

IDF launches ground invasion to occupy Gaza City

Long-planned offensive has forced Palestinians to flee and splits Israelis

BY **ABBIE CHEESEMAN, LOUISA LOVELUCK, SIHAM SHAMALAKH AND LIOR SOROKA**

Israel said Tuesday that it had launched a long-threatened ground offensive to seize Gaza City, sending troops and tanks to new positions on its outskirts after Palestinian residents reported a night of relentless bombardment.

The expansion of the operation began late Monday, the Israel Defense Forces said, with troops from at least two divisions preparing to move deeper into Gaza's largest metropolis, which officials say is necessary to defeat Hamas.

The soldiers now operating on the ground "entered with fire support from the air and sea," the IDF said. Military officials described the moves as significant but said the invasion would be gradual, as troops continue to displace Palestinian civilians from their homes.

In recent days, tens of thousands of people have left Gaza City for the southern part of the enclave, although aid agencies say hundreds of thousands remain. The mass expulsion of

SEE GAZA ON A8



EBRAHIM HAJAJ/REUTERS

Palestinians on Tuesday inspect the site of an overnight strike on a house in Gaza City. Also Tuesday, an independent U.N. commission said Israel's conduct in Gaza amounted to genocide. Israel's Foreign Ministry rejected that, saying the conclusions were based on "falsehoods."

Aid at risk: Key groups suspend their operations in Gaza City. **A8**

Additional Epstein documents released

Latest from House panel includes phone directory, William Barr's deposition

BY **BETH REINHARD, KATIE TARRANT AND MARIANA ALFARO**

Former attorney general William P. Barr said that convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's death in prison was "absolutely" a suicide and that he had limited discussions with President Donald Trump about Epstein, according to testimony released Tuesday by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The committee subpoenaed Barr's testimony on Epstein because he was the attorney general in 2019, when the Justice Department brought sex trafficking charges against Epstein. Conspiracy theorists have claimed, without evidence, that the financier was killed while in federal custody. That obsession, along with broad interest in the case, has fueled demands for greater visibility into Epstein's crimes and his interactions with law enforcement over the past two decades.

Barr said security camera footage taken outside Epstein's jail cell did not indicate any anomalies. However, he acknowledged that the camera did have "a bit of a blind spot" and said he understood that might make people "suspicious." Barr also criticized prison officials for not keeping a closer watch on Epstein. But the former attorney general said that he did not believe it was possible for someone to go into Epstein's cell without being detected and

SEE EPSTEIN ON A14

Patel-Senate feud: FBI chief faces political vengeance claims. **A4**

Congress moving to block Hegseth on base names

BY **NOAH ROBERTSON**

Congress is inching toward a bipartisan agreement to reverse the Trump administration's recent renaming of several Army bases across the southern United States that had long been politically controversial for honoring Confederate leaders.

Tucked within the National Defense Authorization Act passed by the Republican-led House last week is a measure that, if adopted by the Senate, would block Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's reversal of a sepa-

Defense policy bill could again remove monikers evoking the Confederacy

rate base-renaming effort that was directed by Congress five years ago. The 2020 initiative resulted in nine Army posts originally recognizing Confederates — in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia — being re-designated to honor others, such as women,

minorities, generals and a military family.

The Pentagon did away with those changes earlier this year.

The Senate's defense policy bill, which has not come up for a vote, would overrule Hegseth only for the three bases in Virginia, though the two Democratic senators from Georgia are offering an amendment that would add the two bases in their state. The Senate could pass its bill in the coming week or skip the vote and immediately start work with the House on a compromise version, leading to final votes

later this year.

Supporters of the effort hope that the names of at least some of the nine Army posts will be restored to those recommended by the bipartisan congressional commission charged with identifying all military assets, even buildings and roadways, bearing names associated with the Confederacy. Democrats and some supportive Republicans said they are cautiously optimistic.

"I think it is likely that some of the names change or change back," said Rep. Austin Scott

SEE BASES ON A12

ROBERT REDFORD 1936-2025

A film icon, director and man of deep conviction

He became a patron saint of independent movies, environmentalism via the Sundance Institute

BY **ADAM BERNSTEIN**

Robert Redford, an actor whose beach-god looks and subtle magnetism in films such as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All the President's Men" made him one of the biggest movie stars of all time, but who forged an even more profound legacy in cinema as a patron saint of American independent film, died Sept. 16 at his home in the mountains outside Provo, Utah. He was 89.

His death was announced in a statement by publicist Cindi Berger, who did not cite a cause.

