women ending a pregnancy. So they opened their doors as usual on Thursday morning, doctors and nurses steeled for the latest battle, the first appointments already in line and half a dozen protesters clustered just beyond the parking lot entrance of the tan stucco office building.

In a state that has suddenly become a key front in the national fight for reproductive rights, physician Gabrielle Goodrick declared herself ready: “We're not closing.”

The clinic lobby began to fill with patients in their 20s, 30s and even 40s. Black, White, Latina and Native American. Some were accompanied by husbands and boyfriends. A few cried as they entered, escorted in by volunteers whose umbrellas sought to shield the women from the shouts and signs — “Babies lives matter” — of those abortion opponents.

“We're just going to keep on keeping on,” staffer Gelsey Normand told one woman as she checked her in.

Goodrick opened the facility in 1999 and seven years later moved it here, near the foot of Camelback Mountain, with a goal of serving as many women as possible in sprawling, booming Phoenix and the surrounding region. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned nationally two years ago, it and other providers in the state have weathered a temporary abortion ban, a prohibition on abortions beyond 15 weeks, restrictions on abortions for fetal anomalies and last week a state

SEE ABORTION ON A9

They're young. They're fit. They're getting sick.

Athletes seem to be more susceptible to POTS, a mysterious illness that might be related to covid-19

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA



ANGELO MERENDINO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Kaleigh Levine exercises at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio. Levine, who played lacrosse at the school, was forced to quit the sport after the onset of a mysterious condition called POTS.

Kaleigh Levine was running drills in the gym with her lacrosse team at Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio, when everything turned black.

“The coach wanted me to get back in the line, but I couldn't see,” she remembered.

Her vision returned after a few minutes, but several months and a half-dozen medical specialists later, the 20-year-old goalie was diagnosed with a mysterious condition known as POTS.

First described more than 150 years ago, the syndrome has proliferated since the coronavirus pandemic. Before 2020, 1 million to 3 million people suffered from POTS in the United States, researchers estimate. Precise numbers are difficult to come by because the condition encompasses a spectrum of symptoms, and many people have still never heard of it. Recent studies suggest 2 to 14 percent of people infected with the coronavirus may go on to develop POTS.

SEE POTS ON A8

IN THE NEWS

The Masters Scottie Scheffler, the world's top-ranked golfer, claimed his second green jacket by dominating at Augusta National. D1

VP sweepstakes Insiders describe Donald Trump's preferred running mate: telegenic, ideally Black or female, and a proven winner. Who's in and out depends on the day. A3

THE NATION

The Democratic National Committee has helped President Biden cover his legal bills. A2
Jury selection in Trump's New York trial will be a complex affair likely to take weeks. A4

THE WORLD

As Mali's relationship with French — the language of its former colonial ruler — grows more fraught, an AI-powered effort to create children's books in local languages is gaining traction. A12

THE ECONOMY

Shira Ovide explains how to use the “nutrition labels” that most companies selling internet services must provide. A15

THE REGION

Two unrelated emergency calls in the suburbs of Washington ended with separate police shootings. B1

Prince George's County

is promoting second chances for people returning from prison or jail by reimbursing companies that hire them. B1
Residents of Ivy City fear a foul odor in their Northeast Washington neighborhood may be an indicator of toxic emissions. B1

STYLE

O.J. Simpson's murder trial supercharged the emerging genre of reality television, with ripple effects on true-crime addictions, the crowning of pop idols and a U.S. election. C1
What's behind a feud involving several hip-hop heavyweights? C1

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