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Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 • \$4

Israeli intelligence balked at Qatar strike

Mossad declined ground mission out of concern over ties with gulf nation

BY GERRY SHIH,
SHIRA RUBIN,
KAREN DEYOUNG
AND SOUAD MEKHENNET

TEL AVIV — When Israel announced Tuesday that it had launched a strike on senior Hamas leaders in Qatar, one security agency was notably missing from the official statements: the Mossad.

That's because Israel's external intelligence agency had declined to carry out a plan it had drawn up in recent weeks to use agents on the ground to assassinate Hamas leaders, according to two Israelis familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information.

The Mossad director, David Barnea, opposed killing the Hamas officials in Qatar partly because such an action could rupture the relationship he and his agency had cultivated with the Qataris, who had been hosting Hamas and mediating ceasefire talks between the militant group and Israel, these people said.

The Mossad's reservations about a ground operation ultimately influenced how the strike was carried out and perhaps its likelihood of success. They reflected a broader opposition within the Israeli security establishment to the attack ordered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. While

SEE QATAR ON A12

U.S. diplomacy: Rubio will travel to Israel just days after strike. **A12**

Health care costs likely to soar for millions

Tariffs, end of ACA's enhanced subsidies loom over insurance market

BY PETER WHORISKEY
AND PAIGE WINFIELD
CUNNINGHAM

Health insurance costs in the United States are on track for their biggest jump in at least five years, according to multiple surveys, adding turbulence to an uncertain economy and boosting expenses for millions of Americans already beset by inflation.

In 2026, businesses will be hit with an increase of 9 percent or more, and they are expected to push some of the burden onto employees, according to the research.

For the 24 million enrollees of Affordable Care Act insurance plans, however, the news is far worse. The end of enhanced federal subsidies for that program means their costs are expected to rise by more than 75 percent next year, according to KFF, the non-partisan health policy organization.

Insurers and employers point to two recent factors to explain the rising prices: the tariffs on pharmaceutical imports being considered by the Trump administration

SEE INSURANCE ON A14

Suspect held, charged in Kirk slaying



PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Speaking to reporters on Friday morning, Utah Gov. Spencer Cox (R) detailed other evidence he said linked the suspect to the shooting.

HE HAD RECENTLY CRITICIZED VICTIM

Father recognizes photo, persuades him to give up

BY MARK BERMAN,
LAURA MECKLER,
HANNAH KNOWLES
AND AARON SCHAFFER

Tyler Robinson grew up on a quiet street in a quiet corner of Utah.

He played video games, and some neighbors said his family had previously attended services at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Entering his senior year of high school, his mother posted a photo of him on social media along with his strong college-admission test scores and wrote, "This boy is a genius, and I'm hoping he'll pick a Utah college and stay close."

On Friday, more than five years after her post, Robinson was arrested and charged with murdering Charlie Kirk, the conservative activist gunned down this week during an appearance at a Utah college.

Authorities say Robinson, 22, fired a single shot at Kirk from a nearby rooftop before fleeing the area. Robinson turned himself in amid a sweeping manhunt that stretched out for more than a day. He could face the death penalty, if convicted.

Robinson had recently criticized Kirk, a prominent right-wing figure closely tied to President Donald Trump, according to officials. In a court affidavit, au-

SEE SUSPECT ON A5



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF UTAH

A relative said Tyler Robinson, 22, became "more political in recent years," court files show.

mainstream media outlets aired edited videos that omitted the shooting itself, but on social platforms, uncensored videos filmed at the scene from long distance and up close quickly surfaced. Apps like YouTube, TikTok and Instagram are designed to play one video after another as people scroll, prioritizing the posts that draw the most attention.

Experts said it was impossible to quantify just how many people, and how many kids, the videos

SEE VIDEO ON A6

FBI: Patel's leadership has been questioned following shooting. **A6**

BY TATUM HUNTER
AND WILL OREMUS

Alissa Wright's 13-year-old daughter arrived home from her Los Angeles school Wednesday with an announcement: Charlie Kirk was dead, and she had watched a video of it happening.

Wright's stomach dropped, she said. The 47-year-old stay-at-home mom had seen the gory video of the conservative commentator's killing at a Utah speaking event earlier that day as it spread on TikTok and Reddit. Her daughter said that a boy in her class had sneaked around the

school's phone ban and discovered the video on TikTok.