Since 1981, Mr. Redford had been president and founder of the Sundance Institute in nearby Park City, Utah. He said his arts colony was not about "insurgents coming down from the mountain to attack the mainstream" but about broadening the very concept of mainstream. Sundance provided a vital platform for two generations of outside-the-system filmmakers — from Quentin Tarantino to Ava DuVernay — who were embraced by ticket buyers and studios and helped enlarge the definition of commercial fare in a risk-averse industry. This might have seemed an



HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Robert Redford's classic movies included "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All the President's Men."

unlikely quest for Mr. Redford, whose square jaw, blue eyes and sun-dappled hair projected an almost blinding beauty that made him a Hollywood sex symbol for five decades. He became one of the most popular and highly paid actors in the world, his audiences reveling in his romantic chemistry with Meryl Streep and Barbra Streisand, and his bromantic banter with Paul Newman and Dustin Hoffman.

From an inauspicious upbringing — he ran with suburban gangs and drank his way out of college before finding focus in the adrenaline rush of acting — Mr. Redford also achieved success as a producer, Oscar-winning director, environmental activist and entrepreneur. Privately, he nursed a temperament that could be mercurial, aloof and in harmony with what Alan J. Pakula, director of "All the President's Men," once called a "rebel heart" beating under his glossy surface.

Mr. Redford remained essentially a loner who craved the solitude of his wilderness home in Utah and pushed 120 mph on the

SEE REDFORD ON A10

Appreciation: A heartthrob for an era that didn't trust them. **B1**

Political enmity alleged in killing

UTAH TO SEEK DEATH FOR KIRK SUSPECT

Activist pushed 'hatred,' prosecutors say he wrote

BY **MARK BERMAN, ANGIE ORELLANA HERNANDEZ AND MARÍA LUISA PAUL**

The man accused of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk last week in Utah admitted to killing him, telling people that the right-wing figure was propagating hate and saying he seized a chance to take him out, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Prosecutors wrote in the court papers that Tyler Robinson, 22, targeted Kirk because of his "belief or perception regarding Charlie Kirk's political expression." Robinson was formally charged Tuesday with aggravated murder and six other counts, and prosecutors quickly declared they would seek the death penalty in the case.

Kirk, a close ally of President Donald Trump, was shot in the neck during an appearance on the campus of Utah Valley University on Wednesday. His death prompted a sweeping manhunt in Utah that ended late the next day, when Robinson surrendered at a sheriff's office hundreds of miles from the Utah Valley University campus.

In the court filing, prosecutors said Robinson had criticized Kirk both before and after the shooting. Officials allege that following

SEE KIRK ON A5

House GOP casts wide net against Kirk critics

Caucus looks to censure Rep. Omar, disempower and defund others

BY **KADIA GOBA AND KATIE TARRANT**

Republicans in Congress are launching an aggressive campaign to punish individuals they accuse of posthumously smearing Charlie Kirk, threatening to bring them before lawmakers, defund entities that protect them and oust them from positions of power.

They are also trying to castigate one of their own.

On Monday evening, two House Republicans introduced resolutions to censure Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minnesota) and remove her from her congressional committees for comments she made about the conservative influencer during an interview with liberal commentator Mehdi Hasan. During the interview, Omar expressed "empathy" for Kirk's wife and children but also chastised those who "completely pretend" that the conservative influencer just wanted a "civil debate," pointing to his views on guns, slavery and George Floyd.

SEE HOUSE ON A6

'Call their employer': Jobs on the line over Charlie Kirk criticism. **A6**

IN THE NEWS

Terrorism charges dismissed Some counts were dropped against Luigi Mangione, the accused killer of a health care CEO. He still faces trial on murder and related charges. **A2**

A new status quo The U.S. and the U.K. were once pillars of the world order. Now they face global division, disarray and destruction. **A9**

THE NATION
GOP plans for a short-term government funding extension set up a choice for Democrats. **A2**
Democrat Tim Walz announced he will seek a third term as Minnesota governor. **A4**

THE WORLD
A judge criticized U.S. deportations of migrants to Ghana but said she is unable to intervene. **A9**
China unveiled a 19-step package to boost the domestic economy as tariffs take a toll. **A9**

THE ECONOMY
ChatGPT maker OpenAI released the first detailed study of what its users do with the popular chatbot. **A13**
South Korea said it will investigate whether human rights violations were committed against workers who were detained in Georgia. **A14**

STYLE
A \$10,000 Birkin bag, an arcade-type claw machine and a game of futility during New York Fashion Week. **B1**

SPORTS
Tom Brady's dual role — part-owner of the Las Vegas Raiders and Fox analyst — has irked other NFL teams. **B7**

THE REGION
Campaign finance reports show Virginia Democrats flush with cash as the start of early voting draws near. **B13**

FOOD
The immigration crackdown in D.C. has further strained the city's already struggling dining scene. **E1**

BUSINESS NEWS.....A13
COMICS.....B4
OBITUARIES.....B6
OPINION PAGES.....A15
TELEVISION.....B17
WORLD NEWS.....A7

CONTENT © 2025
The Washington Post
Year 148, No. 54342

0 70628 21100 3