

The Washington Post

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Partly sunny 92/75 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 90/75 BS

Democracy Dies in Darkness

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022 • #2

U.S. strike kills bin Laden's successor

AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI | 1951-2022

A blood-drenched movement's guide

BY JOBY WARRICK

Americans knew him as al-Qaeda's No. 2 leader, the bespectacled, bushy-bearded deputy to Osama bin Laden. But in reality, it was Ayman al-Zawahiri's brains and blood-drenched hands that guided the world's most notorious terrorist movement. Zawahiri, 71, was killed in a CIA drone strike in Kabul over the weekend, according to officials familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence. In an address to



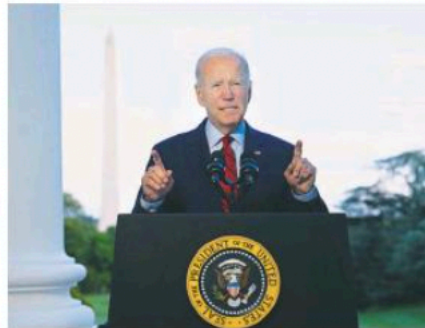
Ayman al-Zawahiri

the nation, President Biden confirmed the death and called the attack a "precision strike" that did not cause civilian casualties.

Zawahiri had led his own militant group and pioneered a brand of terrorism that prized spectacular attacks and the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians. When he formally merged his group with al-Qaeda in the 1990s, he brought along those tactics as well as an expanded vision for attacking the West.

It was Zawahiri who postulated that defeating the "far enemy" —

SEE ZAWAHIRI ON A9



President Biden addresses the nation Monday to announce the killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike.

JIM WATSON/POOL/REUTERS

ZAWAHIRI HELPED OVERSEE 9/11 PLOT

Officials confirm successful drone operation in Kabul

This article is by Shane Harris, Dan Lamothe, Karen DeYoung, Souad Mekhennet and Pamela Constable.

The United States has killed Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al-Qaeda and one of the world's most-wanted terrorists, who oversaw the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, alongside the group's founder, Osama bin Laden, President Biden announced Monday evening.

Zawahiri was killed in a CIA drone strike in Kabul over the weekend, according to U.S. officials who spoke on the condition

of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

When U.S. forces withdrew from Afghanistan last August, Biden administration officials said they would retain capability for "over-the-horizon" attacks from elsewhere on terrorist forces inside Afghanistan. The attack against Zawahiri is the first known counterterrorism strike there since the withdrawal.

Speaking in a live television address from a balcony at the White House, Biden announced that days ago he had authorized a strike to kill Zawahiri. "Justice has

SEE AL-QAEDA ON A8

In Ukraine, first grain ship leaves under deal

BY DALTON BENNETT AND KAREEM FAHIM

ODESSA, UKRAINE — The first ship carrying grain departed a Ukrainian port early Monday under a United Nations-brokered deal to ease a global food crisis sparked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The cargo vessel, loaded with more than 26,000 metric tons of corn, left Odessa amid fears that the deal, signed in Istanbul in late July, would fall apart after a Russian missile strike on the port a day after the signing.

The wail of a Ukrainian tug boat's horn marked the departure of the Razoni, a Sierra Leone-flagged bulk carrier that began his journey at 9:30 a.m. local time. The ship was destined for

SEE UKRAINE ON A16



FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ukraine's exports: What they mean for the rest of the world. A13

The bulk carrier Razoni, loaded with more than 26,000 metric tons of corn, leaves the port of Odessa in Ukraine under a deal brokered by the United Nations. A Russian naval blockade of Black Sea ports has contributed to global food shortages.

GOP rift comes to a head in last primaries

Coming races could lift more Trump picks who are 2020 election deniers

BY HANNAH KNOWLES AND COLBY ITKOWITZ

A final stretch of primaries for state and federal offices kicks off Tuesday, setting the stage for a six-week battle inside a divided Republican Party pitting candidates loyal to former president Donald Trump and his false election claims against rivals looking to move past those fights in this fall's midterm elections.

Two gubernatorial candidates in Arizona and Wisconsin backed by Trump will face off this month against those endorsed by former vice president Mike Pence, who split with Trump after refusing pressure to reject the results of the 2020 presidential race. Four members of Congress who voted to impeach Trump after his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol are also trying to beat back challengers who embrace Trump's false claims that he won. And an Arizona lawmaker who led calls to "decertify" the 2020 results and wants to ban the use of voting machines may win the GOP nomination Tuesday to oversee elections in a key battleground for 2024.

With less than 100 days to go until the November midterms, lasting rifts over the past election will take center stage as some Republicans hope to focus on unifying concerns such as inflation to regain control of Congress. Trying to overcome those economic headwinds and low approval ratings for President Biden, Democrats argue the GOP's candidates — and their campaigns against the democratic process itself — will prove too extreme for general-election voters. Some Republicans also worry about nominating divisive candidates in the coming weeks.

SEE PRIMARIES ON A6

Biden's case highlights issues with CDC isolation guidance

BY LENA H. SUN AND JOEL ACHENRACH

Before President Biden emerged from coronavirus isolation Wednesday, he made double-sure he was no longer contagious. He received negative tests last Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. To test at all meant Biden was going above and beyond the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for exiting isolation.

The CDC has built that guidance around a timeline — a prescribed minimum number of days of isolation — rather than the direct, personalized evidence of virus shedding that rapid anti-

gen tests provide. But the usefulness of these tests was highlighted anew Saturday when Biden, who had taken the antiviral Paxlovid during his illness, tested positive again and returned to isolation in the White House residence.

About 2½ years into the pandemic, and with a highly contagious version of the virus circulating, the CDC guidelines for what to do when falling ill — and when to return to public life — continue to stoke as much confusion as clarity. That's a reflection of the changing nature of the

SEE GUIDANCE ON A4

Covid guidance: How to know you're no longer contagious. A4

A transplant system's frail skeleton

BY JOSEPH MENN AND LENNY BERNSTEIN

The system for getting donated kidneys, livers and hearts to desperately ill patients relies on out-of-date technology that has crashed for hours at a time and has never been audited by federal officials for security weaknesses or other serious flaws, according to a confidential government review obtained by The Washington Post.

The mechanics of the entire transplant system must be overhauled, the review concluded, citing aged software, periodic system failures, mistakes in programming and over-reliance on manual input of data.

In its review, completed 18 months ago, the White House's

Mechanics of organ donation network must be updated, review finds

U.S. Digital Service recommended that the government "break up the current monopoly" that the United Network for Organ Sharing, the nonprofit agency that operates the transplant system, has held for 36 years. It pushed for separating the contract for technology that powers the network from UNOS's policy responsibilities, such as deciding how to weigh considerations for transplant eligibility.

About 106,000 people are on the waiting list for organs, the

vast majority of them seeking kidneys, according to UNOS. An average of 22 people die each day waiting for organs. In 2021, 41,354 organs were transplanted, a record.

UNOS is overseen by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), but that agency has little authority to regulate transplant activity. Its attempts to reform the transplant system have been rejected by UNOS, the report found. Yet HRSA continues to pay UNOS about \$6.5 million annually toward its annual operating costs of about \$64 million, most of which comes from patient fees.

"In order to properly and equitably support the critical needs

SEE ORGANS ON A20