Then Wright asked how it made her daughter feel. The middle-schooler said the image of blood spurting from Kirk's neck was "crazy."

"These are kids who have been doing school shooter drills their whole lives, and I hate that she's so desensitized to it," Wright said. "It just makes me think, what else has she seen?"

While violent videos live in many corners of the internet, children and teens encountered the videos of Kirk's killing on mainstream social platforms, of-

ten in their primary feeds.

It was a "perfect storm," said Titania Jordan, chief marketing officer at the parental controls app Bark, leaving kids across the country encountering the clip before parents could talk to them about it. Just days after video of a stabbing of a Ukrainian woman on a North Carolina train made waves online, some parents said they feel overwhelmed by the frequency and intensity of violent images.

"You cannot go online now and not see something related to this," said Jordan, a parent herself.

Cable news channels and

National Guard to be sent to Memphis

GOP governor supports move for city that Trump calls 'deeply troubled'

BY PATRICK SVITEK,
AMY B WANG
AND HOLLY BAILEY

President Donald Trump said Friday that Memphis will be the next target of a National Guard deployment, as his administration expands its use of the military to fight crime to its third Democratic-run city in recent months.

"We're going to Memphis," Trump said during a Fox News interview, calling it a "deeply troubled" city. "National Guard and anybody else we need. And by the way, we'll bring in the military too, if we need it."

The move follows similar National Guard deployments to Los Angeles and D.C. as part of what Trump has said is a necessary federal intervention in those cities to crack down on violent crime and ramp up deportations of undocumented immigrants. The deployment to Memphis will be the first time Trump has mobilized the National Guard to a state he won in November.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee (R) said

Friday that he supports the move and the National Guard will be working closely with other law enforcement agencies in the state.

"For months, I have been in constant communication with the Trump Administration to develop a multi-phased, strategic plan to combat crime in Memphis, leveraging the full extent of both federal and state resources," Lee said in a statement. " ... As one of America's world-class cities, Memphis remains on a path to greatness, and we are not going to let anything hold [residents] back."

SEE MEMPHIS ON A2

Overcrowded: A Virginia ICE facility is bursting at the seams. **B13**

Officials to link covid shots to child deaths

BY LENA H. SUN,
RACHEL ROUBEIN
AND DAN DIAMOND

Trump health officials plan to link coronavirus vaccines to the deaths of 25 children as they consider limiting which Americans should get the shots, according to four people familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe confidential information.

The findings appear to be based on information submitted to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Re-

porting System (VAERS), which contains unverified reports of side effects or bad experiences with vaccines submitted by anyone, including patients, doctors, pharmacists or even someone who sees a report on social media. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes that the database is not designed to assess whether a shot caused a death, a conclusion that requires thorough investigations by scientists and public health professionals.

Trump health officials plan to include the pediatric deaths claim

in a presentation next week to an influential panel of advisers to the CDC that is considering new coronavirus vaccine recommendations, which affect access to the shots and whether they're free.

The plan has alarmed some career scientists who say that coronavirus vaccines have been extensively studied, including in children, and that the dangers of the virus itself are being underplayed. While Trump health officials are investigating deaths due to vaccines, CDC staff in June presented data to the

SEE VACCINES ON A14

IN THE NEWS

'Acoustic terror' After 3½ years of full-scale war, nighttime Ukraine is now deafening with the eerie lament of sirens, the buzz of drones, the boom-ricochet of ballistic missiles. **A10**

Snobs meet the snob-nots Today, some of the biggest programs in college football will welcome their not-so-big in-state rivals. **B7**

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Marco Rubio quietly assured Australia the U.S. wouldn't sink their submarine deal. **A14**

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Instead of buying a new iPhone, consider a phone makeover to extend your device's life and save money and the planet. **A13**

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Alexander Wang returns to New York Fashion Week for the first time since sexual assault allegations surfaced in 2021. **B1**
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The Terrapins are 2-0 ahead of today's Towson game, but they have been far from perfect. **B7**

THE REGION
A midshipman was shot in the shoulder during a Naval Academy lockdown sparked by an unfounded threat. **B13**
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Joseph McNeil, 83, helped jump-start the 1960s sit-in movement at a Woolworth's in North Carolina. **B16**

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